

Our Firm Foundation

Volume 23, Number 6 • June 2008



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Part 2

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Editorial

Joe Olson



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

Freedom of Choice

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” Revelation 21:7.

For those that overcome, it just doesn’t get any better than that. For God to be our Father is the epitome of all things perfect and wonderful. But as I understand it, this is not really a gift or a promise. It is just what *reality* would be. Our “god” is whomever we choose to listen to. We always have a choice. And if we overcome, we have listened to Jesus and His Father, and the Holy Spirit and therefore “God” is our God, and we are His children.

Just like Adam and Eve started out being God’s children, and were . . . until they disobeyed, we have been given an opportunity to be God’s children, until we choose another “god” or father or master. No one is held responsible for what he does until he is free to choose. After freedom comes, then, whatever choices he makes, he is accountable for them. And there is nothing that could be fairer. The Father will simply *look* at us, and we will know ourselves that we are getting what we deserve and what we have chosen.

That is probably the thing I love the most about the Godhead, outside of their tremendous love for me. It is the loving *freedom* that they give me to choose. It is the same with food, the same with any vices, the same with what we read, what we watch on TV, what we study and pray about. All is our own choice. And it can only be our

own fault at the judgment if we have chosen wrong.

It is not just that we have been given freedom to do any and all of these things, but that this freedom was purchased at an *infinite* cost. As Sister White says all the time, “All heaven was poured out in this one gift.” There was nothing else to give. We truly have been given all there is. Just as the angels already had it all, therefore there was nothing else left to show them or give them for *their* salvation, we have been given all there is and as a result, there is nothing else left to show or to give us . . . once we see it. Here is an analogy that Sister White used once:

“A sister came to me in Oakland, and said, ‘Don’t you remember that you promised to give me “Vol. IV.” when it was revised and enlarged?’” “Did I?” said I, “and did you really believe I meant to do it?” “Certainly,” she replied. “Why did you think so?” I asked, “Is it not strange that you should think

I would do that, simply because I promised you?” She looked at me in astonishment. She had been complaining to me of her lack of faith in God. “Now,” I said, “how is it that you can trust in a promise of mine, but cannot trust your Heavenly Father’s word? How is it that you can have faith in a poor, fallible mortal, and cannot rely upon the unchangeable God? I had forgotten my promise; but God never forgets. Why can’t you take him at his word, as you take me at my word?” We honor God when we take him at his word, and walk out by faith, believing that he means just what he says. He has not withheld his best gift. “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” All heaven was poured out to man in that one gift; and how can we doubt our Heavenly Father?” *Review and Herald*, March 19, 1889.

We are *supposed* to be in this most excellent and powerful situation and position: the children of God Himself. This is no consolation prize. Oh, no, this is the epitome of all prizes. We are at the top, the “head,” as it were. There are no aspirations to be or to go any higher. We have been put at the top to *start* with. Praise the Lord!

I am so embarrassed as I think of how little I have given in response to what God and the heavenly Family have given me. I do not want that to be the case any longer. I *resolve*, by His grace and power, to be what God has called me, and offered me to be . . . a child of the King!



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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. —*Editor*

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You Are Bought With A Price:

The “Penalty Death”—Part 2

Did Jesus just “taste”
the cup and then
spew it out, or did He
drain it to its dregs?

Barry J. Mellor

“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23. While life is the inheritance of the righteous, death is the portion of the wicked. Moses declared to Israel: “I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.” Deuteronomy 30:15. The death referred to in these scriptures is not that pronounced upon Adam (i.e. the end of probationary life), for all mankind suffer the penalty of his transgression. It is the second death that is placed in contrast with everlasting life. (Notice that the prophet now indicates that the “penalty” is the second death.)

“But those who have not, through repentance and faith, secured pardon, must receive the penalty of transgression—‘the wages of sin.’ They suffer punishment [vengeance] varying in duration and intensity, ‘according to their works,’ but finally ending in the second death.” *The Great Controversy*, 544. Inescapably, these statements clarify that the “penalty of transgression” is the second death.

Only Jesus

“He must be delivered into the hands of wicked men and be subjected to every insult and torture that Satan could inspire them to inflict. He must die the cruelest of deaths, lifted up

between the heavens and the earth as a guilty sinner. He must pass long hours of agony so terrible that angels could not look upon it, but would veil their faces from the sight. He must endure anguish of soul, the hiding of His Father’s face, while the guilt of transgression—the weight of the sins of the whole world—should be upon Him.

“The angels prostrated themselves at the feet of their Commander and offered to become a sacrifice for man. But an angel’s life could not pay the debt; only He who created man had power to redeem him. . . . Christ was to be made ‘a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death.’ Hebrews 2:9.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 64. Only Christ’s life could pay the debt!

“But God gave His own dear Son—one equal with Himself—to bear the penalty of transgression, and thus He provided a way by which they might be restored to His favor, and brought back to their Eden home.” *Ibid.*, 69. What was Jesus bearing? “The penalty of transgression!”

“By bearing the penalty of sin, by going down into the grave, Christ has brightened the tomb for all who die in faith. . . . In dying, Christ secured eternal life for all who believe in Him. In dying, He condemned the originator of sin and disloyalty to suffer the



penalty of sin—eternal death. [Notice again what the “penalty” is: “eternal death.”] The possessor and giver of eternal life, Christ was the only one who could conquer death.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 230.

Notice that in the above quotations, the prophet uses the terms ‘second death’ and ‘eternal death’ interchangeably.

“It was a part of the plan of redemption that Christ should suffer the scorn and abuse of wicked men, and He consented to all this when He became the Redeemer of man.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 65.

It did not necessarily have to be the “scorn and abuse” of “His own.” Apostasy set them up to be the perpetrators.

It Is For Thee...

“Christ assured the angels that by His death He would ransom many, and would destroy him who had the power of death. . . . Through His death, fallen



man could be reconciled to God.” Ibid.

“The Son of God had offered to atone, with His own life, for their transgression. A period of probation would be granted them, and through repentance and faith in Christ they might again become the children of God.” Ibid., 66.

The penalty death is the only one that answers to the provisions of the plan of salvation.

“When man became Satan’s captive, the dominion which he held, passed to his conqueror. Thus Satan became ‘the god of this world.’ 2 Corinthians 4:4. He had usurped that dominion over the earth which had been originally given to Adam. But Christ, by His sacrifice paying the penalty of sin, would not only redeem man, but recover the dominion which he had forfeited.” Ibid., 67.

“He, the Sin Bearer, endures the wrath of divine justice, and for thy sake becomes sin itself. . . . The unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father’s face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise.” *The Desire of Ages*, 755. Remember, it is “eternal death”—not the first or probationary-sleep type of death—that is balanced against “eternal life” in Paradise. See *The Great Controversy*, 544.

Two Important Points

“Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds.” Ibid., 758. This again reiterates the importance of Christ’s death in the scheme of things.

By His death and His sufferings Jesus answered to every detail of

God’s justice. He “tasted” the sentence of horror and anguish that the most hardened and depraved rebel could experience, as well as satisfying the ultimate and all-encompassing penalty for transgression, and that penalty is death—eternal death.

“But!” you say. “Jesus rose again. He didn’t die eternally!” Ask yourself one simple question. Was Jesus’ humanity that rose from the grave the same as that which went into the grave? *The Ministry of Healing*, 420, says: “Christ took with Him to the heavenly courts His glorified humanity.”

The Crisis of Decision

Jesus submitted to the outworking of the plan of salvation. This submission reached a crisis point in the Garden of Gethsemane. Here the sins of the world were upon Him. Here He became sin for us. “But now He seemed to be shut out from the light of God’s sustaining presence. Now He was numbered with the transgressors. The guilt of fallen humanity He must bear. Upon Him who knew no sin must be laid the iniquity of us all. So dreadful does sin appear to Him, so great is the weight of guilt which He must bear, that He is tempted to fear it will shut Him out forever from His Father’s love. [Note that temptation. Faith had to overcome it.] Feeling [the struggle is often between ‘feeling’ and ‘principle’] how terrible is the wrath of God against transgression, He exclaims, ‘My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.’” *The Desire of Ages*, 685.

“He felt that by sin He was being separated from His Father. The gulf was so broad, so black, so deep, that His spirit shuddered before it.” Ibid., 686.

The Gulf He Faced Is the Gulf We Face

What was the broad, black, deep gulf? The agonies of conscious physical suffering, or the fear of eternal separation from His Father?

“As Christ felt His unity with the Father broken up, He feared that in His human nature He would be unable to endure the coming conflict with the powers of darkness. . . . Satan told Him that if He became the surety for a sinful world, the separation would be eternal.” Ibid.

“God allowed His own Son to be put to death in order to answer the penalty of the transgression of the law. . . .” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 253.

“The death of the spotless Son of God testifies that ‘the wages of sin is death,’ that every violation of God’s law must receive its just retribution [the eternal death]. Christ the sinless became sin for man. He bore the guilt of transgression, and the hiding of His Father’s face, until His heart was broken and His life crushed out. All this sacrifice was made that sinners might be redeemed. In no other way could man be freed from the penalty of sin. And every soul that refuses to become a partaker of the atonement provided at such a cost must bear in his own person the guilt and punishment of transgression.” *The Great Controversy*, 539.

Unavoidable Penalty

If Christ has not died and risen from the penalty death, then are we of all men most miserable. For if the penalty has not been paid, then we are all lost. This is how important this issue is! The penalty death is the only one that answers to the provisions of the plan of salvation.

“Justice demands that sin be not merely pardoned, but the death penalty must be executed. God, in the gift of His only-begotten Son, met both these requirements. By dying in man’s stead, Christ exhausted the penalty and provided a pardon.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 340. Notice, Jesus “exhausted” the “penalty,” and we have already seen that the penalty’ is eternal death, often referred to as the second death.

What Did He “Taste”?

It has been asserted that in the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus “tasted the sufferings of death for every man,” somehow that was the penalty for sin that He was there experiencing and that He then went on to die the first death—the one He had called a “sleep.”

Let us look at these events closely and clearly, and then decide—remembering

that our conclusions must not cause inspired statements to clash but to harmonize. We pick up the threads in the Garden of Gethsemane.

“Now had come the hour of the power of darkness. . . . The awful moment had come. . . .”

What “moment” was that? It was the moment of decision, of choice. The fact that Jesus went on to “drink the cup” depended on the decision He had made in the garden—the decision to totally submit to the will of His Father in fulfilling the final crowning sacrifices in the plan of redemption. This choice predicates that which the faithful will yet make when they, during the great test before God’s people, choose to die rather than sin against God (i.e., disobey Him).



“. . . That moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. The fate of humanity trembled in the balance. Christ might even now [choose to] refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man. . . .”

What cup was that? The cup apportioned to “guilty man” was the penalty death! Did Jesus just “taste” the cup and then spew it out, or did He drain it to its dregs? Let’s go on to see.

Was Jesus’ humanity that rose from the grave the same as that which went into the grave?

“O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.” *The Desire of Ages*, 689.

“Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice.” *Ibid.*, 692. What sacrifice is the last crowning sacrifice? We shall see as we proceed.

In Gethsemane Jesus resisted temptation “unto blood” as it oozed from His pores. Thus was Jesus feeling what it is to have no mediator. “He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will [go on to] save man at any cost to Himself. . . . He will not turn from His mission.” *Ibid.*, 690.

What “mission” is that? To taste or to die?

“Having made the decision, He fell dying to the ground,” brought on by stress-induced physical weakness. *Ibid.* 693.

Not to Remove the Cup, But to Strengthen to Drink

Inspiration goes on to tell us that “No way of escape was found for the

Son of God. . . . The mighty angel who stands in God’s presence, occupying the position from which Satan fell, came to the side of Christ. The angel came not to take the cup from Christ’s hand, but to strengthen Him to drink it [not just to taste it], with the assurance of the Father’s love.” *Ibid.*

God loved His Son whilst hating that which Jesus had become: “sin for us.” He also loves sinners whilst

hating their sin.

“He came to give power to the divine-human suppliant. . . . He assured Him that His Father is greater and more powerful than Satan, that His death would result in the utter discomfiture of Satan. . . .” Ibid.

Can we really conclude that the first death or sleep, which is really only the close of a probationary life, pays the penalty exacted by the law, when the first death is not even the law’s penalty but is simply a close of a merciful time allotment, given in grace by God so that we have opportunity to choose to turn from our wicked ways and live?

Can we really conclude that the first death or sleep, which is really only the close of a probationary life, pays the penalty exacted by the law, when the first death is not even the law’s penalty...?

“Christ’s agony did not cease, but His depression and discouragement left Him [as a result of the angel’s ministrations and encouragement]. The storm had in nowise abated, but He who was its object was strengthened to meet its fury.” Ibid., 694.

Notice how much of this suffering rests in Jesus’ feelings as a man—the man who is God’s “fellow” (see Zechariah 13:7). Now, because of the strength received from on High, He is enabled to go on and “drink the cup.

“ . . . He came forth calm and serene. A heavenly peace rested upon His bloodstained face. He had borne that which no human being could ever bear; for He had tasted the sufferings of death for every man.” Ibid.

He still had to go on and “drink the cup.” The penalty still had to be paid!

He awakened the disciples. The mob approached; Judas betrayed Him; Peter cut off Malcus’ ear and Jesus restored it, then told Peter to put up his sword.

“Oh, why, the disciples thought, does He not save Himself and us? Answering their unspoken thought, He added, ‘But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?’ ‘The cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?’” This Jesus said after He had “tasted” the “sufferings of death for every man.” Clearly, the actual penalty had

yet to be paid. Ibid., 969.

The Drinking of the Cup

“Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror [Jesus was hopeless (without hope), so that we might have the “blessed hope.”], or tell Him of the Father’s acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal. . . . With amazement angels witnessed the Saviour’s despairing agony. . . . And in that dreadful hour Christ was not to be comforted with the Father’s presence.” Ibid., 753. Note that this is all after Jesus “tastes” death for every man!

Another Swallow From The Cup

“The angry lightnings seemed to be hurled at Him as He hung upon the cross. Then ‘Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ ‘My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?’

“ . . . He, the Sin Bearer, endures the wrath of divine justice, and for thy sake becomes sin itself.” Ibid., 754–6. When the plan of salvation is finalized, sin will never rise again because Jesus bore sin in the flesh to eternal death.

“The cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?” This Jesus said after He had “tasted” the “sufferings of death for every man.” Clearly, the actual penalty had yet to be paid.

Faith Triumphed over Feeling

“Suddenly the gloom lifted from the cross, and in clear, trumpetlike tones, that seemed to resound throughout creation, Jesus cried, ‘It is finished.’ [Faith triumphed over all feelings and temptations, and Jesus “laid down” His life.] ‘Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.’” Ibid., 756.

He had power to lay down His life. He laid it down into the hands of His Father—as Isaac did for Abraham when he (Isaac) submitted to be bound

and placed on the alter by Abraham, trusting in Abraham’s God to do whatever would be best, not having any assurance that he would ever see Abraham again. Unlike for Abraham, for the Father in heaven there was no being who could stay His hand or stop the sword spoken of in Zechariah 13:7 from doing its sacrificial work. The power to lay down His life and to take it up again, Jesus had received by God the Father’s commandment (see John 10:18). This Jesus chose to do by faith in that commandment, and in the One who gave it.

John 10:18 says, “No man taketh it (His life) from me. But I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

Jesus had said in John 5:30 “I can of mine own self do nothing.” And in John 5:19 we read, “Verily, Verily, I say unto you, the Son can do nothing of himself. . . .”

God’s messenger states in *Desire of Ages*, 335–336: “But He rested not in the possession of Almighty power. It was not as the ‘Master of earth and sea and sky’ that He reposed in quiet. That power He had, He laid down, and He says, ‘I can of mine own self do nothing.’ He trusted in the Father’s might. It was in faith — faith in God’s love and care — that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God.”

Who was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself? The Father!

To Be Continued.



Barry J. Mellor of Tennessee: sailor, entomologist’s assistant, clerk, auto technician (qualified), student, mission farm manager and business economics lecturer, town mayor, farmer, maintenance man and lifestyle counselor (self-supporting), builders’ carpenter, church company leader, preacher.

The Government of God

Ellen G. White

The unchangeable nature of God's law necessitated the death of Christ in our places.

"It is time for thee, Lord, to work; for they have made void thy law. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold, yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way." Ps. 119:126–128.

If this prayer was appropriate in David's time, it is in a special sense appropriate now. If in his day sin and iniquity prevailed to such a degree that it was time for God to work, it certainly is time for him to work in our day; for the warring powers of darkness are prevailing to a remarkable extent. The entrance of sin into heaven cannot be explained. If it were explainable, it would show that there was some reason for sin. But as there was not the

and would only have strengthened his rebellion, for it would have created sympathy for him as one unjustly dealt with; and he would have carried a much larger number with him. He must be displaced, and have time to more fully develop his principles.

Satan's Weapons vs God's

Satan was artful in presenting his side of the question. As soon as he found that one position was seen in its true character, he changed it for another. Not so with God. He could work with only one class of weapons,—truth and righteousness. Satan could use what God could not,—crookedness and deceit. These are the very weapons that he uses in our day to



least excuse for it, its origin will ever remain shrouded in mystery.

Satan's Charge Against God

Sin began with Satan when he was an exalted angel in heaven. He had great honor there among the angels. The first sign of his dissatisfaction was the manifestation of his desire to be equal with God, to be worshiped as God. He tried to falsify the word of God, and pervert his plan of government before the angels. He claimed that God was not just in laying rules and laws upon the inhabitants of heaven. He represented that God was not self-denying, and that Christ was not self-denying; why, then, should the angels be required to be self-denying?

Love for Lucifer A Factor

Satan was greatly loved by the heavenly beings, and his influence over them was strong. Some course must be pursued to uproot him from their affections. God's government included not only the inhabitants of heaven but of all the created worlds; and Satan thought that if he could carry the intelligences of heaven with him in rebellion, he could also carry with him the other worlds.

God in his wisdom did not immediately thrust Satan out of heaven. This act would not have changed his principles,

make the truth of none effect. When the truth is presented to the people, it seems to many to be consistent and right; and if the enemy and his followers did not come in and oppose it by every means in their power, where there are now ten who take hold of it, there would be thousands.

Methods of Both Sides

The only way in which God could deal with Satan was to take a straightforward course; and this is the course that his children must pursue in the great controversy which is still being carried on in the world between truth and error, light and darkness. Those who hold the truth in righteousness will be fair; they can afford to be fair. But those who oppose the truth lack Bible evidence to sustain their position. Therefore they are not fair, but are constantly warring against the things that are for their good.

When Satan tempted and overcame Adam and Eve, he thought he had gained possession of this world; "because," said he, "they have chosen me as their governor." God had said to man, Thou shalt not eat of the forbidden tree. Satan had said, Thou mayest eat. They did eat, and in consequence were driven out of the garden. The sentence of death rested upon them, and the entire race was plunged in hopeless misery. This world is, as it were, but one link in a chain composed of a thousand links; but because of

sin it was struck off from the continent of heaven, and Satan claimed it as his.

A Lost World—But Not Forsaken

If God were like us, we would expect to hear him say, “Let the world go; let Satan have it for his own.” But I am so thankful that God is not like man. He so loved the creatures of his care that he provided a way by which they might be brought back to their Eden home. But at what an immense cost was this provision made! It was no less than by giving up his own dear Son, who was equal to himself, to bear the penalty of the transgressor. The controversy was not to be taken into the other worlds of the universe; but it was to be carried on in the very world, on the very same field, that Satan claimed as his.

Ever since his fall, Satan has been at work to establish himself as ruler of this earth. He saw the sacrificial offerings which had been ordained to represent Christ as dying for the race; and he tried in every possible way to so pervert them that the people would lose sight of their true meaning. He was acquainted with the people whom Christ led out of Egyptian bondage, and who were the depositaries of God’s law; and he tried earnestly to overcome them by constantly plying them with his temptations. But God did not give them up to his control. He so far succeeded, however, that nearly

mockery that he received from the very men who professed to be his children. They knew that it was at Satan’s instigation that spies were placed upon his track as he went from city to city. Christ declared that he came to break the yoke of bondage from every neck, and to let the oppressed go free. Here was a work of counter-agencies going on. Satan was constantly pressing darkness, suffering, and sorrow upon the race; Christ was counteracting it.

Walking by Faith and Word

When Christ went into the wilderness of temptation after his baptism, it was to meet the wily foe in conflict. Satan did not at first appear to Christ in his true character, but as a bright, beautiful, attractive angel sent to him with a message direct from his Father in heaven. This was a temptation to Christ. His humanity made it a temptation to him. It was only by trusting in his Father that he could resist these temptations. He walked by faith as we must walk by faith. It would have been impossible for him to know how to succor those who are tempted had he not known what it was to be tempted. The temptations that he endured were as much more severe than those which come upon us as his character is more exalted than ours. He overcame Satan by the word of God, “It is written.” So must we.



the whole company who left Egypt fell in the wilderness. Not all, thank God! not all. There were a few faithful ones to pass the work into the hands of others to carry forward.

Act and Counteract

From the Jewish age down to the present time, Satan’s warfare has been directed against the Son of God and his work; and he still flatters himself that he will obtain the victory. Christ came to our world in the form of humanity. All heaven were intensely interested in following him from the manger to Calvary, as he traversed, step by step, the blood-stained path to redeem man. Here were the very people whom he had led out of bondage, and to whom God had intrusted his law; but they received him not. He was the light of the world; but the darkness comprehended it not.

[God] could work with only one class of weapons, —truth and righteousness. Satan could use what God could not, —crookedness and deceit.

It was Satan’s studied purpose to bring the Jewish nation into such a state of darkness that they would not know Jesus when he came. Had they walked in the light, they would not have been thus deceived. Heaven marked the insult and

Constant Conflict Till Victory

When Satan exercised his power by taking Christ and placing him on a pinnacle of the temple, he tempted him, saying: “If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.” Christ answered him saying, “It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

Again Satan takes him up into an exceeding high mountain, and laying aside his disguised character, presents before him the kingdoms of the world in all their glory and attractiveness. “All these will I give thee,” he says, “if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” He declares that they are his to give; and he presents them as a tempting bribe to the Son of God. It is then that the indignation of Christ is stirred; and he says, “Get thee hence, Satan.” The tempter then leaves Christ, faint and dying, upon the field of battle, and one of the heavenly angels who are watching the scene is immediately sent to minister unto him.

It would have been impossible for him to know how to succor those who are tempted had he not known what it was to be tempted.

As the ministry of Christ commences, the battle between light and darkness waxes stronger. And as he cries out upon the cross in his expiring agony, "It is finished," a shout of triumph rings through every world and through heaven itself. The great contest that has been going on in this world for so long is ended, and Christ is conqueror. His death has now answered the question whether there was self-denial with the Father and the Son.

Satan's Nature Fully Revealed

The angelic host who watched the scenes in the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ, knew that it was Satan who entered into Judas and led him to betray Christ into the hands of the murderous mob; they knew, too, that it was he who impelled the throng to cry out, "Crucify him; crucify him;" and "release unto us Barabbas." Satan has now revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer. It is seen that the very same spirit with which he ruled the children of men who were under his power, he would manifest if permitted to control the intelligences of heaven. The question is settled in all the worlds that there is no place for him in all their dominions.

They see their loved Commander hanging upon Calvary's cross as a malefactor. He is taken down and laid in Joseph's tomb. He comes forth a conqueror. Again, as at his death, a shout of victory echoes and re-echoes throughout the

that they had rejected and crucified the Son of God. He now pretends to exalt Christ before the Christian world by telling them that instead of keeping the seventh-day Sabbath they must keep the first day of the week in memory of Christ's resurrection. Anything, he cares not what, to show that the law of God can be changed! If he can make the world believe that this law can be changed, he has gained his point.

Immutability of God's Law

There is one pointed out in prophecy as the man of sin. He is the representative of Satan. Taking the suggestions of Satan concerning the law of God, which is as unchangeable as his throne, this man of sin comes in and represents to the world that he has changed that law, and that the first day of the week instead of the seventh is now the Sabbath. Professing infallibility, he claims the right to change the law of God to suit his own purposes. By doing, he exalts himself above God, and leaves the world to infer that God is fallible. If it were indeed true that God had made a rule of government that needed to be changed, it would certainly show fallibility

But Christ declared that not one jot or tittle of the law should fail until heaven and earth should pass away. The very work that he came to do was to exalt the law, and show to the created worlds and to heaven that God



universe. Now that the issue is determined, all are free to express their indignation at Satan's rebellion; and with one voice, the loyal universe unite in extolling the divine administration.

Prisoners of Hope

The penalty of the transgression of God's law is death. Christ suffered death for man, and brought life and immortality to light by coming from the dead. When he died, the death knell of Satan was sounded. The work of Christ was to destroy him who had the power of death; therefore we are today prisoners of hope. How grateful we should be that, notwithstanding this earth is so small amid the created worlds, God notices even us. The nations are before him as the drop in the bucket, and as the small dust in the balance; and yet the great, the stupendous work that has been done for us shows how much he loves us.

Conflict Continues in Subtlety

As soon as Christ was raised from the dead, Satan's lying propensities led him to start the lie that the body of Christ had been stolen. By this he thought he could conceal the fact that it was the Son of God who had died, and he could, after all, make a victory out of his terrible defeat. Failing in this, he tried another scheme. He had controlled the Jewish nation so

is just, and that his law need not be changed. But here is Satan's right-hand man ready to carry on the work that Satan commenced in heaven, that of trying to amend the law of God. And the Christian world has sanctioned his efforts by adopting this child of the papacy,--the Sunday institution. They have nourished it, and will continue to nourish it, until Protestantism shall give the hand of fellowship to the Roman power. Then there will be a law against the Sabbath of God's creation, and then it is that God "will do a strange work in the earth." He has borne long with the perversity of the race; he has tried to win them to himself. But the time will come when they shall have filled their measure of iniquity; and then it is that God will work This time is almost reached. God keeps a record with the nations: the figures are swelling against them in the books of heaven; and when it shall have become a law that the transgression of the first day of the week shall be met with punishment, then their cup will be full.

We should consider that it was not merely to accomplish the redemption of man that Christ came to earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to demonstrate to all the worlds

that God's law is unchangeable, and that the wages of sin is death.

More than Earth and Heaven

There is a great deal more to this subject than we can take in at a glance. Oh that all might see the importance of carefully studying the Scriptures! Many seem to have the idea that this world and the heavenly mansions constitute the universe of God. Not so. The redeemed throng will range from world to world, and much of their time will be employed in searching out the mysteries of redemption. And throughout the whole stretch of eternity, this subject will be continually opening to their minds. The privileges of those who overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony are beyond comprehension.

Engage in Battle Now

We have each to battle with the fallen foe. I feel an intense interest that all should look upon this battle in the light of the Bible. Begin the warfare at once by gaining victories over self. Do not give place to the Devil. Do not sin against God, by indulging sinful thoughts or words. Do not let the enemy have control over your powers, but throw all the weight of your

Redemption Needed Due to Immutability of God's Law

The law of God is made void in the land. For this reason every one who sees the light in regard to that law should put on the armor, and in the name of Jesus try to build the breach that has been made in that law by the man of sin. "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. 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, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: 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."

Oh that I might impress upon the minds of all the true mission of Christ in coming to our world! It was to redeem man, and at the same time to show the immutability of his Father's law. The very fact that it was necessary for him to give his life for the fallen race, shows that the law of God will not release



influence on the side of Christ.

"The very fact that it was necessary for him to give his life for the fallen race, shows that the law of God will not release man from one tittle of its claims upon him."

When you look at the cross of Calvary, you cannot doubt God's love or his willingness to save. He has worlds upon worlds that give him divine honor, and heaven and all the universe would have been just as happy if he had left this world to perish; but so great was his love for the fallen race that he gave his own dear Son to die that they might be redeemed from eternal death. As we see the care, the love, that God has for us, let us respond to it; let us give to Jesus all the powers of our being, fighting manfully the battles of the Lord. We cannot afford to lose our souls; we cannot afford to sin against God. Life, eternal life in the kingdom of glory, is worth everything. But if we would obtain this precious boon, we must live a life of obedience to all of God's requirements; we must carry out the principles of the Christian religion in our daily life.

man from one tittle of its claims upon him. Satan's work has ever been to find fault with the law of God. But the very fact that Christ bore the penalty of the transgression of the law, is a mighty argument to all created intelligences in heaven and in other worlds that that law is changeless; that God is righteous, merciful, and self-denying; and that his administration is one of justice and mercy.

Review and Herald, March 9, 1886.



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.

**Worried Friends Visit,
Leave Relieved, Blessed**

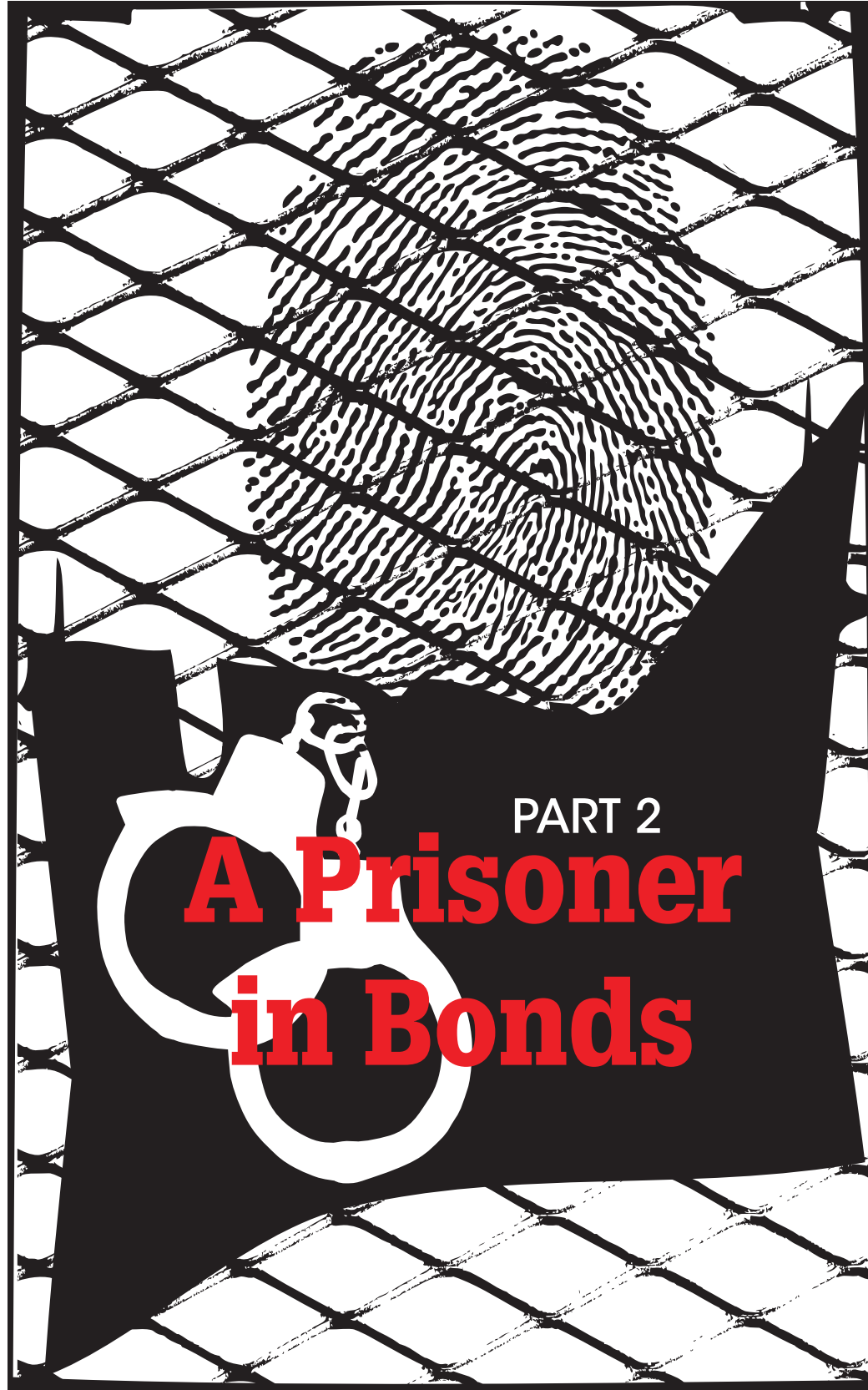
May 6, 2007. Ju Hyun Cho, a friend of Sung Hoon's and currently a Hartland student whose family operates a publishing ministry in South Korea, wrote: Yesterday, Grace, Seven, and I went to Ma-San correctional center to visit Sung Hoon. It took the whole day to meet him. I got up at 4:30 AM and got back home at 9:30 PM. Regardless of this long trip, we were allowed to talk to him only for 14 minutes. Wow~ 17 hours for 14 minutes! But it was worth it.

We had heard a lot about him, such as he is being persecuted or beaten up by fellow inmates. We felt so sad and sorry for him. On the top of that, his mom said that he lost lots of weight and he looked so pale, etc.... So I told Seven not to be emotional and Grace not to cry when we see him.

We raised our eyebrows the moment we saw him because he looked too normal. His hair was a little bit short but neatly combed, and his blue uniform looked good on him. He looked better than ever! He even has ROSY CHEEKS! Amazing! I guess Ramenless life really works for him. Say "Yeah!" for his simple diet, which is rice and danmooji (radish kimchi or pickle—no vinegar, no spice). Sadly, they serve lots of meat, so the only thing he can have is danmooji.

He said there is no violence, but coarse words. At first it was hard for him, but eventually he got used to it. His prison is one of the best ones in Korea. The jailers are kind and polite, and inmates are given lots of freedom.

The night before I left, my father asked me to tell him that he is hired to our ministry. One day he had asked me if there is anybody who is graduated from Hartland who majored in media. I said there are Sung Hoon and No Sang. But I said Sung Hoon's life calling can be pastoral evangelism. My father asked me if he could see his work. Of course, I showed him one of the *Last Generation* magazines [that Sung Hoon had worked on]. He read it cover-to-cover but said nothing, so I thought



he was not interested in him. Now he's saying that Sung Hoon already passed the job interview. So now it is all up to him.

He can be a pastor Kang or a publisher Kang. Either way is fine with us, because we know that he will make a good pastor. I told him that he's more than welcome to be on our staff one day, and he seems he is very happy with that. Now I am kind of concerned that this talented young man might take my desk! I'd better improve my skills.

I brought him some books from our ministry.... We promised him we would provide him a spiritual food while he's there. Next time, [other friends] will visit him.

"But those who have no sense of the blessings of ministry will not appreciate heaven; they will not see the necessity of doing the will of God in this life, but will go where inclination leads." Signs of the Times, August 26, 1897.

He told us his testimony of answered prayer. He prayed to God that He would make a way for him to keep the Sabbath in the prison. Now he was put to take care of sick and elderly prisoners. Maybe God wants him to have some experience on health. He would be allowed to do whatever he wants to do on every Saturday. He was praising

**Sung Hoon Kang,
Sung Hyun Kang,
Joong Ho Shin,
Ju Hyun Cho,
Franklin Morris:**

**A series of emails
collected and submitted
by Franklin Morris;
used by permission.**

**The Lord uses
the willing.**

God, for He is a mighty and living God.

Grace's brother and Seven were jealous of Sung Hoon because he is a loved one. When they were serving in the army, nobody came to see them. No visits, no letters. Nobody really cared for them when they were marching in the rain for a few days until their feet were bleeding and blistered. Plus, they got stuck in the military for 2 years and 2 months. . . . But he will be released in a year and a half from now and that is going to be October, next year.

We went there to encourage him but we were so encouraged and blessed. We are so happy to have him as one of our friends who will finish the work for this generation. He wants you to know that he is doing all right and he will lead his friends from the cell to the throne of God. He is also thanking you for your prayers. Please do not worry. The angels are with him and we will take care of him time to time. 17 hours! Continue to pray for him, please, and God bless.

Steadfast in Faith

June 10, 2007. Sung Hoon: Thank you for taking your time to write me. God has been good to me, as always. I see clearly the leading hand of God guiding my path even in this prison, and I feel privileged and blessed to suffer for His glorious name. God has been showing me and teaching me many precious things. I pray that through this experience God will take away all my sharp corners and mold me into the person He wants me to be.

My sentence was finalized (my release date is Oct. 5, 2008), and I was moved to another building. There, I stayed for two weeks till my work was decided. I kept praying for the Sabbath issue. I know you've been praying for me, and I truly appreciate it. God has answered those prayers. One day I was summoned to the head of the Correction Department. He asked me about the Seventh-day Adventists, and he asked me if I had any requests. I asked him to put me where I can keep the Sabbath. He told me that I'm the only Seventh-day Adventist in this

prison, but he will try his best to help me solve the Sabbath issue.

"By our churches there is a work to be done of which many have little idea, a work as yet almost untouched. 'I was an hungered,' Christ says, 'and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me; I was in prison, and ye came unto Me.' Matthew 25:35, 36. Some think that if they give money to this work, it is all they are required to do; but this is an error. Donations of money cannot take the place of personal ministry. It is right to give our means, and many more should do this; but according to their strength and opportunities, personal service is required of all." Testimonies, Vol. 6, 275.

Finally, my work was decided and I was put to work in building #6, where all the prisoners with health issues stay. I'm in charge of providing them drinking water and meals, being their hands and feet to serve their needs since they are locked up in their cells, and to keep the building clean. The day I was assigned to work, my supervisor approached to me with a stern look on his face. He told me that this is prison and I have to follow the rules of the prison. Then he added, "Only the older inmates get Saturday off, but I'm willing to give you Saturday off every other week. That's all I can yield and compromise. You must yield and compromise the other half. After all, this is prison."

I calmly replied, "Sir, the reason why I am here in this prison is because I couldn't yield and compromise my religious principles. If I were to compromise now, I didn't even have to be here. I want you to know that no matter where I am, no matter what the consequences are, I will not compromise, and I can't yield." He turned red. Then I added, "But this work of providing the necessities of prisoners doesn't seem to be breaking

Sabbath. After I examine the work, I'll let you know my answer."

There was a great struggle for few days. I didn't want to be blinded by the fact that by working here without any trouble, it would get me out of prison a little earlier than the release date. But at the same time, I didn't want to act hastily and impulsively by some heroic spirit and turn the blessings of Providence into curses and unnecessarily bring reproach to God's name. With earnest prayer, I read Exodus 20 and "The Sabbath" chapter in the *Desire of Ages*. And I was convinced that providing the necessities of prisoners is in perfect harmony with the spirit of the Sabbath. But I was still afraid that I would not have time for communion with God through studying the Bible. But God has worked all out. God helped me to gain favor from the supervisor, and he made sure that on Sabbath I'll be free from unnecessary labors and that I can spend all the hours between the meal times communing with God. Plus, every other week, I can have the whole Sabbath completely off. "The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Ex. 14:14. Praise God for His mercy.

Every two months the workers will be moved to other buildings with other co-laborers. So once again I was worried about the Sabbath issue. But my supervisor wants to take me with him and he promised to take care of my Sabbath issue.

Representing All SDAs

God is opening up many witnessing opportunities, starting with my supervisor (a Catholic), my co-worker (a Jehovah's Witness), officers, other workers who bring drinking water to our building, the inmates in our building. All are very curious about the Seventh-day Adventists. Many of them have never heard about us. They often ask questions about my diet, our religious beliefs, etc. My co-worker, who is a Jehovah's Witness, commented that I'm the most genuine and sincere Christian he has ever met. I felt so embarrassed when I heard that. But I praise the Lord for using even this fragile and weak earthly vessel for His glory.

I received a letter from one of the inmates who used to scorn and mock God and the Bible, asking me sincerely to pray for his soul. I have lots of opportunities to hear the stories of different prisoners. As I comfort them and encourage them and give them hope from the scriptures, I see the Holy Spirit moving in their hearts and I see tears in their dried and hardened spirits.

As far as my diet is concerned, by God's mercy, I'm still staying as a vegan. Sometimes I have to just eat rice and seaweed, but I can purchase apples, tomatoes, bananas, and soymilk, too! I can also get some ground grains, so that's a blessing. I've been working out and exercising every day for at least an hour to keep my body healthy, and I'm already gaining weight. My inmates tell me that I look much healthier and stronger than when I first came in. Praise the Lord!

"Dear youth, God calls upon you to do a work which through His grace you can do. 'Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.' Stand forth in your God-given manhood and womanhood. Show a purity of tastes, appetite, and habits that bears comparison with Daniel's. God will reward you with calm nerves, a clear brain, an unimpaired judgment, keen perceptions. The youth of today whose principles are firm and unwavering will be blessed with health of body, mind, and soul." Adventist Home, 301.

Whenever I have time, I've been reading the *Great Controversy* and memorizing scriptures. I'm almost done with the book of James. I often comfort myself with singing the scripture songs while I wash dishes, sweep and mop the floor, etc. . . .

. . . To be honest, it's very lonely to be here apart from all my families, friends, and loved ones, totally separated from the world outside. But that teaches me to value and cherish my families, friends and loved ones, and to not take for granted the blessings I'd enjoyed outside. Please keep me in your prayers,

for it truly makes difference in my life and the lives of others in this prison. I miss you all! God bless!

Update on His Brother's Case

November 19, 2007. Let me fill you in on the last two months. I will begin with my brother's case. On September 4, my brother was sentenced with a one-and-a-half year sentence. He was put in a prison nearby my parents' church. Immediately he faced the Sabbath issue. I've been earnestly praying for him, and I wrote a long detailed instruction to help him face different issues. Following the instruction, my brother plainly expressed to the prison officers that he can't work on Sabbath. That was the beginning of his severe trial. Many officers who came to offer him a good work station became hostile and bitter against my brother when he refused to work on Sabbath. This became a big issue in his prison. If a prisoner refuses to work, he will be punished and put in an isolation cell and will be deprived of any privileges and visits; but more than anything, he will lose the possibility of being released earlier (about 4 months for my brother). For a month, he had five interviews with the prison officers in charge of assigning work, each time persuading and threatening my brother to compromise. Eventually, even the head of the prison came to know my brother and the issue, and my parents had to write the prison, explaining our SDA beliefs and appealing to them.

"If youth who have been properly educated make God their trust, their moral powers will stand the most powerful test." Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, 131-144.

In all this, God strengthened my brother and he stood as firm as a rock, not caring about the consequences. Last week, he was finally allowed to keep Sabbath without being punished. They put him to be a barber, as well! So now both of us are cutting hair! He's rooming with 5 Jehovah's Witnesses and he's teaching them English. [Like Sung Hoon, as he remains steadfast,

he is seeing growing interest in God's Word and Seventh-day Adventism.] I just want to thank God for His care and tender mercy towards my brother and me, and for fighting for us. And I appreciate all your prayers!

Shortly after my brother's imprisonment, a new law allowing an alternative service for the conscientious objectors passed! It will be substituted for 36 months of social service away from home. This new law will be in effect by the year 2009. Praise the LORD!

The Lord at Work

Let me share few of the LORD's workings in this prison. Do you still remember about the fatherless young man? He and I went to a Christian worship service in prison where people were singing loud gospel songs (CCM) with electrical guitars. This young man leaned over to me and asked me if I liked it. I told him that actually I don't feel comfortable with this type of music. Then, to my surprise, he said, "This is just like any other secular rock music. This must be the kind of music that Satan has inspired. ! I was so shocked to see that even an atheist like this young man can recognize that CCM is not fit for God's worship, while so many professed Christians don't. This young man thinks he has sold his soul to Satan, and he has committed robbery 9 times in a row. From time to time I shared the prophecy of Dan. 2, 7 and Revelation 13 dealing with the four empires, papacy, and the United States. When I finished, he looked at me and said, "Sung Hoon, I'm a great sinner. I have gone too far to be forgiven. What should I do?"

I shared that it's not for a righteous man that Christ came to this earth, but to save a sinner. He's opening up little by little, and we have already become best friends. My parents contacted his mother, who is an alcoholic. She came over to my parents' house and spent a night sharing her burdens and all her story. One day this young man showed me a letter from his mother saying how thankful she is for me and my parents

for the positive influence in their lives. This week, a few pastors visited him and gave him some of our literature. Continue to pray for this young man, that God will turn his terrible mistakes into an eternal blessing.

An officer who was monitoring the conversation between my parents and me stopped us and told us that he has a friend who is an Adventist, and that his friend did carry arms. He asked us why I refused to bear arms. I shared my personal convictions. Many times he was assigned to be our monitor and listened to our conversations. This week he asked me if I had any literature about the SDA church, and that he has some questions. It was amazing how God had foreseen this and had my parents send me a copy of the 1,000th special edition of *Adventist Review* a few days before. It had a special feature on the history of our church, doctrines and statistics. I handed him the literature on Friday. I know that it's no coincidence that he was assigned to be our monitor for so many times. I pray that the Holy Spirit will use this silent messenger to speak to his heart.

"Everyone may place his will on the side of the will of God, may choose to obey Him, and by thus linking himself with divine agencies, he may stand where nothing can force him to do evil. In every youth, every child, lies the power, by the help of God, to form a character of integrity and to live a life of usefulness." Education, 289.

The Jehovah's Witness friend that I've been exchanging letters with has finally replied to my last letter this week. It took two months for him to write me back again. Once again, I think he had to contact someone outside to meet the Bible texts. He presented a few objections on the second coming and resurrection. Then he presented a few Bible texts of what he thinks the true church is. And he told me that he's going to be released on this Friday. Seeing that I didn't have much time and that this might be the last chance to reach him, I spent almost seven

hours praying and writing him back.

By the time I finished the letter, it was past 1 o'clock in the morning and my fingers were so hurting that I couldn't hold the pen any more. I presented clear Bible texts to meet all his objections and went on to Revelation 12 to show him the true church, presented the law and especially the Sabbath message, and also the gift of prophecy (not a false one), and I earnestly appealed to him to accept the "Thus saith the LORD." I know the letters I wrote were shared among other JW's as they try to meet the texts and present objections. But I pray that in that process, many will be led to the clear-cut truth, and that the Holy Spirit will speak to their hearts.

More Visitors

A few pastors of the Reformed SDA church came to visit me. They have read the letter that I sent to my parents, and they wanted a copy of the letter to show it to their young people.

In one of the Adventist literatures, my brother and I are mentioned in their article on conscientious objection. The article was appealing the readers to go back to the "old path." There are now 3 Adventist young men in prison, including my brother and me. It's sad that we have lost this principle in Korea. I pray that God will use my brother and me to inspire other young people. In fact, a youth from my parents' church who bore arms in the army gave a testimony in front of church members, sharing the torture of his conscience as he grabbed a dagger to learn how to kill people just in case of losing his gun. He said that, at that moment, he realized why two sons of his pastor have refused to bear arms, and that that was the right decision as a Christian.

Three pastors from the conference (Union of Korea) came to visit me. They were surprised to know that I graduated from Hartland. Nevertheless, they asked me to write a testimony of my experiences in prison so that they can publish it in public to encourage young people. I pray for the Holy Spirit to choose the right words and expressions. I solicit your prayers that

Christ will be exalted through this.

There are many other stories to share. Yes, God is working in this prison and much more. However, there are so many fierce trials and temptations in this corrupt environment. At times I feel so lonely. The hardest thing is not having FREEDOM. But every time I feel discouraged, Christ comes near to me, pointing to the blood-stained path that He Himself has trodden for us. And I realized the privilege and honor to be counted worthy to partake in His suffering. Continue to pray for my brother and me. Maranatha.

A Changed Friend, New Opportunities to Witness

February 22, 2008. Greetings from South Korea! ...I now have less than five months left in this prison. Please pray that God's plans for me in this prison will be fully accomplished in these few months left. [Although Sung Hoon's original release date was October 2008, the alternative service provision for conscientious objectors which passed in January 2008 seems to have had a retroactive application to conscientious objectors still in prison. Sung Hoon's prison term has been shortened, and he will be released on June 30th with the condition that he not leave the country until the termination of the original sentence. He should receive an official confirmation letter in another month or so.]

Let me give you some updates on what God is doing in my life and those around me.

"The true dignity of the youth who makes God his trust will reveal itself. The Holy Spirit will work in him to make of him a representative of God, to declare the message of God. He may stand as a counselor before kings; for heavenly intelligences stand by his side. Mark the counsel given by the youthful Joseph to the kings and rulers and so-called great men of Egypt. He bore the test of character in adversity, and the gold was undimmed in prosperity. He showed the same sacred regard for God's will when he stood next to the throne as when in a prison-cell. Joseph carried his religion everywhere; this was the secret of his unwavering fidelity." Review and Herald, January 10, 1899.

In the middle of January, God moved me into a new work station, so I'm no longer working as a barber. I'm now working in the healthcare division. It was very painful to leave my fellow barbers, especially my friend Kyeong Wook. He is the young man that I've been mentioning in my previous letters. He has accepted Jesus into his heart and had written a sincere and warm letter of repentance to his mother, who is an alcoholic. His mother was so touched by this change in her son's heart that she visited my parents several times and expressed her desire to learn about the truth. In this dark "dungeon," we had been encouraging each other and comforting each other. Now the time had come for separation. He was in tears and not able to utter a word. I really wished I didn't have to leave him, but I recognized God's hand in placing me into a new workstation. After a few weeks, he was moved to a different workstation, as well.

There are many inmates with sickness, and a whole building is designated for inmates with serious illnesses. My new work is to prepare medicines for sick inmates, to record charts, to check blood pressure and glucose, and also to go around the prison for insulin injection for inmates with diabetes. I'm learning that medicine

is not an ultimate solution for healing, and I'm learning the importance of health work.

There are about 13 officers in this division. I'm getting to experience what it's like to work in a "secular office." The first thing I had to face was the Sabbath issue. I clearly told the officers that I can't do any secular work on the Sabbath, but that I'll be glad to do anything to relieve the pains of suffering ones. At first, I was threatened to do secular work on the Sabbath, but when I told them that I would rather receive a punishment, be put into an isolated cell, and lose my opportunity of an early release than to break the Sabbath, they allowed me to stay in my cell and keep the Sabbath each week. I praise God for His mercy. Once again God worked it out for me.

My new cellmates are four Jehovah's Witnesses. I'm trying not to get into any argument with them, but I'm praying for an opportunity to share the truth. They've asked me many questions, such as why I don't eat meat, why I don't play sports, why I don't watch movies or TV, etc. Then they told me that it's very weird to ask those questions, since they are the ones always being asked by other people. We have our morning worship together, which is a wonderful privilege here in prison. Please pray for God to use me in shedding true light to these young men in our cell.

Many church members have been calling my parents and encouraging them, after reading my testimony in the *Korean Adventist Review*. Some have sent me donations, as well, and some church members came to visit me. I pray that Jesus will be honored and glorified.

Please continue to pray for my brother and myself, as well. I appreciate all your prayers and encouragements. May God bless you and your ministries!

The End.

Franklin Morris submitted this from Virginia, where he is a student at Hartland College.



PART 1 Is God Particular?

Joe Olson

“Upon those who turn from the voice of God to listen to counter orders, the threatened evil will come.”

“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.” Genesis 4: 1-5.

The “offering” God required, that typified the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world, was a lamb. Well, maybe Cain didn’t know that!

Which Voice Was Believed?

“Cain knew that God desired him to bring a lamb without blemish. But he was a tiller of the ground, and he did not wish to add to his offering a lamb of his brother’s flock. My offering is abundant, he thought. But it lacked the very thing that would have made it of value. Without the lamb, all that he brought was valueless.” *Signs of the Times*, December 25, 1901, emphasis added throughout.

“Satan told Cain that he need not follow expressly the command of God in presenting the slain lamb as an offering. Cain obeyed the voice of the deceiver; and because God did not accept his offering, while He showed His approval of Abel’s offering, Cain rose up in anger and slew his brother.” *Evangelism*, 598.

You see, you will obey someone!

Remember what Jesus said? You will follow one of two masters.

“Cain brought his offering unto the Lord with murmuring and infidelity in his heart in regard to the promised Sacrifice. He was unwilling to strictly follow the plan of obedience, and procure a lamb and offer it with the fruit of the ground. He merely took of the fruit of the ground, and disregarded the requirement of God. God had made known to Adam that without shedding of blood there could be no remission of sin. Cain was not particular to bring even the best of the fruits. Abel advised his brother not to come before the Lord without the blood of a sacrifice.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol.1, 55.

“Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock, and of the fat as God had commanded; and in full faith of the Messiah to come, and with humble reverence, he presented the offering.” *Ibid*.

Full faith! Faith *always* produces obedience.

No Sorrow, No Sin Offering

“Cain thought himself righteous, and he came to God with a thank offering only. He made no confession of sin, and acknowledged no need of mercy. But Abel came with the blood that pointed to the Lamb of God. He came as a sinner, confessing himself lost; his only hope was the unmerited love of God. The Lord had respect to his offering, but to Cain and his offering He had not respect. The sense of need, the recognition of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 152.

Do you see how much more there is to it than God simply wanting us to do what He says? There is a very distinct point and reason, and in this case, an eternal one!

Self, Not Submission

“Cain came before God with murmuring and infidelity in his heart in regard to the promised sacrifice and the necessity of the sacrificial offerings. His gift expressed no penitence for sin. He felt, as many now feel, that it would be an acknowledgement of weakness to follow the *exact* plan marked out by God, of trusting his salvation wholly to the atonement of the promised Saviour. He chose the course of self-dependence. He would come in his own merits. He would not bring the lamb, and mingle its blood with his offering, but would present his fruits, the products of his labor. He presented his offering as a favor done to God, through which he expected to secure the divine approval. Cain obeyed in building an altar, obeyed in bringing a sacrifice, but he rendered only a partial obedience. The essential part, the recognition of the need of a Redeemer, was left out. . . .” *Conflict & Courage*, 25.

Partial obedience! Kind of like partial fidelity, partially abstaining from murder, thievery, incest, lying, etc. Any of you want a spouse that partially does these things?

Note that his disobedience was a result of him thinking he was doing God a favor! What arrogance! What self-deception! Have you ever questioned why? Why disobey? Why the attitude?

The Deeper Problem

“Abel was determined to worship God according to the directions God had given. This displeased Cain. He thought that his own plans were best, and that the Lord would come to his terms. Cain in his offering did not acknowledge his dependence upon Christ. He thought that his father Adam had been treated harshly in being expelled from Eden. The idea of keeping that sin ever before the mind, and offering the blood of the slain lamb as a confession of entire dependence upon a power outside of himself, was torture to the high spirit of Cain.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 77.

You see, it was not the disobedience that was the problem. The disobedience was a result of something deeper, much deeper. He felt God was unfair in expelling his father from Eden. Listen to this!

He Would Not Hear

“Cain slew his brother Abel because Abel referred him to the express direction from God that all sacrificial offerings brought to Him were to be accompanied by a slain lamb, as the acknowledgment and confession of sin, and to represent Christ, who saved the fallen race by Himself becoming the great Sacrifice. Cain had a faultless offering, with the exception that he did not bring a lamb. Because Abel repeated to Cain God’s directions regarding the sacrificial offerings, Cain became very angry, and killed his brother.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 21, 416.

Did you realize that? I knew Cain killed his brother because he was angry and because he was mad at God for accepting Abel’s offering, but not his. I did not know it was also because Abel repeated God’s directions to him, and that set him off. Can you see the implications of this?

The Scenario to be Repeated

As we near the end and we are telling others that the reasons for plagues and calamities are not because we are keeping the Saturday Sabbath, but because they are keeping the Sunday, and they must return to God’s specific commands about which day to worship, the same spirit that actuated Cain will

actuate many of the Sunday keepers!

The same spirit that actuated Cain will actuate many of the Sunday keepers!

“For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.” 1 John 3:11–12.

What was “evil” about his works? He did not do what God said! And we just talked about why.

Is God Particular?

Oh, yes! But why? Why does it matter? Why does He insist we do it His way?

Because His rules are for our benefit, education and most of all, *safety and happiness!*

Let me illustrate: Many years ago, I was a maintenance man at a nursing home in Kentucky. One of my jobs was to replace the ballasts in the fluorescent lights when they went out. When a ballast was bad, I shut the power off and replaced the ballast. It involved cutting and reconnecting 8 wires.

As I was beginning to replace a ballast one day, the senior maintenance man said that I did not need to shut off the power, as I could not get shocked unless I was grounded in some way, or touched the ground wire or neutral wire at the same time as I touched the hot one. Since I was on a fiberglass ladder, I had no worries of being “grounded.” I was a little leery of his advice, but upon testing his theory, it proved true, and I happily went about changing the ballast.

As I was holding onto the hot wire, I leaned up against the iron sprinkler system pipe that ran along the ceiling by

the light fixture. I was now “grounded.” What happened next was—well, suffice it to say that it took the senior maintenance man quite some time to compose himself.

“Rules” for Our Benefit

There are “rules” for electricity, and those “rules” are there for your own safety and well-being. I broke the “rules” of electricity, and I paid dearly. The electricity “rules” are not mean; they are not arbitrary. They are simply the truth. If you follow them, you are safe; if you don’t, you suffer.

God’s “rules” are the same way. They are not mean; they are not arbitrary. They are simply the truth! They are there to protect, to enlighten, to advise,



and to make and keep you happy.

“Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.” Psalms 119:77.

“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.” Psalm 119:97.

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalms 119:165.

The psalmist understood that the law was good, and for his benefit.

Is God Particular?

“And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places

spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out. And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.” 1 Kings 13:1–5.

God’s rules are there to protect, to enlighten, to advise, and to make and keep you happy.

Now, Jeroboam is the man that God gave ten of the tribes of Israel to rule over. Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, has two; Jeroboam has ten.

Jeroboam builds an altar so the people won’t go to Jerusalem and possibly go over to Rehoboam’s side.

“Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” 1 Kings 12:28.

God is not happy with Jeroboam. It was not calves that brought the people out of Egypt! Where have we heard something about a golden calf before?

Does It Matter That Much?

Here we go again. Does it really matter what we offer for sacrifice? Does it matter where? Does it matter who does the

sacrificing on the altar? Is God that particular? Does King Jeroboam think God is particular now? Oh, yes. His arm is still sticking out! The king asks the

prophet to intercede for him to restore his arm.

“And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.” 1 Kings 13:6.

I think God has the king’s attention now. Isn’t it so sad that God has to go to these lengths to get our attention?

Now, the king wants to show his favor to the prophet for what the prophet had done. Obviously, Jeroboam still doesn’t realize who is in charge here. The prophet didn’t heal him, did he? But the prophet says no, God told him not to stick around.

“And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward. And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest. So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel.” 1 Kings 13:7–10.

Learning from Other’s Sin

I think that was a good plan. He just saw what happened when the king didn’t follow what God said. Arms are a terrible thing to lose. And that was the king! But, unfortunately, the story doesn’t end here.

To be continued.



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that burn incense upon thee, and men’s bones shall be burnt upon thee. And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath

Theological Waymarks

Part 6

The King of the North

Counsel for “awakening all the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty. . . .”

Dan. 11:41 “He shall enter⁹³⁵ also into the glorious⁶⁶⁴³ land,⁷⁷⁶ and many⁷²²⁷ countries shall be overthrown:³⁷⁸² but these⁴²⁸ shall escape⁴⁴²² out of his hand,^{4480, 3027} even Edom,¹²³ and Moab,⁴¹²⁴ and the chief⁷²²⁵ of the children¹¹²¹ of Ammon.”⁵⁹⁸³

Last month we addressed the necessity of God’s people giving the last warning cry before probation closes. The world must be made aware of the true condition of the fallen churches as revealed in the warnings of the second and third angels, despite mounting opposition, which in itself will expose the truth of the warnings. Only through true religious freedom can faith prosper.

We also reviewed freedom of conscience as an essential element of God’s government, and coercion of any degree as inimical to Satan’s. In this issue, we will see that not only is the principle of freedom of choice consistent with the character of God, but it must be characteristic of those who deliver the three angels’ messages.

Dan. 11:41 “He shall enter also into the glorious land. . . .”

Our continued study of the second angel’s message has yielded from the

Scriptures clear instruction on the path the church must take in the conflict between tolerance and intolerance:

“And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them. . . .” Luke 9:51–6.

Intolerance Rebuked

It was on the matter of intolerance that the church was sternly rebuked. The disciples were reminded of the power which alone was to govern their lives, namely the Holy Spirit:

“James and John, Christ’s messengers, were greatly annoyed at the insult shown to their Lord [when the Samaritans refused hospitality to

Jesus, because his face was set to go to Jerusalem]. They were filled with indignation because He had been so rudely treated by the Samaritans whom He was honoring by His presence. They had recently been with Him on the mount of transfiguration, and had seen Him glorified by God, and honored by Moses and Elijah. This manifest dishonor on the part of the Samaritans, should not, they thought, be passed over without marked punishment.

“Coming to Christ, they reported to Him the words of the people, telling Him that they had even refused to give Him a night’s lodging. They thought that a grievous wrong had been done Him, and seeing Mount Carmel in the distance, where Elijah had slain the false prophets, they said, ‘Wilt Thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?’ They were surprised to see that Jesus was pained by their words, and still more surprised as His rebuke fell upon their ears, ‘Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.’ And He went to another village.” *Desire of Ages*, 487, italics supplied.

Speak, Yes, But Speak Wisely

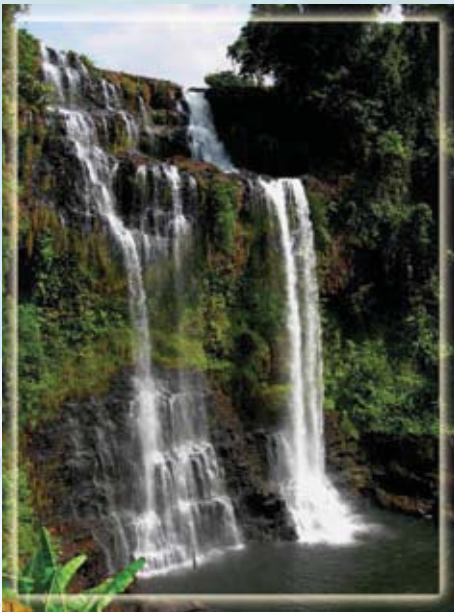
That we are to speak up for the truth is made plain:

“... What is the duty of the messenger of truth? Shall he conclude that the truth ought not to be presented, since often its only effect is to arouse men to evade or resist its claims? No; he has no more reason for withholding the testimony of God’s word, because it excites opposition, than had earlier Reformers. . . . [They] received grace and truth, not for themselves alone, but that, through them, the knowledge of God might enlighten the earth. Has God given light to His servants in this generation? Then they should let it shine forth to the world.” *Great Controversy*, 459.

But *how* we are to speak up for the truth is also made plain:

Compelling Not of God

“It is no part of Christ’s mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, that seek to compel the conscience. Under a pretense of zeal for righteousness, men who are confederate with evil angels bring suffering upon their fellow men, in order to convert them to their ideas of religion; but Christ is ever showing mercy, ever seeking to win by the revealing of His love.



“Force is the last resort of every false religion.”

“He can admit no rival in the soul, nor accept of partial service; but He desires only voluntary service, the

willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love. There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas. Every human being, in body, soul, and spirit, is the property of God. Christ died to redeem all. Nothing can be more offensive to God than for men, through religious bigotry, to bring suffering upon those who are the purchase of the Saviour’s blood.” *Desire of Ages*, 487–8.

Force a Tool of Evil

Clearly, then, we can see that those who are in harmony with the government of God will never coerce the will of another to achieve their ends. God’s way is to “draw all men unto” Himself, to “receive” us when we *choose* to “turn” and “come unto” Him. His way allows only for freedom of choice.

On the other hand, those who have enlisted under the government of Satan have no scruples to bring suffering upon those whom they cannot control: “Compelling power is found only under Satan’s government.” *Desire of Ages*, 759. Therefore, his subjects are ever ready to use force in any or all its various forms to compel others to accept their bigoted ideas of religion. This is why Inspiration says, “Force is the last resort of every false religion.” *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, 976.

Luther himself, who had firsthand experience with this spirit of intolerance, said, “Even this is an evil zeal, not from God but from the devil.” Luther, *Sermon on Luke 9:51*, (1537); Weimar ed., t. 45, p. 407.

Avoid Retaliation, Rebuttal, Usurping God

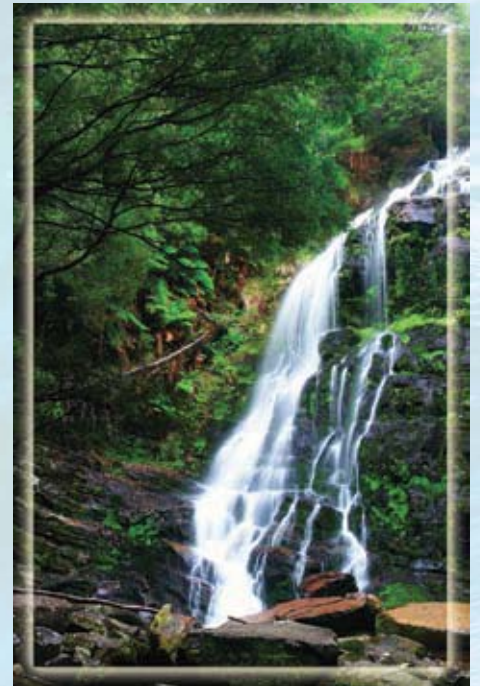
We must always remember during this trying hour that any form of retaliation by means and methods of a carnal nature is to make shipwreck of faith, for vengeance is the sole right of God alone. No carnal instruments should be on hand or taken in hand by the people of God, lest they fall into temptation:

“The truth should be presented with divine tact, gentleness, and tenderness. It should come from a heart that has been softened and made sympathetic. We need to have close communion with

God, lest self rise up, as it did in Jehu, and we pour forth a torrent of words that are unbecoming. . . .

“Make no reference to what opponents say, but let the truth alone be advanced. . . .

“As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 400.



“If we are to endure the trial before us, we must first have “a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and then act in accordance with them.”

“‘Whereunto,’ asked Christ, ‘shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?’ Mark 4:30. He could not employ the kingdoms of the world as a similitude. In society He found nothing with which to compare it. Earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power; but from Christ’s kingdom every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion,

is banished.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 12.

This is the instruction and mandate for our church, whether we be laity, independent, conference, academic, or any other Christian community. If we are to endure the trial before us, we must first have “a right conception of His *character, government, and purposes*, and then act in accordance with them” (*Great Controversy*, 593, italics supplied). The government of God and its principles are the essence and issue in all four prophetic periods in Daniel and in the three angels’ messages. Indeed, this foundational understanding applies from the initiation through to the conclusion of the great controversy and gives great significance to the messages we proclaim.

More Principles to Guide Us

“In cases where we are brought before the courts, we are to give up our rights unless it brings us in collision with God. It is not our rights we are pleading for, but God’s right to our service.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 5, 69.

Here is far-seeing counsel. Many who will be opposed to the One World Order have no connection to Christ. They will fight for their rights. Adventists, though, are to have nothing to do with and nothing to say about our rights which are being taken away—unless their revocation interferes with God’s right to our worship and service. This will keep us out of unnecessary persecution and disassociate us from others who most likely will use carnal methods in order to be heard or seen in their protest. However, when the retraction of our civil rights does cross the bridge into a denial of religious liberty, we have our explicit instruction.

Divine counsel was given in the late 1880s when a bill voiding religious liberty was presented for Congressional consideration. That counsel comes to us, as well, for a time when the same cause will produce the same result:

“While the Protestant world is, by her attitude, *making concessions to Rome*,

we should arouse to comprehend the situation, and view the contest before us in its true bearings. While men have slept, Satan has been stealthily sowing the tares. Let the watchmen *now* lift up their voice like a trumpet, and give the message which is present truth for this time. Let them know where we are in prophetic history, that the spirit of true Protestantism may awaken all the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed.” *Review and Herald*, January 1, 1889, emphasis added.

If Laodicea Sleeps On

What shall be the result if God’s people do not respond to proclaim the second angel’s message?

“Let none sit in calm expectation of the evil, comforting themselves with the belief that this work must go on because prophecy has foretold it, and that the Lord will shelter His people. We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience. . . . If our people continue in the listless attitude in which they have been, *God cannot pour upon them His Spirit*. *Testimonies*, Vol. 7, 713–4, emphasis supplied.

Imagine if you can, at the very commencement of the crisis, the danger of entering into the battle against the host of evil without the aid of the Holy Spirit. God forbid. Therefore, our very response and attitude to this call carries eternal consequences. Let us continue, then, with our instruction:



“Our Attitude Toward the Civil Authorities”

“By some of our brethren many things have been spoken and writ-

ten that are interpreted as expressing antagonism to government and law. It is a mistake thus to lay ourselves open to misunderstanding. It is not wise to find fault continually with what is done by the rulers of government. It is not our work to attack individuals or institutions. We should exercise great care lest we be understood as putting ourselves in opposition to the civil authorities. It is true that our warfare is aggressive, but our weapons are to be those found in a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord.’ Our work is to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God. We should not be turned aside to lines that will encourage controversy or arouse antagonism in those not of our faith.



“It is not wise to find fault continually with what is done by the rulers of government. . . . We should not work in a manner that will mark us out as seeming to advocate treason.”

“We should not work in a manner that will mark us out as seeming to advocate treason. We should weed out from our writings and utterances every expression that, taken by itself, could be so misrepresented as to make it appear antagonistic to law and order. Everything should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record

as encouraging disloyalty to our country and its laws. We are not required to defy authorities. There will come a time when, because of our advocacy of Bible truth, we shall be treated as traitors; but let not this time be hastened by unadvised movements that stir up animosity and strife.

Our Careless Words Will Condemn Us

“The time will come when unguarded expressions of a denunciatory character, that have been carelessly spoken or written by our brethren, will be used by our enemies to condemn us. These will not be used merely to condemn those who made the statements, but will be charged upon the whole body of Adventists. Our accusers will say that on such and such a day one of our responsible men said thus and so against the administration of the laws of this government. Many will be astonished to see how many things have been cherished and remembered that will give point to the arguments of our adversaries. Many will be surprised to hear their own words strained into a meaning that they did not intend them to have. Then let our workers be careful to speak guardedly at all times and under all circumstances. Let all beware lest by reckless expressions they bring on a time of trouble before the great crisis which is to try men’s souls. The less we make direct charges against authorities and powers, the greater work we shall be able to accomplish, both America and in foreign countries. . . .

A Soft Answer Turneth Away Wrath...

“The workers must be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. They must have divine wisdom, that nothing may be uttered which would stir up men to close our way. . . . We need to present the truth in its simplicity, to advocate practical godliness; and we should do this in the spirit of Christ. The manifestation of such a spirit will have the best influence upon our own souls, and it will have a convincing power upon others. . . .

“Stormy times will come rapidly enough upon us, and we should take no course of our own that will hasten them. . . .

...But Grievous Words Stir Up Anger.

“If we wish men to be convinced that the truth we believe sanctifies the soul and transforms the character, let us not be continually charging them with vehement accusations. In this way we shall force them to the conclusion that the doctrine we profess cannot be the Christian doctrine, since it does not make us kind, courteous, and respectful. Christianity is not manifested in pugilistic accusations and condemnation.



“Before we come fully to the front, let us see to it that the Holy Spirit is poured upon us from on high.”

“Many of our people are in danger of trying to exercise a controlling power upon others and of bringing oppression upon their fellow men. There is danger that those who are entrusted with responsibilities will acknowledge but one power, the power of an unsanctified will. Some have exercised this power unscrupulously and have caused great discomfiture to those whom the Lord is using. One of the greatest curses in our world (and it is seen in churches and in society everywhere) is the love of supremacy. Men become absorbed in seeking to secure power and popularity. This spirit has manifested itself in the ranks of Sabbathkeepers, to our

grief and shame. But spiritual success comes only to those who have learned meekness and lowliness in the school of Christ.

Judging by Appearances

“We should remember that the world will judge us by what we appear to be. Let those who are seeking to represent Christ be careful not to exhibit inconsistent features of character. Before we come fully to the front, let us see to it that the Holy Spirit is poured upon us from on high. When this is the case, we shall give a decided message, but it will be of a far less condemnatory character than that which some have been giving; and all who believe will be far more earnest for the salvation of our opponents. Let God have the matter of condemning authorities and governments wholly in His own keeping. In meekness and love let us as faithful sentinels defend the principles of truth as it is in Jesus.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 394–7.

We Will Be Held Responsible

“It is time for God’s people to work as never before. . . . If they do nothing to disabuse the minds of the people, and through ignorance of the truth our legislatures should abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance and support to the Roman fallacy, the spurious sabbath, God will hold his people who have had great light, responsible for their lack of diligence and faithfulness. But if the subject of religious legislation is judiciously and intelligently laid before the people, and they see that through Sunday enforcement the Roman apostasy would be re-enacted by the Christian world, and that the tyranny of past ages would be repeated, *then whatever comes, we shall have done our duty.*” *Review and Herald*, December 24, 1889.



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News Watch



Food Shortage Riots

An Egyptian newspaper said Pres. Mubarak “has declared an emergency state” to combat the bread riots due to a shortage of subsidized bread on which the poor depend. Over 20% of Egyptians live below the poverty line. Demand for the subsidized bread has increased as “rising prices, especially for flour, has made unsubsidized bread less affordable.” As wheat prices have increased globally, Egypt has purchased less from the U.S. as it searches for cheaper sources. N. Abou El-Magd, Asso. Press, March 30, 2008.

End-time perspective: “We need a genuine education in the art of cooking.... Teach the people how to make good bread and how to put together ingredients to make healthful food combinations from the grains and the vegetables. Such an education will assist in creating a desire among our people to move out of the cities, to secure land in the country, where they can raise their own fruit and vegetables.” MS 150, 1905.



Rushing to Ruin

“An explosion in demand for farm-

grown fuels has raised global crop prices to record highs, which is spurring a dramatic expansion of Brazilian agriculture, which is invading the Amazon at an increasingly alarming rate....

“Biofuels do slightly reduce dependence on imported oil.... But the basic problem with most biofuels is amazingly simple.... using land to grow fuel leads to the destruction of forests, wetlands and grasslands that store enormous amounts of carbon....

“Deforestation accounts for 20% of all current carbon emissions. So unless the world can eliminate emissions from all other sources..., it needs to reduce deforestation or risk an environmental catastrophe... and it’s only getting started....

“...Widely cited experts on the environmental benefits of biofuels are warning about the environmental costs now that they’ve recognized the deforestation effect. ‘The situation is a lot more challenging than a lot of us thought...’ [One top scientist] ...recently warned that mandating more biofuel usage—as the European Union is proposing—would be ‘insane’ if it increases greenhouse gases. But the forces that biofuels have unleashed—political, economic, social—may now be too powerful to constrain....” M. Grunwald, *Time*, April 7, 2008.

End-time perspective: “The Waldenses had sacrificed their worldly prosperity for the truth’s sake, and with persevering patience they toiled for their bread. Every spot of tillable land among the mountains was carefully improved; the valleys and the less fertile hillsides were made to yield their increase.... The pro-

cess was laborious and wearisome, but it was wholesome, just what man needs in his fallen state....” GC 67.



McDonald’s Promotes Homosexual Agenda

According to McDonald’s CEO, the company will put full resources behind and “aggressively promote” the gay agenda, especially behind “a nationwide effort to promote ‘gay’ and ‘lesbian’ business ventures.” Calling it “being socially responsible,” he said “we have an obligation to use our size and resources to make a difference in the world....”

“The company gave an undisclosed amount of money to the Nat’l Gay & Lesbian Chamber of commerce in return for being recognized as a major promoter of the homosexual agenda....” American Family Asso. website, April 2, 2008.

End-time perspective: “It is not for men in any part of the world, in any line of his work, to depart from God’s principles in any business transaction.” 1888 *Materials*, 1743.



Mad Cow Prions Now in Milk

Prions cause mad cow disease (Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans). According to the December 2006 *PLoS ONE* (Public Library of Science), prion



Sky Safety

The whistle-blowers who exposed maintenance and inspection problems at Southwest Airlines told Congress their jobs were threatened and their reports of noncompliance were ignored for years by their superiors....” Dan Caterinicchia, *Asso. Press*, April 4, 2008.

End-time perspective: “Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment’s warning will occur on the great lines of travel.... Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near!” FLB 343.

proteins have been found in off-the-shelf and fresh milk in Switzerland, whether it was organic or non-organic, pasteurized normally or longer at ultrahigh temperatures. Prions were also found in human, sheep and goat milk. “Transmission from food to people is of great concern.”

Technology in the past was not able to detect prions in milk, but now advances make it possible. The same scenario occurred with bovine leukemia viruses. The “prevailing opinion” used to be that “the presence of this virus in our food supply was not a public health hazard. However, in 2003 researchers reported finding evidence of infection with bovine leukemia viruses in 74% of people tested by using more modern technology.”

“You should assume cow’s milk off-the-shelf contains infectious agents (prions, viruses, and microbes)... There is no risk in avoiding cow’s milk—it provides no nutrients, specifically calcium and protein, which could not be better obtained from plant sources.” John McDougall, MD, www.dr.mcdougall.com, March 2008.

End-time perspective: In 1901 Ellen White wrote, “The time has not yet come to prescribe the strictest diet....” CD 353. On the same page, she also wrote, “But I wish to say that when the time comes that it is no longer safe to use milk, cream, butter, and eggs, God will reveal this.”

Churches Face Big Decision

Several U.S. mainline Protestant denominations are about to face their latest show downs



on one of the most vexing issues since slavery: whether to break from biblical morality as traditionally understood to allow clergy with homosexual partners and to sanction blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples.... The disagreement could be one factor in mainline shrinkage....” Richard Ostling, *World*, April 5/12, 2008.

End-time perspective: “Those who are seeking to know the truth and to understand the will of God, who are faithful to the light, and zealous in the performance of their daily duties, will surely know of the doctrine; for they will be guided into all truth. God does not promise, by the masterly acts of his providence, to irresistibly bring men to the knowledge of his truth, when they do not seek for truth and have no desire to know the truth.” GW92 193.

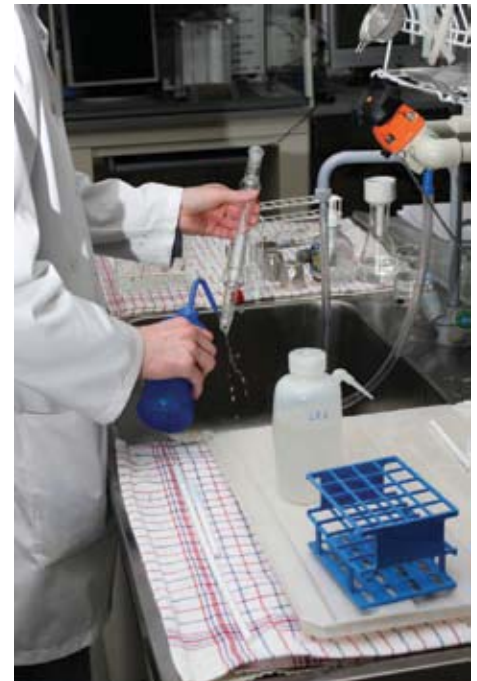


New Motives Fuel Poaching

“Endangered animals are the new blood diamonds as militias and warlords use poaching to fund death.... The threat posed by the contraband wildlife trade is now also about the money it generates—wave upon wave of it—that is being used by very bad people to do very bad things.” Through “syndicates,” the traffic in animal souvenirs has had devastating consequences. The buyers sustain, knowingly or not, “organized crime and genocidal militias.” More than animal lives are at stake. Sharon Begley, *Newsweek*, March 10, 2008.

End-time perspective: “A disposition to cause pain, whether to our fellowmen or to the brute creation, is satanic. Many do

not realize that their cruelty will ever be known, because the poor dumb animals cannot reveal it. But could the eyes of these men be opened..., they would see an angel of God standing as a witness to testify against them in the courts above.... A day is coming when judgment will be pronounced against those who abuse God’s creatures.” PP 443.



Fired Just for “Believing”

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a highly reputable research lab with “considerable federal funding,” fired Christian biologist N. Abraham as unqualified for “serious scientific inquiry,” not because he took a professional position or did research against evolution, but because he privately believed in creationism. He is now suing through the Christian Law Association. M. Bergin, *World*, Jan. 12/19, 2008.

End-time perspective: Some may yet change their minds. “Miller publicly professed his faith in the religion which he had despised.” GC 320.

Health Gem

PART 1

Fanaticism In Diet

Without question, the health reform message has suffered dire neglect in the contemporary Adventist Church. Despite weekly reports on network news offering fresh vindication of the counsel God gave to us a hundred years ago, many of us continue to de-emphasize this topic for fear of falling victim to the label of “legalism.” Perhaps the late Walter Martin best epitomized this mentality in a lecture on Adventism more than ten years ago, in which he distorted the message of Romans 14 as implying that Adventists should “get off the day boat, get off the food boat, and get on the love boat.”¹ (Strangely enough, when Dr. Martin himself got sick several years later, he ended up at Weimar.²)

Former *Newsweek* editor Larry Martz, in his book on the fall of televangelist Jim Bakker, described Bakkers’ Heritage USA complex in South Carolina as including “candy and ice cream shops to cater to the one vice that evangelicals seem to embrace without shame.”³ How sad that many Seventh-day Adventists, who have God’s health message, do not seem to be much different.

At the same time, Ellen White’s writings contain some very strong warnings against dietary extremism.⁴ Sad to say, such extremism seems to have become a problem within the historic Adventist ranks. Several years ago a pastor-friend of mine, very much a historic Adventist, spoke to me of how some of his historic Adventist Church members were disrupting his congregation by insisting that all Adventist should give up extracted oils

and white bread. The obsession of these persons with issues of this kind caused my friend to refer to their theology as “righteousness by food.” More recently another pastor spoke of how his conference president, also a historic Adventist, had expressed concern at the way some conservative members were in the habit of visiting church potlucks and denouncing congregations if any free fats or dairy products were being served.

We will address each of the issues cited above as they relate to the health reform message found in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy. It is certainly not this article’s purpose to downplay the necessity or significance of health reform. Neither is it my purpose to belabor the indispensable importance of maintaining the right spirit whenever we summon God’s people to higher ground.

The principles of fanaticism as addressed in this article transcend the issue of whether or not one has the right spirit. Indeed, history gives examples of many persons who promoted and practiced extreme lifestyles, yet who presented a very gracious spirit in so doing. I think of the medieval monk Bernard of Clairvaux, who wrote two of the most beautiful hymns in our Adventist hymnal: “Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” and “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee.” It would be hard to describe Bernard as anything but a loving and sincere Christian. Yet it would be equally hard to describe the monastic lifestyle he pursued and the system which promoted it as anything but fanaticism.

The sacred record is clear that faithfulness to the commands of God virtually assures one of being tagged with the fanatic label. The scoffers and thought leaders of Noah’s day assured the multitudes of that time, “Be at peace; fear not. Noah is a wild fanatic.”⁵ Jesus Himself was seen in that light by His youthful associates, who Ellen White says “pronounced Him narrow and strait-laced.”⁶ Little wonder that she writes elsewhere, “When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as odd, singular, strait-laced extremists.”⁷ Certainly it is safe to conclude that many of the worldlings described in this passage can be found within the church.

This fact makes it all the more crucial for us to correctly identify true fanaticism and proceed to purge it from our witness as reformers. Two specific features of fanaticism are the focus of this discussion:

1. Teaching for Doctrines the Commandments of Men

We all remember Christ’s declaration concerning the Jews: “In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Matthew 15:9. We need to notice carefully what Jesus says in this verse, and what He does not say. He does not forbid, under any and all circumstances, the teaching of human ideas. God does not do our thinking for us. Events and issues do at times require us to use our own sanctified judgment in applying a larg-

er principle to a specific situation. Of course, inspired counsel often makes these applications for us. But not always. In such matters our own wisdom and discernment, guided by the Holy Spirit, must be called upon.

What Jesus does forbid is the teaching of human ideas *for doctrines*. In other words, the judgments we render in the situations described above should not be made an absolute standard for others. Ellen White offers the following warning to the church on this point:

“From the light given me of the Lord, men will arise speaking perverse things. Yea, already they have been working and speaking things which God has never revealed, bringing sacred truth upon a level with common things. Issues have been and will continue to be made of men’s conceited fallacies, not of truth. The devisings of men’s minds will invent tests that are no tests at all, that when the true test shall be made prominent, it shall be considered on a par with the man-made tests that have been of no value. We may expect that everything will be brought in and mingled with sound doctrine, but by clear, spiritual discernment, by the heavenly anointing, we must distinguish the sacred from the common which is being brought in to confuse faith and sound judgment, and demerit the great, grand testing truth for this time.”⁸

It is fair to say that even sanctified judgment, as we described it earlier, can fall victim to a conceited fallacy if it permits an issue to become normative in the absence of a plain “thus saith the Lord.” (The word “normative” in this context refers not simply to tests of fellowship, but to any standard of conduct based on the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy.) The damage thus inflicted on the work and prosperity of the church is painful and often far-reaching. Not a few who have rejected the faith and lifestyle of historic Adventism have done so, not because of issues raised by inspired counsel, but because of man-made standards mistakenly promoted as sacred.

2. Mistaking “Holier, Holier Still” as Meaning “Stricter, Stricter Still”

This assumption is often a basic one of those who teach for doctrines the commandments of men. Many who do so are not merely seeking to bind heavy burdens on people for no good reason. Rather, they correctly believe that the upward path of sanctification requires more and more self-discipline, and thus they conclude that the stricter they become with themselves and with others, the holier they become. Such persons soon decide, like the Pharisees of old, that following the counsel of Inspiration is not enough. They assume that it is not enough, for example, simply to follow the health-reform message as revealed in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. For the truly sanctified, so the thinking goes, more and



The devisings of men’s minds will invent tests that are no tests at all, that when the true test shall be made prominent, it shall be considered on a par with the man-made tests that have been of no value.

more restriction is necessary. Those not following this ever-accelerating path of restriction are looked upon as less sanctified than those who do. The modern prophet tells what happened

to the Jews of Christ’s time when they followed this recipe for holiness:

“With all their minute and burdensome injunctions, it was an impossibility to keep the law. Those who desired to serve God, and who tried to observe the rabbinical precepts, toiled under a heavy burden. They could find no rest from the accusings of a troubled conscience. Thus Satan worked to discourage the people, to lower their conception of the character of God, and to bring the faith of Israel into contempt. He hoped to establish the claim put forth when he rebelled in heaven—that the requirements of God were unjust, and could not be obeyed. Even Israel, he declared, did not keep the law.”⁹

How sad that zeal for God’s law should actually result in bolstering Satan’s attacks against the law! But we need to ask ourselves whether, in some respects, historic Adventists have at times pursued a similar course.

With these principles in mind, let us examine three areas where, in the present writer’s view, modern Adventist health reformers need to exercise caution.

The No-Oil Diet

The attempt by some to expunge all free fats from the Adventist diet became a well-publicized crusade in the late 1970’s. We should clarify from the outset that the issue here is not whether abstinence from visible fats might have some hygienic value, especially as a mechanism for weight loss. Rather, the issue before us is whether total abstinence from all free oils is upheld by inspired writings as a standard for the church.

No one has claimed support for the no-oil diet in Scripture. But some have claimed the existence of such support in the Spirit of Prophecy. Let us examine the evidence they have produced.

The claim is set forth that because Ellen White stresses the need to return to man’s original diet, refined products such as oil should not be used. But Ellen White defines specifically what she means by the original diet in the following statement:

“Again and again I have been shown that God is bringing His people back to His original design, that is, not to subsist upon the flesh of dead animals.”¹⁰

In other words, the original diet here referred to by Ellen White is one devoid of flesh meat. If we understand Ellen White’s “original diet” statements as implying abstinence from all refined foods, we find ourselves at variance with some of her other statements. For example, Ellen White says that white bread may at times be used,¹¹ and that some sugar is permissible as well.¹² She also says that a certain amount of salt is needed in the diet.¹³ A careful reading of her statements about salt and sugar made clear that she is not speaking of the natural presence of these items in various foods, as some have claimed. She is plainly talking about the disciplined use of the extracted products we know on our tables as salt and sugar.

We cannot force Ellen White’s original-diet statements to say more than the context and consensus of her writings indicate. Total abstinence from refined products such as oil and sugar is simply not the focus of these statements.

Some have said that Ellen White’s statements against the use of “grease” are in fact a prohibition against all visible fats. But again, this understanding contradicts other Ellen White statements, such as those speaking of using butter for cooking purposes.¹⁴ It should be noted that these favorable statements about butter were made after her strong warnings against grease.¹⁵

Concerning vegetable preparation, she writes elsewhere, “Vegetables should be made palatable with a little milk or cream, or something equivalent.”¹⁶ She also states, regarding vegetables prepared only with water: “This kind of cookery is health deform” rather than health reform.¹⁷

The debate surrounding Ellen White’s “grease” statements is easily resolved by looking at a *Webster’s Dictionary* of 1877, which defines grease as animal fats, such as lard.¹⁸ This definition not only harmonizes with the use of this term in Ellen White’s time but it also harmonizes with Ellen White’s other statements, as we have seen.

Still others have referred us to Ellen White’s statement that “the oil, as eaten in the olive, is far preferable to animal oil or fat.”¹⁹ The assumption is thus made that while Ellen White supports the use of olive oil while it remains in the olive, she forbids its use once the oil is extracted. But we need to look at this sentence in context. Here is the whole paragraph:

“When properly prepared, olives, like nuts, supply the place of butter and flesh meats. The oil, as eaten in the olive, is far preferable to animal oil or fat. It serves as a laxative. Its use will be found beneficial to consumptives, and it is healing to an inflamed, irritated stomach.”²⁰

The “it” in the last two sentences obviously refers to the oil and not to the olives, and is clearly a reference to the use of this oil in cooking, not just for medicinal purposes. This is why she speaks of it being “beneficial to consumptives”—a clear reference to its value in food preparation. Neither this nor any other inspired statement can be properly construed to support total abstinence from extracted oils.

Ellen White’s statement that fruits, grains, nuts, and vegetables, “prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing diet,”²¹ should be placed alongside her statements which advise that food be made palatable.²² Certainly the statement we quoted earlier which speaks of preparing vegetables “with a little milk or cream, or something equivalent”²³ is hard to reconcile with the assumption that Ellen White saw oils as “unnatural.”

It is certainly consistent with the totality of her writings to believe that the “something equivalent” described in the above statement can safely include vegetable and olive oils.

Some, in this discussion of oil in the diet, will move beyond the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and assert that recent scientific findings prove that oil in the diet renders it unhealthful. But the problem with using scientific evidence as a basis for church standards is the fact that such evidence often fluctuates, depending on who does the research, how it is conducted, the circumstances involved, and so forth. Certainly we have seen considerable scientific documentation in recent times for the health

counsels given by God through Ellen White. But in these cases, scientific research simply serves to vindicate what the Lord has already said. It is quite another matter to allow the findings of scientific research to develop into a normative standard for the church without an inspired command to back up such an action, especially when other nutritionists of equal qualification produce evidence to the contrary.²⁴

The church should never permit itself to be divided by arguments between nutritionists. Only standards based on a plain “thus saith the Lord” are worth risking disagreement over.

As we stated earlier, no one is denying the value in some cases of abstaining from free fats. Neither are we denying that our intake of fats should be limited. But to make total abstinence from visible fats a normative standard on a par with the counsels of Inspiration is a serious mistake. If historic Adventists provoke hostility from other church members by dogmatically promoting such uninspired rules, it is hard not to conclude that they have created their own trouble.

To be Continued

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- ⁸ ____ *Selected Messages*, book 2, 14-15.
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- ¹⁰ ____ *Counsels of Diet and Foods*, 82.
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- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 212.
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- ¹⁹ White, *Ministry of Healing*, 298.
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*
- ²¹ *Ibid.*, 296.
- ²² ____ *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 355.
- ²³ *Ibid.*
- ²⁴ See Scharffenberg, “The No-Oil Diet”; Mervyn Hardinge, “Dietary Oils and Religious Beliefs” (E. G. White Estate Documents).

“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.”

Historical

Footnotes



Source: *The Great Second Advent Movement: Its Rise and Progress*, by John Loughborough (Adventist Pioneer Library:1992), printed by Pacific Press. This classic book is available at Hope International Bookstore.

1. After Ellen White was given a vision of the planets, Elder Bates wrote a pamphlet entitled
 - a. “A Vision of the Heavens.”
 - b. “A New Vision.”
 - c. “Planetary Creator.”
 - d. “The Opening Heavens.”
2. Lack of funds prevented its publication, so to raise money, a believer
 - a. Sold a rag rug she had just made.
 - b. Sold her flock of chickens, save one laying hen.
 - c. Sold her long hair to a wigmaker.
 - d. Took in boarders.
3. After Mrs. White received a vision of the sealing work, Elder Bates again wrote a pamphlet, his third, called “A Seal of the Living God.” Again publishing money was lacking, so again a woman filled the need, this time by
 - a. Renting her home and living with relatives.
 - b. Supplying baked goods for a restaurant.
 - c. Opening a day care.
 - d. Selling a second home.
4. The night before Elder Bates was scheduled to speak, he dreamt of a young lady arriving after the second
 - a. hymn and sitting in the room’s lone unoccupied chair. It so happened. After the lecture, he learned the young lady had had the same dream about herself. She left the meeting convicted. The young lady was
 - a. Eunice Andrews.
 - b. Annie Smith.
 - c. Sister Fowler.
 - d. Marion Truesdail.
 5. That young lady left her chosen training to be a teacher and went to work in
 - a. The publishing office with James White.
 - b. The Battle Creek sanitarium.
 - c. A health food manufacturing plant.
 - d. Michigan selling present truth literature.
 6. She worked there primarily as
 - a. A typesetter.
 - b. A clerk.
 - c. A financial manager.
 - d. A proofreader.
 7. As a prospective teacher, she had been offered \$1000 a year. After her conversion, she worked for
 - a. Only \$58 a year.
 - b. Half that.
 - c. Room, board, and clothing.
 - d. Free.
 8. She accepted those wages for
 - a. Ten years.
 - b. Seven years.
 - c. Five years.
 - d. Three years.
 9. By the end of that time, she was wasting away to death from consumption. Today that disease is called
 - a. Walking pneumonia.
 - b. Tuberculosis.
 - c. Cancer.
 - d. Intermittent claudication.
 10. As she was dying, she devoted her remaining energy to serving the Lord by
 - a. Writing inspiring poetry.
 - b. Knitting warm fingerless gloves for the office staff.
 - c. Writing letters to everyone she knew.
 - d. Singing scripture songs to family and friends.

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



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Letters to The Editor



■ Appreciate your ministry! Time is SO short! We need the straight message which we do not receive from our churches. Are currently in a small home study group, so really appreciated this last message. The rich blessings are amazing as the Word is opening up before us! Unfortunately, those in the local church are not interested and feel “safe” with the knowledge they have, although Sister White firmly states in many places that we will be given new light in the end days. We humbly serve a Master of order and He will not leave us uninformed. The night will not come upon us as a thief!

BB, California

■ You all have outdone yourselves!! The messages just keep getting better and better!

HJ, Louisiana

■ This morning I bought some Living Green Energy and some Whole Vitamins from your website. I have been struggling with coffee, of all things. It seems once I get three weeks out from my last cup, a mysterious fatigue comes over me, and the only way to get rid of it is a cup of coffee. I am hoping these items are the missing links in my nutrition needs. I do want to give up the coffee, and maybe there is an intercessory prayer you can offer up on my behalf?

DS, Illinois

■ I appreciate the light that you are still carrying. I had a subscription for Our Firm Foundation, but had a problem with receiving them through the mail

after hurricane Katrina. Now our mail service seems to be back. I still had some months left, and would like to start receiving the magazine again along with the monthly DVDs. I have been in conversation with another brother here in LA concerning the articles that have been appearing in the magazine. We are both trying to share God’s truth to everyone. I thank God to know that God continues to lift His people up and ready them for his soon coming. My heart is heavy for the things that are now happening in the church. I am praying for our leaders that are no longer crying aloud the 3 angels’ messages, that the Holy Spirit will impress upon them to come back to the message that Adventists have been given for these last days.

JC, Louisiana

■ I have been blessed by your monthly DVDs the last few months and I wish to help your ministry. I enjoy reading your Good News Newsletter. It has such heart-warming articles in it, like the most recent one I read about shoes.

DS, Florida

■ I had gone gray in my late twenties. I’m now in my fifties, and drinking the clay has made my hair start to turn dark again!

■ Greetings! We just wanted to put your minds at ease. Our address is a US address. It just looks a little different because it’s for military members currently stationed overseas, which we are, but there should be no

extra shipping costs involved. Thank you for your ministry. We have been very blessed by the DVDs that we’ve borrowed. May God continue to use you!

S&SM, Overseas

■ This is my testimony for Ultra Fighter. A few weeks ago I had something like flu symptoms. A lot of yellow mucus from my chest and sinuses. I started to take Ultra Fighter and a week later I was healed. I didn’t need to visit the doctor for an antibiotic because Ultra Fighter is a bacterial fighter. I recommend it to anyone who has been suffering on and on from flu symptoms, sinus problems or any type of infection.

IJ, Hawaii

■ Thanking you for your truth-filled publication *Our Firm Foundation*. Not wanting to miss a single copy, I am renewing for myself and also signing up my sister in Canada. May God be with you all in every way, and may we each be worthy to all meet at the feet of Jesus is my prayer.

EK, Canada

Thought to ponder:
“True peace is not merely
the absence of some negative force.
It is rather the presence
of some positive force.”
Martin Luther.

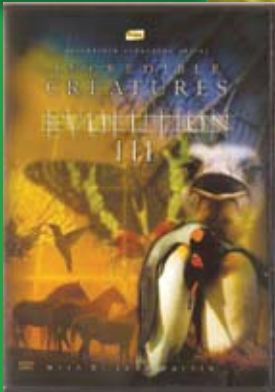
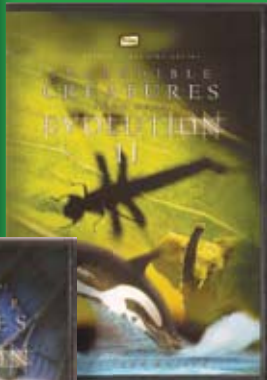
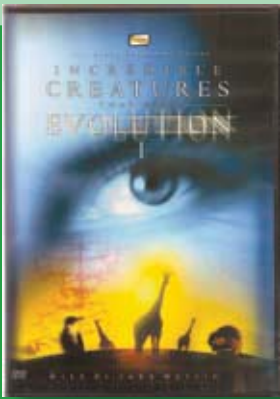
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