

Our Firm Foundation

Volume 21, Number 8

August 2006

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary



Will
America
Survive?



Why Glossy Paper?

Part 2

Last month's editorial began to explain why we changed to the more expensive, glossy type of paper. Where I left off, was with my phone call to Vinnie, the co-owner of the printing company I had contacted.

When I told Vinnie that Ron Spear wanted to meet her and her husband Stewart, I wasn't sure what to expect. I didn't want us to come off too pushy. I apprehensively waited for her response. It didn't take long. She immediately said that they would love to meet us and for us to set up a time that would be convenient, and they would host us at their house.

I told Vinnie that we would get a hotel and that we certainly did not expect them to put us up for the night. She would hear nothing of it and insisted that we stay at their home. I gratefully acquiesced.

We set up a meeting date and I called Vinnie back to say we would fly into the closest airport and rent a car and drive the hour and a half it would take to get to their home. She said there would be no need for a car; that she would have their pilot fly into the airport and pick us up in their private plane and fly us to the town they lived in. Can you believe it? We continued to praise the Lord for His abundant kindness toward us.

Ron and I couldn't wait to meet these gracious people, and when the day finally arrived, just as Vinnie had said, their pilot was waiting for us. As a special treat, Stewart, Vinnie's husband was waiting there for us too. Stewart was as gracious

as Vinnie and we had a wonderful visit on the way to their hometown. When we arrived at the airport and taxied in, we got out of their plane and into their Cadillac and drove the short distance to their house.

When we arrived, Vinnie was waiting. She invited us into their home where she was preparing a vegan meal! We couldn't believe it! We had offered to take them out to eat, but again, Vinnie would hear nothing of it. She said they had done some research about Seventh-day Adventists and had gone to our website, www.hopeint.org, and figured out that we were probably vegetarian and most likely vegan as well. So she spent a lot of time looking for vegan recipes and prepared a wonderful meal for us all. As we ate, we had a marvelous time fellowshiping and discussing how they got into printing, and how Hope International was started.

After dinner, we went to the living room of their spacious home, and made some more small talk. Ron presented both Stewart and Vinnie with copies of *Steps to Christ* and *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing* as a small thank you for their friendship and kindness. They were very pleased, and promised to read them both. After a season of prayer, Ron asked to be excused and went to bed. What happened next you will not believe.

Stewart told me that he had gone to the Internet and did some research on Seventh-day Adventists. I already mentioned that he had been at our website and gathered quite a bit of informa-

tion about Seventh-day Adventists from there. Now, he began to quiz me about our particular beliefs. I was surprised that he was so open and forthright and it was indeed refreshing. He truly wanted to know what we believed and where we got it from the Bible.

Stewart and Vinnie believed that the Bible was the inspired Word of God and if the Bible says so, they believe it. Stewart went on to tell me that they host a Bible-study group of 15-30, depending upon the evening, and are totally committed to evangelism. I was amazed by the commitment of these two godly people and their kindness shown to complete strangers—but I digress.

Can you guess what Stewart's first question was? Who is this Ellen White? I was taken a little bit by surprise, and I hesitated for a minute on exactly how to respond. What do I say? Should I try to avoid the question and deal with it later? What has he read? You know how much is out there on the Internet disparaging Sister White. Had he read a bunch of that, and now I was going to have to defend and explain?

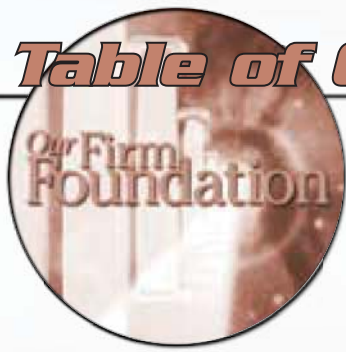
So, with a deep breath and a prayer to God, I said—

To be continued.



Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.

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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

Hope International is a lay ministry founded, supported, and operated by Seventh-day Adventists to assist the Seventh-day Adventist church in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in every way that is consistent with the principles of God as revealed in Inspiration.

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Will AMERICA

The principles of civil and religious freedom are the secret of our nation's power and prosperity.

He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." Revelation 13:10–11.

The year 1798 was the end of the 1260-year prophetic period when the first beast power of Revelation 13 would "go into captivity."

"What nation of the New World was in 1798 rising into power, giving promise of strength and greatness, and attracting the attention of the world? . . . One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America." *The Great Controversy*, 440.

Uriah Smith stated, "Can anyone doubt what nation was actually 'coming up' in 1798? Certainly it must be admitted that the United States of America is the only power that meets the specifications of the prophecy on this point of chronology."¹

New Nation as a Lamb

A new nation was beginning to take shape and answer the call of prophecy and greatness. This nation was founded on: (1) biblical principles and the worship of a Creator God according to the teachings of the Scripture and the

dictates of consciences, (2) the Christian family and church were the nation's fundamental institutions, (3) principle of Christian self-government, which includes individual, family, and church government with emphasis on local civil self-government. When we fully understand the significance of the United States Constitution we will conclude that it was truly based on Christian philosophy and biblical principles.

"The Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. Freedom of religious faith was also granted, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity." *The Great Controversy*, 441.

The United States was lamb-like in character, guaranteeing freedom to all who dwelt within its borders. The Statue of Liberty is the great emblem of the freedom to be enjoyed in our country. The principles of religious and civil freedom have made our nation the great power that it is in the world today. The founding and tremendous growth of the United States of America was the direct providence of God.

The early founders were exiles of

oppression and tyranny from their countries of origin. This persecution is referred to in Revelation 12: "And the serpent [devil] cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman [the church], that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood." Revelation 12:15.

In the next verse we see that it was in the providence of God that this country was discovered. "And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth." All emphasis supplied.

With the discovery of America, the church, or the woman, was rescued. This flood of persecution was swallowed up by the earth. A haven was found at last for the oppressed. God providentially led men to discover this country so His church could thrive, and the gospel could be sent before the coming of Jesus to the world without hindrance or interference from the government.

Foundation on Biblical Principles

"The highest glory of the American Revolution, said John Quincy Adams, was this: it connected, in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."²

The Supreme Court stated in 1892, "Our laws and institutions

CA Survive?

Gary Foster

must necessarily be based upon the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind.”³

James Madison, one of the chief framers of the Constitution is said to have stated, “We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government but upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

The difference in the United States and previous world governments is that the new constitution provided separation of church and state. All religions were free to practice their faith with no interference from the state, and people were free to practice no faith if they chose.

Some of the biblical principles of the Constitution that this author believes are most important are as follows:

1 The Constitution is based on government by law and not by men.

2 The Constitution is based on equality under the law. The Bible teaches that “God is no respecter of persons.” Acts 10:34.

3 The Constitution is based on the principle that all men are “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.” These rights can be traced to the Ten Commandments. The right of private property is guaranteed in the command, “Thou shalt not

steal.” The sanctity of life and our right to life is stated in the command, “Thou shalt not kill.”

4 The Constitution protects individual liberty. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2 Corinthians 3:17.

5 The Constitution rests on the founding Fathers’ understanding that man is fallen. The people need civil government to oblige them to respect each

other’s rights, and that elected and appointed officials need constitutional restraints to keep them from abusing power. The founders understood what Jeremiah wrote, “The heart is deceitful above all things, . . . who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9. This knowledge led to the Constitution’s division of powers, so excessive power would not be put in the hands of any one or few men. How were these powers





to be divided? The Bible gave the answer once again in Isaiah 33:22. “For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our King.” Thus they divided the functions of government in just this way—the Judicial, Legislative, and Executive branches.

6 The Constitution recognizes only a heavenly King. The framers held that no man is entitled to be a monarch, that only Christ is King. One of the slogans of the American Revolution was “No king but King Jesus!”

The Lamb Speaks Like A Dragon

What has happened to this second beast that had two horns like a lamb, and spake as a dragon? Why does this nation that came up out of the earth now exercise all the power of the first beast? Listen to what Ellen White says:

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself

fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 451.

Nations “speak” through their laws. It doesn’t seem possible that a nation with such safeguards as our Constitution and Bill of Rights would see this kind of corrosion in its civil and religious freedoms. “The prediction that it will speak ‘as a dragon’ and exercise ‘all the power of the first beast’ plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the

dragon and the leopard like beast. And the statement that the beast with two horns ‘causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast’ indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy.” *The Great Controversy*, 442.

Yes, it is difficult to believe that America will take the lead in causing the whole world to worship the first beast. This prophetic role of the United States is not exercised until the deadly wound is healed and the first beast of Revelation 13 has once again emerged as a major world power.

“The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” *The Great Controversy*, 588.

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The Protestants and spiritualists of the United States will reach out to the papacy. The final events will be rapid ones. We may believe the truth and even practice the truth, however, unless we love the truth we will be deceived at this time in history.

“The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 408–411.

“The enforcement of Sunday-keeping on the part of Protestant churches is an enforcement of the worship of the papacy—of the beast. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false instead of the true Sabbath are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. But in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast; hence the enforcement of Sunday keeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.” *The Great Controversy*, 448–449.

The ten virgins, of Matthew 25 represent the church of the last days. All were members in good standing; all believed the same wonderful message. Yet, the foolish were not prepared for the coming events. What did they lack?—The Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit quickens the mind. Without the Holy Spirit, there can be no quickened mind so we are deceived!

“Those who make no decided effort, but simply wait for the Holy Spirit to compel them to action, will perish in darkness. You are not to sit still and do nothing in the work of God.” *Christian Service*, 228.

Thank God for the role that the United States has played for over 200 years. 📖



Dr. Gary Foster, an ordained minister, has served the Lord as a Bible worker, literature evangelist, church school principal, nursing home administrator, and director of an ambulance service.

Notes:

- 1 *Daniel and the Revelation*, 573.
- 2 John Wingate Thornton, *The Pulpit of the American Revolution* (NY: Burt Franklin, 1860, 1970) XXIX.
- 3 Church of the Holy Trinity vs. United States.



How to Keep the Sabbath

When the Sabbath becomes a whole life experience we will not be in fear of following after secular activities on the Sabbath. The Sabbath will become a time of great joy and fulfillment.

In Part 1 the author recommended that we look at the entire chapter of Isaiah 58, rather than just the last two verses, as an answer to the oft-asked question, How do I keep the Sabbath? Verses 1 to 11 were carefully examined, and now we conclude with verses 11 through 14.—Editors.

“**A**nd the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” Isaiah 58:11.

Jesus is the consummation of all truth and abundance of life both here and throughout eternity. A well-



watered garden brings forth much abundance. That is what He says we are to be. God has instructed us to bear much fruit. “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing. . . . Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.” John 15:5, 8.

And what is that water that makes us fruitful? “But whosoever 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. It is the water of life that flows freely from those who abide in Christ. Again, where do we find that most intimate time with God? We find it on the Sabbath. It is especially then that we become as wells of water whose waters never fail. It is then that the water of life that leads to salvation flows from us to the hearts of those around us.

Verse 12

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

God is not just interested in us alone, but in our reproducing in others the same vision, the same desire for the salvation of souls that He has placed in us. These “old waste places” are the places where God’s people once had a vibrant relationship with their Lord. Through apostasy their fruitful hearts have become desolate. But God has promised that those who follow His injunction to keep His Sabbath as we have been seeing, will instill in others this joy in being attached to the true vine and thus building up those “old waste places” to places of fruitfulness and abundance in teaching transgressors God’s ways and converting sinners unto Him. “For the LORD shall comfort Zion: He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.” Isaiah 51:3.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy

presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.” Psalm 51:10–13.

Next notice how God says we “shall be called. . . .” It is not enough that we are to do the work that He has appointed, but we are to have the reputation as people who, under the direction of God Himself, are to have a knowledge of the will, work and ways of God. This cannot be without continual Bible study and submission of our will to His. This is why God has given us the Sabbath. We’ll talk more about that later.

What are we to be called? What is this breach that we are to repair? A breach is a break in something. God told the children of Israel that they would have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years because of the breach they caused in their covenant with Him to gain His promise. “After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know My breach of promise.” Numbers 14:34.

When God gave His promise of blessing at Sinai, the children of Israel said, “All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.” Exodus 19:8.

But contrary to their words they repeatedly chose to doubt Him and turn to their own selfish ways. Are we seeing any repeat in history here? How many of us, when we came into this faith relationship with God, made similar promises? How many of us have faithfully lived up to those promises?

There are two qualifications of the redeemed at the second coming of Christ. “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12. Simply put the commandments say, “You don’t have to do these things that will destroy your relationship with Me and your fellow man (or woman). And the faith of



Jesus is a confident submission to the will and way of God born out of love and reverence for whom He is.

We often lose focus on the fact that He is our Creator and Sovereign ruler of the entire universe. It is so important that we maintain a balance in our understanding of and relationship to God. So often we are so obsessed with a desire to counter the legalistic understanding of the Christian walk that we try to bring God to our level and destroy (in our minds) His omnipotence. He is God!

So where is the breach that is so important to God? For the breaking of what commandment did God allow the destruction of Jerusalem and His beautiful temple and the captivity of Israel? “But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the Sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.” Jeremiah 17:27. The wise man said: “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.” Proverbs 15:4.

Furthermore in Isaiah we read: “Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant. ... Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of His people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.” Isaiah 30:13, 26.

Now if iniquity is a breach then what is iniquity? “And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity.” Leviticus 5:17.

So breaking God’s commandments is the iniquity that causes the breach that is so offensive to God. Specifically, as Jeremiah brings out, it is breaking the fourth commandment. Then this breach, this hole that is made in the covenant relationship with God finds its origin in a lack of trust in our relationship to God from our neglect of the keeping of His Sabbath.

But it is not enough to repair the breach. It is not enough to keep the commandments. God wants us to be “a restorer of paths to dwell in.” What is a path?

Is it not the ‘way’ in which we travel? “Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.” Psalm 27:11. “My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path.” Proverbs 1:15.

Specifically, it is the way in which we live our lives. The course we choose to follow will either be the way of obedience and life or the way of disobedience and death. There is no third choice. The early Christians were known as the “people of the way.” And no wonder, for Christ called Himself “the Way....” John 14:6. So, to restore paths to dwell in is to lead people back into a faith relationship with Christ.

Verses 13 and 14

The next two verses have been quoted the most for the purposes of enforcing proper Sabbath observance. But even these I think we may misunderstand at times. You see, again, we criticize others for taking scripture out of context, but are we not guilty of the same thing from time to time? Given the context of the scriptures we have studied so far let us take a look at this very important text: “If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on

My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words.” Isaiah 58:13.

Obviously, to turn one’s foot away from something is to stop from walking on it or desecrating it. “Then said the Lord to him [Moses], Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.” Acts 7:33.

The Sabbath is sacred and beautiful and all too often we treat it as something common and burdensome. The problem does not lie with the Sabbath. It lies with us! When we enter the precincts of the Sabbath we enter the presence of God. His presence is with us in a way unlike the rest of the week. He is here to draw us into an intimacy unlike anything else we have ever known. This is the time in which we are to focus on preparing for eternity with Him, not doing the pleasures of this world which are only for a moment in the eye of eternity. We have six other days in the week to prioritize our time for secular business.

When our attention is drawn to the Sabbath in the way God desires



Photo: © Paul Williams

it to be, as we have been discovering in the previous texts, the Sabbath truly becomes a delight. Quite often we will find ourselves extending the pleasures of the Sabbath far into the evening. We begin to realize that the Sabbath is the time designed by God to restore man into the image of a holy God.

Now follow me for a moment. Why would something created and restored in the “image” of the infinite, loving God bow to the common, earthly, finite, and often degrading things of this world that are too often influenced by the arch-enemy of God, the great deceiver Satan? The last thing Satan wants us to do is to show honour to the memorial of God’s creation and redemption of man. For in so doing we honour the mighty Sovereign of the universe, the great God of heaven and earth who promises to destroy Satan and sin as He destroys this old sinful world and makes it all new again, never to have sin raise its head anymore.


Once we have come into this Sabbath experience as God has shown, He wants the paths we follow the things we do and the words we speak to be His and not our own. When the Sabbath becomes a whole life experience we will not be in fear of following after secular activities on the Sabbath. The Sabbath will become a time of great joy and fulfillment.

If the Sabbath is a time for greater intimacy with God and eternity is to be a time of the greatest intimacy with God, then does it not serve that rejection of God on His Sabbath means we reject eternity? Think about it! You see we have the promise of our infinite loving and longing God that the reward for those who have this whole life experience of the Sabbath will be to receive the inheritance of the ultimate promised land looked for in faith by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and a host of other saints of whom we might be a part.

“Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Isaiah 58:14. And this promise no man can take away from us for what God blesses remains blessed forever. “Now therefore let it please Thee to bless the house of Thy



servant, that it may be before Thee for ever: for Thou blessest, O LORD, and it shall be blessed for ever.” 1 Chronicles 17:27. Amen, amen, and amen!

“Genuine medical missionary work is bound up inseparably with the keeping of God’s commandments, of which the Sabbath is especially mentioned, since it is the great memorial of God’s creative work. Its observance is bound up with the work of restoring the moral image of God in man. This is the ministry which God’s people are to carry forward at this time. This ministry, rightly performed, will bring rich blessings to the church.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 266. 

Series Concluded.

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



The Power of Music

Ralph Moss



“And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee.”

“**T**he morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” Job 38:7. Music is the language of heaven. It is a gift given to all God’s created beings and was used to celebrate the creation of this earth by angels and beings of other worlds. Since creation, music has been much the medium through which we humans have expressed ourselves. All human emotion, whether good or bad can be registered in song.

Satan, as the highest angel in heaven was created to worship in song. “The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.” Ezekiel 28:13. Since at Satan’s fall, he immediately began to counterfeit and prostitute everything good, it only stands to reason he would not overlook the most powerful and influential of mediums—music.

What was God’s intention in creating music? “Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto Him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.” Psalms 33:2. The apostle Paul admonished: “Speaking to

yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” Ephesians 5:19.

Ellen White wrote, “It has power to subdue rude and uncultivated natures; power to quicken thought and to awaken sympathy, to promote harmony of action, and to banish the gloom ... It is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth.... The value of song as a means of education should never be lost sight of. ... As a part of religious service, singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer. ... As our Redeemer leads us to the threshold of the Infinite, flushed with the glory of God, we may catch the themes of praise and thanksgiving from the heavenly choir round about the throne; and as the echo of the angels’ song is awakened in our earthly homes, hearts will be drawn closer to the heavenly singers. Heaven’s communion begins on earth. We learn here the keynote of its praise.” *Education*, 168.

An outstanding biblical example of music’s power to calm a trou-

bled nature is recorded in 1 Samuel 16:23: “And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.”

We see Paul and Silas, imprisoned and beaten, lifting their spirits by singing praises to God at midnight. Doubtless the effects of their songs on the other prisoners kept them from fleeing the prison when an earthquake opened the cell doors, as well as led to the jail-keeper’s conversion (see Acts 16:23–34). Ancient Israel praised God in song at the overthrow of Pharaoh’s army at the Red Sea (see Exodus 15:1). Scripture records many instances when God was worshiped in song for various reasons.

Music is a saving gift when it is used to glorify God, but Satan, knowing its power, uses it to destroy. Two examples of music’s destructive power are here listed:

In Daniel 3:1–7, we see King Nebuchadnezzar’s heaven-defying orders that all should bow and wor-

Photos: © Hemera Photo Objects (iStockPhoto.com background)

ship the golden image on the plain of Dura. To persuade his subjects to obey orders, all were to bow and worship as the orchestra began to play. Here we see music being used to create an atmosphere of submission and worship. Then we have King Herod, intoxicated with wine, watching Herodias' daughter do a dance to sensuous music. Because of the wine, the music and the dance, John the Baptist was executed. See Matthew 14:1-11.

The world recognizes the power of music. It is used to sell us everything from cars to peanuts, and even more deadly—philosophies and doctrines. Especially, however, Satan is after the youth. Serge Denisoff, a sociologist at Bowling Green University, said, "If you want to reach young people in this country, write a song, don't buy an ad." *Newsweek*, December 30, 1985, 54.¹

The deadliest instrument Satan has concocted to destroy Christian youth especially, but also Christian adults is what is known as Contemporary Christian Music (CCM), which covers a broad range of styles including rock, easy listening, rap, reggae and pop. Sad to say these music styles have invaded the Seventh-day Adventist Church without hardly an objection, except from a small minority who recognize its deadly effects on true spirituality.

An article entitled, "We're poisoning ourselves with noise," concludes that "noise is most dangerous when it is loud, meaningless, irregular and unpredictable." *Readers Digest*, February 1970, pages 187-194.

An article I found on the internet called, "It's Only Rock'n Roll ... But it Kills," by Terry Watkins, lists these facts: "More than half a million teenagers attempt suicide each year! Nearly 2000 each day! ... According to the National Education Association, '... teenage suicides are linked to depression fueled by *fatalistic music and lyrics*.'

"Jesse Penn-Lewis, in her book, *Battle for the Mind*, says, 'There is a great battle today over the use and control of the mind.' ... Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones, who *Newsweek* magazine calls the Lucifer of rock, said years ago, 'we've had their bodies ... and now we want their minds.'"²

The apostle Peter warned, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind" (1 Peter 1:13). The way to hypnotize the mind is through

es. This damage is coming from Christians in America who are sending rock music and evangelists accompanied by rock bands. ... Many come with Bible in hand and rock music. We are embarrassed by this image of Christianity. ... We were in prison for fifteen years for Christ's sake. We were not allowed to have Christian music but *rock music was used as a weapon against us day and night to destroy our souls*. We could only resist with

According to the National Education Association, '... teenage suicides are linked to depression fueled by fatalistic music and lyrics.'

repetition: the same words, over and over, the same beat over and over. The main ingredient of Christian rock is repetition. Now take this thought and put CCM with lyrics that express false concepts of Christ, (one song states Christ was a good man), and put this or any other false doctrine into that steady, repetitive beat and what will happen? The listener's mind is put into a state of suggestive hypnosis whereby you can preach into their subconscious any message you want him to believe!

Listen to these excerpts from a letter from

prayer. ..." Peter Peters and Vasilij Ryzhuk. Unregistered Union of Churches, Moscow Russia, April 15, 1992.

Recently my wife had to attend a seminar held in a northern California Seventh-day Adventist church on Sabbath afternoon. The youth chapel was in a separate building from the main sanctuary and was filled to overflowing with Adventist teenagers. The rock music coming out of that chapel could be heard a block away. The outside walls actually vibrated to the touch. Boys in baggy pants and T-shirts, girls in tight jeans and some with dyed and strange haircuts, hardly gave one the sense that this was the holy Sabbath or that these youth were any better Christians as they later exited the building. It was a time to weep for our youth. Where were the parents and the pastor?

Not only some Adventists are alarmed by what CCM is doing to their beloved church, but some Evangelicals are recognizing its horrendous effects also. David Wilkerson in his book, *Set the Trumpet to Thy Mouth*, in 1985 stated that the reason he believed God

a Russian Pastor: "For thirty years we have suffered intense persecution. Now freedom is bringing another great harm to our church-



couldn't bless the Jesus Movement in the 1970s, was that while the movement gave up drugs, alcohol, promiscuous sex and even perverted lifestyles, they refused to give up their rock music. "I say its hold


the Babylonian churches is to take away her music because her music has in a large part figured into her alluring and deceptive power over mankind, giving a false picture of God and the gospel, leading them

fashion of our day we can't hope for it to be effective. . . . Thus modern churches feel they must plan and program for attracting unbelievers who cannot be persuaded with revealed truth." *Our Sufficiency in Christ*, 145–146.

Christians are to separate from the world in dress, music, language, amusements and diet. While we are "in the world," we are not "of" the world. While the boat is in the water, the water must not be in the boat as someone has said.

"Aside from its commercialism and its increasing resemblance to the world, contemporary Christian music is becoming a religious melting pot. . . . CCM is proud of its *ecumenical and charismatic* spirit. This ecumenism extends open arms toward apostate Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church." *Making Musical Choices*, Bob Jones University, 1986, 86.

In closing, let each one ask himself these questions: Is the goal of the music to glorify God? Is the message, both words and music biblical, or is it sensual, oriented to the flesh? Do the words violate Philippians 4:8? Is it physically damaging? Does it base its message on emotion? Does it lift us to Jesus? Does it help us maintain separation from the world or does it blur the distinctiveness of the Christian lifestyle and message?

God is calling to His people: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," 2 Corinthians 6:17. 



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Notes:

- 1 Unless otherwise specified, the references in this article are taken from <http://www.christianhelps.org/rockmusic.html>.
- 2 <http://www.av1611.org/rockm.html>

is stronger than drugs, alcohol or tobacco. It's the biggest mass addiction in the world's history."

Since music is an universal language, could it be that just as music helped to inspire false worship on the Plain of Dura, that music, in particular CCM, will usher in the uniting of the ecumenical forces to worship the image to the beast? Listen to Revelation 18:22, referring to Babylon the great: "And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee."

One of the final judgments on

on to persecute God's true saints and finally causing in a large measure their own destruction.

A church which gravitates toward ecumenical charismatic music will be moved from a strong biblical stand. We must ask, What does this music communicate? Is it based on emotion rather than sound biblical principles? Do we use sinful means to attract membership?

God has His people in the Babylonian churches who are more awake to the dangers of modern music than many Adventists are as the following excerpts reveal:

"The church apes nearly every fad of secular society. Heavy metal rock, rap graffiti, break dancing . . . all have been added to the evangelical repertoire. . . . It is nothing but hedonism under the guise of religion. Many assume that without some gimmick, the gospel message just won't reach people, and unless we accommodate it to the



It Is Done

How long will we put off the work of perfection?
How long will we hinder the work
Christ longs to do in us?

As prophet, Christ worked for our justification, which is salvation from the Penalty of sin. Justification is a free gift of pardon to the repentant sinner. As priest, Christ provides sanctification, which is salvation from the Power of sin. Sanctification is a free gift of holiness to the justified. As king, Christ will provide glorification, which is salvation from the Presence of sin. Glorification is a free gift of incorruptibility and immortality to the sanctified.

It is important to note that in each of these offices, Christ is Savior and Son. He is much more than merely a prophet, priest, or king.

The purpose of this study is to emphasize that Christ saves us *completely* from sin—from its PENALTY, its POWER, and ultimately, its very PRESENCE. Our *ultimate salvation* will not occur until we allow Christ to complete His work. Not until we allow Him to complete the work of sanctification will He be able to provide us with the glorification we so long for.

It is Finished?

Many people have been led to believe that when Christ cried, “It is finished” (John 19:30), from the cross, all that will ever be necessary for our salvation was completed there. However, as we read in *The Great Controversy*, page 489, the *final* act of the disposition of sin from the sinner did not take place at the cross.

“The intercession of Christ in man’s behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He

began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven.”

The work Christ performed on the cross was for our justification. After His death and resurrection, He ascended to heaven to continue the work of salvation. Acting as our mediator and high priest in heaven, Christ works for our *sanctification*.

It is by relying upon Christ as our mediator that we are enabled to overcome sin (Jude 24; John 15:4–5; Hebrews 7:25). This is the work of sanctification, or “holiness, without which, no man shall see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14.

What is Sanctification?

“Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. ... Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 560–561.

“True sanctification is an entire conformity to the will of God.” *Sanctified Life*, 9.

This work of Christ as our high priest will continue until He has upon this earth a people that grow up “unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” See Ephesians 4:8–16; 5:25–27.

Are You Saved?

This is why Sister White wrote, “Never can we safely put confidence in self or feel, this side of heaven, that we are secure against temptation. Those who accept the Saviour, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved.” *Christ’s*

Object Lessons, 155. And, “Every living Christian will advance daily in the divine life. As he advances toward perfection, he experiences a conversion to God every day; and this conversion is not completed until he attains to perfection of Christian character, a full preparation for the finishing touch of immortality.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 505.

God’s desire is to first dwell in His people, and then to dwell with His people (2 Corinthians 6:16; Revelation 21:3). In order for God to dwell in man and with man, man must become a sanctified holy vessel (2 Timothy 2:19–21). Man must be restored to the image of his Maker (Colossians 3:5–10); a partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:3–4); possessing the mind of Christ (1 Peter 4:1–2; 1 Corinthians 2:16).

The New Covenant Goal

A careful reading/study of 2 Corinthians chapter 3 (of which the new covenant ministration is the subject) reveals that it is the goal of the new covenant to restore us to the image of God through the Holy Spirit. We must behold Jesus in the sanctuary as our high priest ministering unto us the graces of the new covenant (2 Corinthians 3:16–18). The purpose of the sending of the Holy Spirit after Christ’s ascension, and of the new covenant, is the perfection of His church. Please read carefully Ephesians 2:8–16 and Mark 4:26–29.

Remember, this work of Christ as our high priest must necessarily continue until He has a church that has grown up “unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

Jesus desires to restore the image of God in man, and He will continue working unto this end until He has upon this earth “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:27.

The Final Work

We desire to live in God’s presence; to return to the Garden. We desire to receive immortal incorruptible bodies so that we can “*dwell with the devouring fire.*” Isaiah 33:14. But do we realize that before that can happen, all sin must be completely removed from our hearts and minds—for good?

The final work of Christ as our high priest is to completely remove sin from His people. This final work, already in progress, when completed, will enable Christ to return as King.

The final work of our high priest was performed in type on the Day of Atonement. It was upon this day that all sin and uncleanness was removed from the people of God. See Leviticus chapter 16, and 23:27–32. This work was done in three stages. Sin was removed from: 1) the people; 2) the sanctuary; and 3) the land of Israel.

The first stage was to remove sin from the people. Upon this day, the people were to afflict their souls in deep repentance and forsaking of sin. They were to make sure that every sin was put away. Any who failed to do this were cut off from the land of promise.

The final generation, the generation that will see the return of Christ, will be one in which there is a people who have confessed and forsaken every sin. This church will be fully mature and grown up (Ephesians 4:12–15). She will bring the fruit of the Spirit to perfection, fully ripe (Mark 4:26–29; James 5:7–8; Revelation 14:15). She will be ready to meet the Lord (Revelation 19:6–7), fully reflecting the image of Christ (Galatians 4:19; Colossians 3:10; Revelation 14:1–5).

The Mystery of God

In the final days before Christ removes His priestly garments and puts on His kingly robes; “*in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished.*” Revelation 10:7. What is this “mystery of God” that will be finished before the return of Christ? It is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27. When the gospel has finished its work and Christ is



fully formed in His people, He will proclaim, “It is done.” Revelation 16:17. The work of sanctification will be complete, and He will return as King.

Christ cannot remove all sin from the sanctuary (stage 2) until it is first removed from the hearts and minds of His people. We must send our sins beforehand to judgment. When we allow this work to be complete, Christ will return in celestial glory as our many-crowned King! But His church must be without sin—“*perfect, as pertaining to the conscience.*” Hebrews 9:9. She will have sin so thoroughly purged from her heart and mind that she will have “no more conscience of sins.” Hebrews 10:1–2.

“In the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they

could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance.” *The Great Controversy*, 620.

If we would be ready for the King, we must not feel satisfied until every sin is confessed and forsaken. Sin must first be removed from the heart of the sinner and sent beforehand to judgment in the Most Holy Place. Then may our sins be blotted out there.

A People Who Cease to Sin

We need to emphasize the fact that Christ’s work as our high priest must continue until He has a people who will cease from sin. Not until we cooperate with Him in His great work of salvation from sin, allowing Him to sanctify and perfect us, will He return for us as king and save us from the presence of sin forever.

Those who will be alive to see the second coming must cease from sin. There are at least two very important reasons why this must be the case.

1) The work of intercession performed by our High Priest will cease shortly before His return (see Revelation 8:1–5). He will be changing offices, from high priest in order to return as king. If Christ is no longer acting as our intercessor at that time, then whom have we to plead on our behalf should we sin? Before He returns He will declare, “*He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: . . . and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*” Revelation 22:11. We must be prepared to live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor!

2) God’s character has been called into question. He is on trial before men, angels, and the intelligences of the universe. He has submitted to this trial to give ample evidence that He is just (see Romans 3:4). God will be vindicated. He will

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Come Out from Among Them and Be Ye Separate



Ellen G. White

There are conditions to meet if we would be blessed and honored by God. We are to separate from the world, and refuse to touch those things that will separate our affections from God.

“**B**e ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:14–16.

Never was there a time when this warning was more appropriate than at the present time. Far too large a number of professed Christians are Christians only in name. They have no root in themselves. Their hearts are filled with pride, impurity, unholy ambition, self-importance, and love of supremacy. They may have an intelligent knowledge of the theory of the truth, and prove their doctrines to be sound and Scriptural, but they hold the truth in unrighteousness. By their course of action they deny the Saviour. Their hearts are not sanctified through the truth. They are unholy in heart, and unchristlike in deportment.

Unless the spirit and principles that characterized the life of Christ are planted in the heart, they can not control the life. The law of God must be written in the heart, the truth of God must illuminate the soul. Holiness, mercy, truth, love, must be brought into the life. Unless the soul-temple is cleansed from its defilement, unless there is purity of heart, unless earnest efforts are made to meet the standard of God's Word, they will never be fitted to be the companions of the pure and holy; they will never wear the white linen which is the righteousness of the saints.

There will always be in positions of trust men who have never overcome self, professors who flatter the pleasure-lover, and court his approval by uniting with him. They determine not to obey the call to come out and be separate, and as a consequence, iniquity abounds. Anything is more acceptable to them than the putting away of the evil thing. They profess to believe the word of God, but they do it not. With a knowledge of sacred truth before them, they cherish sin in the heart. The will of God is known, but rejected, and their hearts become more hard, their consciences more unimpressible, and their ruin more sure than if they had had no knowledge of the truth.

These men are not moved by the messages of warning. The terrors of the Lord have no lasting effects upon their minds.

The love of Jesus, His pity, His compassion for fallen man, which led Him to leave the royal courts and lay aside His robes of honor, for our sake to become poor, that we through His poverty might be rich (2 Corinthians 8:9); His life of self-denial and self-sacrifice, may be presented before them. His entreaties, His invitations, His rich promises, may be repeated to them; but their selfish hearts are proof against them all.

They feel that God's claims are arbitrary, and the truth finds no place. Let there be more license, less restraint, pleads the carnal heart. The temple of the soul is used for idols, and the truth of God's Word has no power to cause them to turn from sin. The indulgence of self, which keeps them in harmony with the world's customs and practices, has a controlling power upon their lives.

Over the lives of very many professed Christians the power of God has but little control. Innumerable favors are bestowed upon them by the God of heaven, without awakening in them one thought of gratitude in return. The love of Jesus is not a ruling principle in the soul, and therefore can not exercise a constraining power upon the life.

A partial surrender to truth gives Satan free opportunity to work. Until the soul-temple is fully surrendered to God, it is the stronghold of the enemy. This



influence is leading souls away from the grand old waymarks into false paths. When the mind becomes confused, when right is considered unessential, and error is called truth, it is almost impossible to make these deceived souls see that it is the adversary who has confused their senses and polluted the soul-temple. A tissue of lies is placed where truth, and truth alone, should be. The Word of God is a dead letter to them, and the Saviour's love is unknown.

"Come out from among them, and be ye separate." Will we hear the voice of God and obey, or will we make half-way work of the matter, and try to serve God and mammon? Christ has placed before us the conditions of eternal life. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God," He says, "with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. . . . This do, and thou shalt live." Luke 10:27-28. Those who hear from the lips of Christ the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21), will be heroic ministers of righteousness. They may never preach a discourse from the pulpit, but, loyal to a sense of God's claims upon them, and jealous for His honor, they will minister to the souls who are the purchase of Christ's blood. They will see the necessity of carrying into their work a willing mind, an earnest spirit, and a hearty, unselfish zeal. They will not study how best they can preserve their own dignity, but by care and thoughtfulness will seek to win the hearts of those

whom they serve. On every hand the agents of Satan will seek to induce them to sin, but those who will to love and fear God will stand as firm as a rock to their heaven-inspired purpose. Like Daniel, they will refuse to be moved from their convictions of duty.

The apostle Paul urges upon us the advantages placed within our reach. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved," he says, "let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1. We are to separate from the world in spirit and practice if we would become sons and daughters of God.

In His prayer for His followers, Christ asked, "I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth." John 17:15-17.

There is earnest work before each one of us. Right thoughts, pure and holy purposes, do not come to us naturally. We shall have to strive for them. In all our institutions, our publishing houses and colleges, pure and holy principles must take root.

If our institutions are what God designed they should be, they will not pattern after any other in the land. They will stand as peculiar, governed and controlled by the Bible standard. They will not come into harmony with the principles of the world in order to gain patronage. No motives will have sufficient force to move them from the straight line of duty.

Those who are under the control of the Spirit of God will not seek their own pleasure or amusement. If Christ presides in the hearts of the members of His church, they will answer to the call, "Come out from among them, and be ye

separate." Partake not of her sin.

God has a work for His faithful sentinels to do in standing in defense of the truth. They are to warn and entreat, showing their faith by their works. They are to stand as did Noah, in noble, whole-souled fidelity, their characters untarnished by the evil around them. They are to be saviors of men, as Christ was.

The worker who thus stands true to his trust will be exposed to hatred and reproach. False accusations will be brought against him to drag him from his high position. But this soul has his foundation upon the Rock, and he remains unmoved, warning, entreating, rebuking sin and pleasure-loving by his own moral rectitude and circumspect life.

The truth as it is in Jesus has shone with great clearness upon God's people. Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, the truth has been given. But the light which it has been our privilege to enjoy has not been carefully cherished and carried into practical life. For this reason there is little power among us at the present time.

Many are inquiring, "Why is it that we have so little strength? Is it because heaven is sealed? Is it because there are no precious blessings in store for us? Is it because our source of strength is exhausted, and we can receive no more? Why is it that we are not all light in the Lord? He who was a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities, is high and lifted up, and the glory of his train fills the temple. Why is this glory withheld from those who are in a world of sin and sorrow, trouble and sadness, corruption and iniquity?"

The trouble lies with ourselves. Our iniquities have separated us from God. We are not filled, because we do not feel our need; we do not hunger and thirst after righteousness. The promise is

that if we hunger and thirst after righteousness, we shall be filled. The promise is to you, my brethren and sisters. It is to me; it is to every one of us. It is the hungering, thirsting souls who will be filled. We may come to Christ just as we are, in our weakness, with our folly and imperfections, and offer our petitions in faith.

In spite of our errors, our continual backsliding, the voice of the long-suffering Saviour invites us, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. To the needy, the fainting, those who are bowed down with burden and care and perplexity, the invitation is, Come. It is Christ's glory to encircle us in the arms of His mercy and love, and bind up our wounds. He will sympathize with those who need sympathy, and strengthen those who need strength.

To the unbelieving, obstinate Pharisees, Christ said, "Ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life." John 5:40. Oh that this may never be said of us! There is life and peace and joy in Jesus Christ. He is the sinner's friend. In Him there is power and glory and strength for all. If we believe that this power and glory are ours, and comply with the conditions laid down in His Word, we shall be strong in the strength of the Mighty One.

Many professed Christians are well represented by the vine that is trailing upon the ground, and entwining its tendrils about the roots and rubbish that lie in its path. To all such the message comes, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

There are conditions to meet if we would be blessed and honored by God. We are to separate from the world, and refuse to touch those things that will separate our affections from God. God has the

first and highest claims upon His people. Set your affections upon Him and upon heavenly things. Your tendrils must be severed from everything earthly. You are exhorted to touch not the unclean thing; for in touching this, you will yourself become unclean.

It is impossible for you to unite with those who are corrupt, and still remain pure. "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial?" God and Christ and the heavenly host would have man know that if he unites with the corrupt, he will become corrupt. Ample provision has been made that we may be raised from the lowlands of earth, and have our affections fastened upon God and upon heavenly things.

Will separation from the world, in obedience to the divine command, unfit us for the work the Lord has left us? Will it hinder us from doing good to those around us?—No; the firmer hold we have on heaven, the greater will be our power for usefulness. We should study the Pattern, that the spirit which dwelt in Christ may dwell in us.

The Saviour was not found among the exalted and honorable of the world. He did not spend his time among those who were seeking their ease and pleasure. He worked to help those who needed help, to save the lost and perishing, to lift up the bowed down, to break the yoke of oppression from those in bondage, to heal the afflicted, and to speak words of sympathy and consolation to the distressed and sorrowing. We are required to follow this example.

The more we partake of the Spirit of Christ, the more we shall seek to do for our fellow men. We shall bless the needy and comfort the distressed. Filled with a love for perishing souls, we shall find our delight in following the footsteps of the Majesty of heaven.

The requirements of God are set

plainly before us; the question to be settled is, Will we comply with them? Will we accept the condition laid down in His Word—separation from the world? This is not the work of a moment or of a day. It is not accomplished by bowing at the family altar and offering up lip-service, nor by public exhortation and prayer. It is a lifelong work.

Our consecration to God must be a living principle, interwoven with the life, and leading to self-denial and self-sacrifice. It must underlie all our thoughts, and be the spring of every action. This will elevate us above the world, and separate us from its polluting influence.

All our actions are affected by our religious experience. If our experience is founded in God; if we are daily tasting the power of the world to come, and have the fellowship of the Spirit; if each day we hold with a firmer grasp the higher life, principles that are holy and elevating will be inwrought in us, and it will be as natural for us to seek purity and holiness and separation from the world, as it is for the angels of glory to execute the mission of love assigned them. Every one who enters the pearly gates of the city of God will be a doer of the Word. He will be a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Probation is about to close. In heaven the edict will soon go forth, "It is done." "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:11–12. Soon the last prayer for sinners will have been offered, the last tear shed, the last warning given, the last entreaty made, and the sweet voice of mercy will be heard no more.

This is why Satan is making

Continued on page 31



Burned without Fire

Johnny found a big brass button and set to work shining it on a piece of woolen cloth. "Isn't it bright?" he said, after working awhile. "Just like gold!" He rubbed away again as hard as he could,



then brushed the button across the back of his hand to wipe off some chalk dust. I had told him to put chalk on the cloth to brighten the button quicker.

"Ow!" he cried, dropping the button.

"What's the matter?"

"It is hot."

"Hot!" echoed Mary, laying down her book. "How can it be hot?"

"I don't know," said Johnny, "but it burned me."

"Nonsense!" replied Mary, picking up the button. "It's cold."

"It may be now," Johnny admitted; "but it was hot-warm, anyway."

"What a silly boy! You imagined it."

"I did not," retorted Johnny.

Seeing that they were likely to do as many older people have done, dispute about a matter that neither understood, I took the button and rubbed it smartly on my coat sleeve and then put it to Mary's cheek.

"There!" exclaimed Johnny, as Mary cried "Oh!" and put her hand to her face.

"I shouldn't have thought your arm could make it so warm," she said.

I rubbed the button on the tablecloth, and placed it once more against her cheek, saying: "It couldn't have been my arm that warmed it this time."

"Of course not," observed Johnny.

"What did warm it?" Mary asked, her interest fully awakened.

"That's a good puzzle for you two to work at," I said. "Don't rub the button on the furniture, for it might scratch that; but you can try anything else."

Mary and Johnny worked for a long time, and still they were puzzled.

"Maybe the heat comes from our fingers," Mary suggested at last.

I put a stick through the eye of the button, so that it could be held without touching the hand. Then I rubbed it on the carpet, and it was as hot as ever."

"I guess it's the rubbing," said Johnny.

"A good guess indeed, for that is precisely where the heat comes from," I replied. "The simple fact the heat comes from rubbing is perhaps enough for you to know about right now."

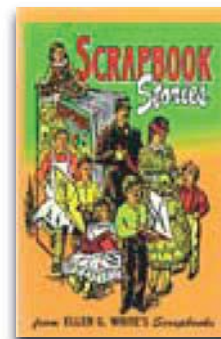
"I thought heat always came from fire," said Mary, "or else from the sun."

"There are other sources of heat," I replied; "our bodies, for instance. We keep warm when out of the sunshine and away from the fire."

"I never thought of that,"

said Mary.

"Do you remember the day the masons were pouring water on a pile of quicklime to make the mortar for the new house over the way? The lime hissed and crackled, sending up clouds of steam. I have a piece of quicklime here. See, when I pour water on it, how it drinks up the water and grows hot. I saw a wagon with lime set on fire once by a shower of rain. I have also seen a blacksmith take a piece of cold iron and hammer it on a cold anvil with a cold hammer until it was hot enough to set wood on fire. There are so many ways of generating heat. You need to explore that. Just make sure you are careful not to hurt yourselves or anyone else."



This story was taken from Ellen G. White Scrapbook Stories. This book is available from Hope International for \$8.99 plus shipping and sales tax (see page 30 for details).





PAPAYA

Tony Morais, ND

Carica papaya is the botanical name for this fruit. The common name is papaya. It is one of the best tropical fruits I ever tasted. It is a precious gift from God to us. Our Creator has placed before us a table full of tasty and useful natural remedies.

When I was living in Africa, papaya was always present at our table, coming directly from the papaya tree. This is part of my childhood memories. Even today I remember with pleasure the days when we went to the yard and took a refreshing meal of this wonderful fruit, under the tropical sun. Close contact with nature gives you a closer view of God's creative power.

Papaya has a very high nutritional value as well as a medicinal value. It contains vitamins A, B₁, B₂, C and also some minerals such as phosphorus, calcium and iron. Different types of enzymes are present in the papaya fruit, such as Papain. This is an excellent aid to digesting the protein in food. The unripe fruit is a rich source of papain, which is vegetable pepsin and is capable of digesting protein in acid, alkaline or neutral medium. Papain also exhibits pain-relieving properties.

Patients with celiac disease who cannot digest the wheat protein gliadin, can tolerate it if it is treated with crude papain. Papaya can be useful for dyspeptic patients. It is an ideal food for invalids because

the fruit is easy to chew and swallow. The papaya fruit has more beta-carotene compared to other fruits and contains very few calories. Carotene helps to prevent damage by free radicals, which could otherwise lead to some forms of cancer.

Papaya is reported to speed up healing. The juice is used for warts, cancers, tumors, corns and skin defects while the root is said to help tumors of the uterus. In Africa a root infusion is also used for syphilis. In Cuba the latex is used for psoriasis, ringworm and the removal of cancerous growth.

Even those who do not live in tropical countries where papaya grows so plentifully, can obtain some of the benefits by eating the dried fruit as well as taking papain in the form of supplements. 📖

Adapted from: Alfons Balbach and Daniel S. F. Boarim, As Hortaliças na Medicina Natural, Edições Vida Plena, Itaquaquecetuba, SP (Portuguese), 1993.



If you have any questions regarding the information presented, please contact:

Heather Olson, RN

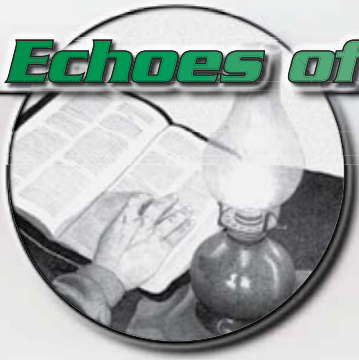
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Disclaimer:

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Come Up!

Part 1

John N. Loughborough

What's happening:

Monday, December 20, 1852, Hiram Edson and J.N. Loughborough left Rochester, New York, with the White's horse and carriage on a six-week preaching circuit in southwestern New York.—Editors.

Traveling to Orangeport, we spent our first Sabbath with a company of believers there. A heavy snowstorm made it impossible to go any farther with the carriage, so on Sunday we constructed a four-runner sleigh, or “pung,” and went on our way.

On Christmas Eve, 1852, we drove into Buffalo in a terrible snowstorm. Up to this time I had never owned an overcoat, so Brother Edson stopped at a clothing store and bought me one. We then drove on to Fredonia and held meetings for a few days. From there we went to Potter County, Pennsylvania, visiting scattered ones along the way.

At State Line, Lewis Hackett had arranged for me to speak Sunday afternoon and evening in a large schoolhouse. Since the forenoon was already taken by another minister, we decided to attend and

further circulate our appointment. When the minister failed to appear, the congregation asked me to speak. As I stepped to the desk, the people gave me a very curious look, but soon began to show deep interest. In the afternoon and evening the place was packed to utmost capacity.

As I went into Mr. Hackett's shoe-shop on Monday morning, I noticed a copy of the handbill with which he had notified the town of my meetings. This explained the peculiar looks of the people the day before. It read, “J. N. Loughborough of Rochester will speak at the schoolhouse at 2 and 7 P.M. Come and hear, for they which have turned the world upside down are come hither also, whom Lewis hath received. And these do all contrary to the pope's decrees, saying there is a better way—the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” I asked, “Is this the way you notified the town? Now I can understand why the people gave me such a curious look when I first stood before them.”

As we started our homeward trip down the Genesee River to

Rochester, we had to hurry for the snow was melting fast. We stopped over Sabbath with a family of believers. The husband in the family seemed very anxious to preach the message, but we gave him no encouragement for we felt he took life altogether too easy to make a success of preaching. We noticed that his wife was out cutting wood to prepare his supper while he sat in an easy chair, his feet upon another, and sang with enthusiasm about the easy time he expected in heaven. One stanza delighted him most, “We'll have nothing at all to do but march around Jerusalem, when we arrive at home.” He seemed to illustrate the spirit of his song by having nothing to do with labor and toil on earth.

When we reached Attica, N.Y., the snow had all melted off the road, so we had to walk to relieve the horse in drawing our pung over the bare ground. We reached Rochester in good health and good cheer after an absence of six weeks. But now, as Hiram Edson returned to his home, I had to ride on the back of old Charlie with the harness some fifty miles to Orangeport

to get the carriage we left there in December.¹

During the winter of 1852–53, into the Rochester company came a man who was loud and boisterous in his testimony. He said, “There’s a position we can reach where we shall have no more temptations.” It sounded a bit strange to me, and judging by the look of Elder and Mrs. White, I did not think they endorsed his theology either.

The next Sabbath the man exhorted us to come upon higher ground where we would be free from temptation. The climax came the third Sabbath. This zealous one bellowed, “Brethren, *come up* on the platform where I am. COME UP! COME UP!”

Rising to his feet Elder White very calmly said to the man, “You speak of being upon some platform. It reminds me of a man of small stature in Christ’s time who wanted to see the Saviour and climbed into a sycamore tree. When the Saviour came along, He said, ‘Zaccheus, make haste and come down.’ I will now say to you, Zaccheus, come down. If there is a place where we will not be tempted anymore, let us know how to get there. With irony I tell you that you have sat down on the easy stool of the devil when you think that all your impressions are from the Lord, and you will be led into gross sins.”

The man protested that it would not be so, yet six weeks later he came into his house with a woman much younger than his wife clinging to his arm. As he entered the room, he said to his wife who was holding her two-month-old babe, “Thus saith the Lord, Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free-woman.” He then invited his wife to leave, giving her to understand that the woman on his arm was now the mistress of the house. As his wife did not propose to walk the cold, wintry streets with a babe in her arms, she refused to go. Shortly

afterwards, the man had a case to settle with the civil authorities. This ended all his profession of the third angel’s message.²

During the winter of 1852–53, Elder Andrews wrote his 80-page pamphlet on the sanctuary and 2,300 days. This was printed on the hand press in the spring of 1853. The office had no stitching or trimming machine. Elder White, anxious to send copies to all the brethren, called a “bee” of the Rochester members who folded the signatures for 100 books. I perforated them with a shoemaker’s pegging awl, the sisters stitched them with needle and thread, Mary Patten put on the covers, and Uriah Smith trimmed them with his pocket knife and straight edge. Sister White wrapped them, and Elder White addressed them for the mail. We were a happy company together for we were getting off the first book printed on a press owned by Seventh-day Adventists.³

In the early years of my ministry, I had labored together with Elder Sullivan Heath, a First-day Adventist who shortly afterwards moved to Illinois. His relatives in Clarkson, New York had accepted present truth and, anxious that he hear also, raised money for my expenses to visit him. Elder White suggested that instead of simply going to Illinois and back, I should visit the few at Fredonia, New York and Milan, Ohio, and some points in Michigan, then meet them at Jackson on June 21. So I left in May with this intention.

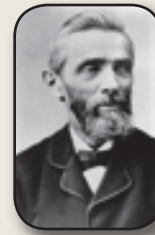
In 1853, the plan was adopted of giving the ministers a card recommending them to fellowship with our people everywhere. The one given me in January, 1853, reads:

“Brother Loughborough of Rochester, New York, is one whom we recommend to the brethren where he may travel.”⁴

*In behalf of the church,
(signed) James White, Joseph Bates, leading ministers.*

After passing through Ohio, I went on to Michigan and met Elder Cornell at his house in Plymouth. We went together to Tyrone, Locke, and Jackson. Here we parted, he to meet the Whites at Tyrone, and I to go to Battle Creek, Bedford, and Hastings, then to return and meet him at Jackson. Here a very striking incident occurred. 📖

To be continued.



John N. Loughborough, 1832–1924, pioneer evangelist and administrator also served the Lord as a literature evangelist, conference president in several states, foreign missionary, edi-

tor of the Pacific Health Journal, and treasurer of the General Conference. He also authored several books and many articles for denominational papers. He was closely associated with Elder and Mrs. White for 40 years.

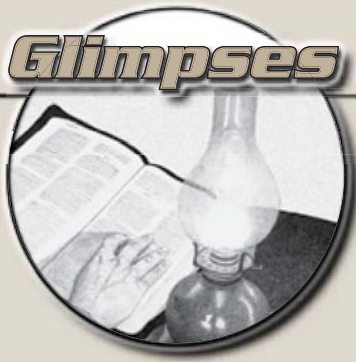


Taken from Miracles in My Life, 25–28. This book is available from Hope International for \$5.99. Please see page 30 for shipping and sales tax information.

Notes:

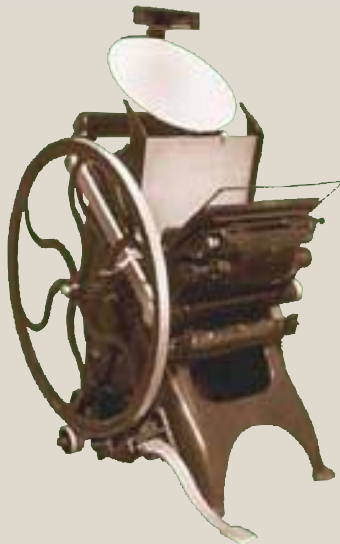
- ¹ *Pacific Union Recorder*, August 19, 1909.
- ² *Ibid.*, September 30, 1909.
- ³ *Review and Herald*, July 31, 1919.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, June 11, 1901; Loughborough, *The Church, Its Organization, Order and Design*, (*Review & Herald*, 1907) 101.





James White: Part 1 The Golden Years

Virgil Robinson



The last issue of the *Review* published in Rochester was dated October 30, 1855. After it came from the press the machinery was crated and sent by rail to Battle Creek. The workers in the big house at 124 Mount Hope Road packed their possessions and followed the printing equipment to its westward destination.

James White was now 34 years old, and Ellen approaching 28. The three boys, Henry, 8, Edson, 6, and Willie only 15 months, were excited as, with their parents, they boarded the train for Michigan. They peered out the window at the passing landscape and the colorful

autumn foliage.

At Battle Creek James found a house to shelter his greatly diminished family. The rent was only \$1.50 per week, but the place lacked many conveniences. We “have to go a great distance for water; have no good shed for our wood,” Ellen wrote.¹

At last James and Ellen White would have more privacy than at Rochester. Although the days when they would provide food for large numbers of persons were by no means past, it was a relief not to have fifteen or eighteen at every meal.

Besides their three boys, they still had as members of their family Clarissa Bonfoey, who had been substitute mother for Edson, and Jennie Frazier, who soon became famous as one of the best bakers and cooks in Battle Creek.

The Whites’ first winter in Battle Creek was a busy one, and one of great importance to the church. The messages Ellen had written out and sent to churches and individuals were collected, published, and advertised as “Testimony for

the Church.” One hundred and fifty copies were sent to various brethren without charge. An announcement of the publication, with a statement that “those who would encourage the circulation of such matter, can do so by assisting in its publication,” appeared on the back page of the *Review* over Ellen White’s name.² James perhaps felt it would be just as well to let her handle the circulation of her own books and pamphlets.

James’ health, so precarious in Rochester, improved with the move to Michigan, particularly after the arrival of spring and summer. It was evident that the move benefited the whole family.

They soon established a regular routine. Henry and Edson attended the nearby public school, while Willie remained with his mother at home. James carried on his editorial work at the *Review* and *Herald*, no longer burdened with the task of looking over names and checking addresses or buying ink and paper. This now fell more and more into the hands of Stephen Belden. The finance committee looked after

the major lines of business.

James now felt much freer to accept invitations to speak in churches in surrounding towns and communities. Ellen could not always go with him. Clarissa Bonfoey had died suddenly, and Ellen had to stay with her boys. She and James began seeking a solution to this problem.

Remembering the loving care that the Howlands had bestowed on Henry, James and Ellen wrote inviting them to move to Battle Creek and take over the home during their absences.³ However, the Howlands did not accept the invitation. They probably felt deeply attached to their Maine home. Besides, the responsibility for three lively boys would not be easy.

The members of the Battle Creek church were happy to have the Whites living in their town. Sometimes some of them may have wondered how long they would stay. Had not the press been moved no less than five times during the past seven years? Was there not a danger that it might be moved again? But it soon became evident that James intended to stay in town for a while. He began to look around for a house to buy to save on rent.

When this became known, the men who made possible the move to Battle Creek decided to help the Whites get a home of their own. An acre and a half of land about a mile from the Review office was bought for \$200. After the land was cleared, a neat two-story house was built.

Later, an addition was made on one side for the three boys, and another on the other side for the Harmons, Ellen's parents, who came from Maine to live with their children. After the Harmons moved into a cottage across the street, Deacon John and Betsy came to Battle Creek also and lived in what came to be known as the "Wood Street House."⁴

Shortly after the Whites moved into their new house, Jonah Lewis, who lived on an adjoining plot of

land, dug a well close to the White property line. He shared the water with the Whites and other neighbors.⁵ A windlass and bucket were fastened over the top of the well with an oaken bucket to draw the water.

As the ice and snow disappeared after the first winter in the new house, James purchased garden tools and prepared to plant a vegetable garden. At the same time he set out a variety of fruit trees. The whole family worked in the garden, finding great satisfaction in learning how to make things grow. One of White's neighbors wrote, "The land is very rich. Such corn as Brother White raised there I never saw before. He planted it late, too, as it had to be grubbed out and fenced before he could plant."⁶

James was happy to have his parents in Battle Creek, and he was overjoyed when Deacon John announced one day that from then on he would observe the seventh day of the week as his Sabbath. Force of habit, however, was too strong to permit him to work on Sunday. The children noticed this, and wondered why Grandpa kept two Sabbaths.

Then came a Sunday morning when they saw Grandpa take out his shoe-making tools and go to work.

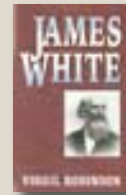
"Why, Grandpa," little Willie exclaimed, "don't you know this is Sunday?"

There was a twinkle in the old man's eye when he replied, "Yes, but I have decided one Sabbath a week is enough for me."⁷ And he went on with his work.

Now that he had his own home, and the pressure of office work had eased, James had more time to spend with his family and to enjoy his surroundings. The land was fenced. In time his fruit trees began bearing. He grew strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, and grapes. It pleased the church members to see Elder White taking such an interest in the place they had provided for him and his fam-

ily. The Sabbath-day preacher and editor and publisher was also a weekday gardener. 📖

The author was the great-grandson of James and Ellen White on his mother's side and the great-grandson of William Farnsworth (one of the first Seventh-day Adventists) on his father's side.



This story was taken from Virgil Robinson, James White, 125-131. This book is available from Hope International for \$11.99 plus shipping and sales tax (see page 30).

Notes:

- 1 *Lake Union Herald*, March 22, 1966.
- 2 *Review and Herald*, December 18, 1855.
- 3 Ellen G. White letter to Bro. and Sr. Howland, July 15, 1856.
- 4 William C. White, "Sketches and Memories," *Review and Herald*, February 13, 1936.
- 5 *Ibid.*
- 6 James White letter, November 1856.
- 7 William C. White, *op. cit.*





News



Worldly Word

News Item: “As evangelicals debate the inclusive-language Today’s New International Version (TNIV), many liberal mainline churches have slipped far down the slippery slope in what they have done to the Bible.

“In 1990, the National Council of Churches published the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), an inclusive-language rendition of the well-accepted Revised Standard Version (RSV). This translation keeps masculine references to God and Jesus, but changes them for human beings, getting rid of the generic ‘man,’ putting ‘brothers and sisters’ where the original just has ‘brothers,’ and using awkward plurals and repetitions to avoid the generic ‘he.’ Never mind that the messianic title ‘Son of Man’ is now ‘a human being.’ What the NRSV did to the RSV is pretty much what the TNIV did to the NIV.

“But that much inclusive language was not enough for many mainline churches. *An Inclusive Language Lectionary*, a rendition of Scripture texts read during the worship service, takes the next step of changing the gendered language for God. Today, the congregations who use this lectionary in Sunday worship pray to ‘our Father-Mother.’ Jesus is not the Son of God, but the ‘child of God.’ The pronoun ‘he’ is not even used for the man Jesus, replaced with ungrammatical constructions: ‘Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us’ becomes ‘Jesus Christ, who gave self for us’ (Titus 2:13-14).

“But that much tinkering proved not to be enough either. In 1995, Oxford University Press published the *New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*. This revision of the NRSV not only uses gender-inclusive language for God and Jesus (‘God our father-mother’), it also eliminates, in the words of the introduction, ‘all pejorative references to race, color, or religion, and all identifications of persons by their physical disability.’ In avoiding all ‘offensive language,’ ‘darkness’ is changed to ‘night,’ lest it offend black people, and ‘the right hand of God’ is changed to ‘the mighty hand of God,’ lest it offend left-handed people.

“But that does not go far enough. The liberal Catholic group Priests for Equality published in 2004 the Inclusive Bible. ‘Kingdom’ is both sexist and au-

thoritarian, so the priests made up a new word, ‘kingdom.’ Adam is not a ‘man,’ he is an ‘earth creature.’ And to avoid offending homosexuals or others in non-traditional relationships, the words ‘husband’ and ‘wife’ are changed to ‘partner.’

“But since radical theology depends on demonizing the ‘patriarchy’ of the Bible, the Inclusive Bible includes footnotes admitting that ‘the actual Hebrew is even more brutal’ and chastising the apostle Paul for his retrograde attitudes. Then the translators just change the text to something more suitable.

“But the Inclusive Bible does not go far enough either. The Bible version *Good as New: A Radical Retelling of the Scriptures* uses what its introduction calls ‘cultural translation.’ Not only is it inclusive, it translates ancient terms into their modern-day equivalent. Thus, ‘demon possession’ becomes ‘mental illness.’ Even names are changed: Peter, Nicodemus, and Bethsaida become ‘Rocky,’ ‘Ray,’ and ‘Fishtown.’ Religious terminology is eliminated, as not being in accord with our culture: ‘Baptize’ is changed to ‘dip’; ‘salvation’ is changed to ‘completeness.’

“The translation describes itself as ‘women, gay and sinner friendly.’ Thus, when Paul says that it is better to marry than to burn, the Inclusive Bible says, ‘If you know you have strong needs, get yourself a partner. Better than being frustrated.’ The Inclusive Bible follows the higher critics in leaving out the Pastoral Epistles and Revelation, and it follows *The Da Vinci Code* in including instead the Gnostic Gospel of Thomas. This translation is endorsed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and the evangelical leader Tony Campolo.

“But does any of this matter, as long as people are exposed to the Bible? Yes, it does. The bisexual deity ‘Father-Mother’ is not the true God, nor is this made-up religion of Christianity. These translations are not the Word of God. Just the Word of Man.” Gene Edward Veith, *World*, October 15, 2005, 26; used by permission, © 2006 WORLD magazine, all rights reserved. Subscriptions: 800-951-NEWS or www.worldmag.com.

End-time Perspective: Nothing else needs to be added to this. God will not much longer bear the indignities placed upon His word. Only the

“truth” can set you free. These translations are not the “truth” so the people are kept in bondage, just as Satan would have it.

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” Revelation 22:18–19.



ATMs for Rx Refills

News Item: “Machines dispensing prescription drugs are popping up around the country. The automated kiosks are designed to shorten lines at pharmacist counters.

“San Diego-based Asteres has been testing its Script-Center refill machines in Longs Drug Stores on the West Coast, and will soon put them in Giant Stores on the East Coast. Pharmacists stock the machines with refills; customers get access with a pass code and credit card.” Enterprise Bytes, *Newsweek*, February 20, 2006, E2.

End-time Perspective: Satan is making it ever easier to just take the drugs rather than using God’s methods for healing. Nobody is claiming that there is never a need for a drug, but that the simpler and easier it is, the more people will use them, which is exactly Satan’s plan.

“My dear friends, instead of taking a course to baffle disease, you are petting it and yielding to its power. You should avoid the use of drugs and carefully observe the laws of health.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 311.

Growth of Evangelical Education

News Item: “Explosive growth describes what

is happening in evangelical higher education. Enrollment at member schools of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities increased by 70.6 percent between 1990 and 2004—from 134,592 to 229,649. The numbers are based on data recently published by the U.S. Department of Education. The figures place overall growth of U.S. public four-year institutions at 12.8 percent for the 14-year period, 28 percent for all independent ones, and 27.5 percent for all independent religious schools.” Bulletin Board, *World*, October 22, 2005, 34.

End-time Perspective: “Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. . . . The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work, and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power, he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. . . .

“There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead. Yet none need be deceived. In the light of God’s Word it is not difficult to determine the nature of these movements. Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world, there we may be sure that God’s blessing is not bestowed.” *The Great Controversy*, 464.

There “appears” to be a great religious fervor, but as the servant of the Lord points out, if it does not lead to renunciation of self and the world, it is not of God. 📖




Articles Submitted by
Joe Olson

Photo: © iStockPhoto.com



be vindicated in us. He will show through His church on earth that the gospel works and that His law is for the good of all His creatures (see Ephesians 3:6–11). This can only be accomplished by a people in whom the new covenant promise of a new heart and mind, upon which is written God’s holy law, has been fulfilled (see Ezekiel 20:41; 36:21–28). We will be the evidence that God is just and good, and that the accusations of Satan against God and His government are false. Then, after the 1,000 years of Revelation 20, God will banish all sin and sinners from the universe. Stage 3 of the cleansing of sin will be completed. Then, once again, He will proclaim, “It is done.” Revelation 21:6.

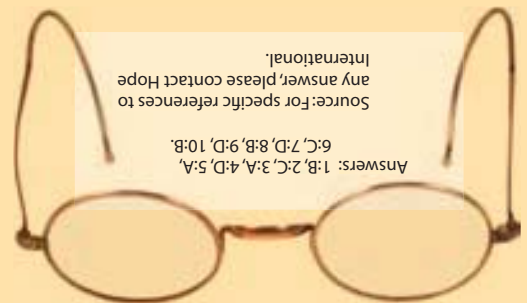
How long will we put off the work of perfection? How long will we hinder the work Christ longs to do in us? He has been ready and willing to complete this work for some time now—let us cooperate with Him and allow Him to perfect Christian character in us. If we fail to allow Him to do this work, He will find others who are willing. Hurry, before it’s too late! God forbid that others go on to perfection without us and we cry, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” Jeremiah 8:20. 

Randy Floyd writes from California where he has served as an evangelist and is currently a Bible Teacher.

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.”—E. G. White, *Life Sketches*, 196. Many today have neglected to study the history and people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. To help encourage interest in Adventist history, we have put together questions 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.”

- During the Civil War, B.F. Snook and one other were arrested under martial law and detained in Iowa. Who was the other?
 - Uriah Smith
 - J. H. Waggoner
 - J. N. Andrews
 - J. N. Loughborough
- Who made this statement: “Let them bring on their devils. I am enough for the whole of them.”
 - Dudley Canright
 - Ellen White
 - Moses Hull
 - William Miller
- Which of the White children wanted to be a drummer in the Army?
 - Henry
 - Harry
 - Willie
 - Edson
- How many daughters did the White’s have?
 - 3
 - 2
 - 1
 - 0
- Whose dying words were these: “Heaven is sweet.”
 - Henry White
 - James White
 - Ellen White
 - Willie White
- When the health message first came to light, who loved meat and hated bread?
 - Uriah Smith
 - James White
 - Ellen White
 - The White children
- An unleavened cake made of unbolted wheat meal, water and salt was called what?
 - Hygienic loaf
 - Staff of Life
 - Bun
 - Gem
- What General Conference president was once a Union soldier during the Civil War?
 - John Byington
 - George Irwin
 - A.G. Daniells
 - Uriah Smith
- James White had a stroke of paralysis. What was its cause?
 - Working too hard
 - Satan trying to kill him
 - Lack of sleep
 - All the above
- Where was the “Western Health Reform Institute” located?
 - Gorham, Maine
 - Battle Creek, Michigan
 - Chicago, Illinois
 - Loma Linda, California



Our Firm Foundation

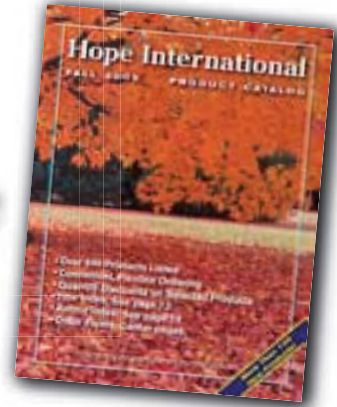


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Edith V. Edwards

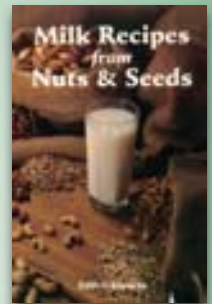
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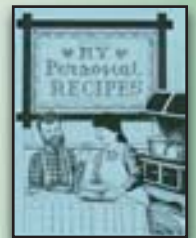
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Kendall, Dennis / Kendall, Barbara

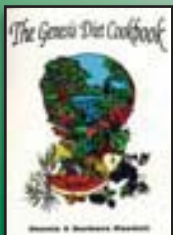
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Bert Rhoads

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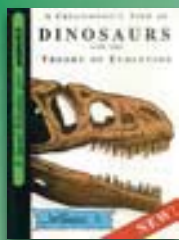
This is a unique story of a young boy and his family as they experience trials and close calls with fires, physical injuries, and theft. Through it all they learn to trust God and his plan for their lives, never knowing the answer to many of their problems is tied up with the odd rock they all know as the "Thunder Egg."

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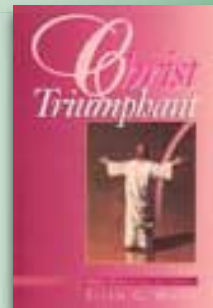
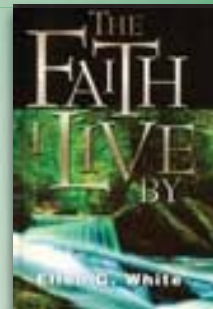
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✉ Your colleagues are doing a fine job on the magazine. Blessings on you all.

ES; Florida

✉ Keep working for the Lord by the grace He gives. Do not give the enemy an inch. You are in our prayers.

“Jesus, be with us and those you touch, and without measure. Give us discernment from above so we can know and understand God’s Word.”

ML; Washington

✉ Thanks for sending *Our Firm Foundation* magazine. It is God-given and inspired.

May God bless those who make it possible for others to receive the magazine and bless your ministry of love. Have a wonderful summer for all and also good health.

C; Michigan

✉ Thank you for the recent article, “How to Keep the Sabbath.” I am a new Adventist and am somewhat confused on some of the do’s and don’ts of Sabbath keeping. Your article is very helpful. I look forward to receiving the July issue of *Our Firm Foundation* so I can read Part 2 of “How to keep the Sabbath.”

RH; Illinois

✉ Thank you! Your magazine has been such an inspiration and help to us in these end times. My husband, and I hope to visit you this summer and share this wonderful faith. Thank you so much.

RBD; Florida

Continued from page 19

such mighty efforts to secure men and women in his snare. He has come down with great power, knowing that his time is short. His special work is to secure professed Christians in his ranks, that through them he may allure and destroy souls. The enemy is playing the game of life for every soul. He is working to remove from us everything of a spiritual nature, and in the place of the precious graces of Christ to crowd our hearts with the evil traits of the carnal nature—hatred, evil surmising, jealousy, love of the world, love of self, love of pleasure, and the pride of life. We need to be fortified against the incoming foe, who is working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; for unless we are watchful and prayerful, these evils will enter the heart, and crowd out all that is good.

Many who profess to believe the word of God do not seem to understand the deceptive working



of the enemy. They do not realize that the end of time is near; but Satan knows it; and while men sleep, he works. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life are controlling men and women. Satan is at work even among the people of God, to cause disunion. Selfishness, corruption, and evil of every kind are taking a firm hold upon hearts.

With many the precious Word of God is neglected. A novel or a storybook engages the attention, and fascinates the mind. That which excites the imagination is eagerly devoured, while the Word of God is set aside. It was because they overlooked the Word of God that the Jewish nation rejected Christ, demanding that a robber be granted them, and that the Prince of Life be crucified.

And in these last days professed

Christians are committing the same sin. They are weighed in the balances, and are found wanting (Daniel 5:27) because they suffer their minds to be engrossed with things of little importance, while eternal truth is neglected. The truth of God, which would elevate and sanctify and refine, and fit men for the finishing touch of immortality, is set aside for things of minor importance. Oh that this blindness might pass away, and men and women understand the work that Satan is accomplishing among them! 📖

Review and Herald, November 28, 1899 and January 2, 1900.



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.

