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# *our firm* **FOUNDATION**

*The Immutable Law of God • Christ Our Righteousness • The Seventh-day Sabbath  
The Three Angels' Messages • The Non-Immortality of the Soul • The Sanctuary*

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# Editorial



Clark Floyd, editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine, has been co-host of the radio program Bible Answers with Clark and Lee and is a licensed attorney and an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor. He has spoken internationally and makes his home in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

Our Firm Foundation was first sent out in the 1980s and has continued to the present time with the desire that it will go forward until the Lord returns. Its purpose has always been to reach out and aid God's people in their Christian walk. It has changed form somewhat over the many years and has had various editors and contributors of articles along the way.

It has always been open to the submission of articles that fit within its requirements and that will be a plus for God's people. We would request that articles submitted would be 3000 words or less, and in Word .doc format as a computer file. We are not able to retype any articles. The magazine is totally put together by myself, as editor, my copy editor, and a graphic designer.

The main thing we look for in regard to articles is content, not who the author might be. We do not, except occasionally, solicit a manuscript from any particular person except our general solicitation in front of the magazine. We have very few manuscripts ever sent to us. We do always include Ellen White articles, a health article, and some articles from out of the past. We try to include two uplifting poems monthly. An article from the sermons of Joe Olson, and once in a while one of my own, are also included monthly.

In the Book, Counsels To Writers and Editors by Ellen White under the title, "The Object of Our Publications," we read, A Decisive Message — "The power and efficiency of our work depend largely on the character of the literature that comes

from our presses. Therefore great care should be exercised in the choice and preparation of the matter that is to go to the world. The greatest caution and discrimination are needed. Our energies should be devoted to the publication of literature of the purest quality and the most elevating character. Our periodicals must go forth laden with truth that has a vital, spiritual interest for the people.

"God has placed in our hands a banner upon which is inscribed, 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Revelation 14:12. This is a distinct, separating message, a message that is to give no uncertain sound. It is to lead the people away from the broken cisterns that contain no water, to the unfailing Fountain of the water of life.

"Our publications have a most sacred work to do in making clear, simple, and plain the spiritual basis of our faith. Everywhere the people are taking sides; all are ranging themselves either under the banner of truth and righteousness or under the banner of the apostate powers that are contending for the supremacy. At this time God's message to the world is to be given with such prominence and power that the people will be brought face to face, mind to mind, heart to heart, with truth. They must be brought to see its superiority over the multitudinous errors that are pushing their way into notice, to supplant, if possible, the

word of God for this solemn time.

"The great object of our publications is to exalt God, to call men's attention to the living truths of His word. God calls upon us to lift up, not our own standard, not the standard of this world, but His standard of truth. . . .

"Let every article be full of practical, elevating, ennobling thoughts, thoughts that will give to the reader help and light and strength."

Ellen White also warns: "Be careful that the Review and Herald and the Signs of the Times are kept free from worthless matter."

We do not look to who an author is, but rather, is the content of his or her material uplifting and of a nature to help in the reader's Christian walk.

And again, Ellen White writes: "The articles published in our papers should be full of practical, elevating, ennobling thoughts, which will help and teach and strengthen the mind

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*"Our publications have a most sacred work to do in making clear, simple, and plain the spiritual basis of our faith."*

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that reads them. God help our editors to choose wisely. . . . "--Manuscript 80, 1899.

With the sort of responsibility God puts upon us, we would ask for the prayers of our readers to properly and prayerfully fulfill the responsibility that we feel God has placed upon us.

**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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**About Hope International:**

We are a lay ministry founded, supported, and operated by Seventh-day Adventists to assist God's Church in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in every way that is consistent with the principles of God as revealed in Inspiration.

**Invitation to Writers**

We are accepting article-length manuscripts (3000 words) for possible publication in *Our Firm Foundation*. We prefer that submissions be submitted in Word.doc format as a computer file. Include a digital picture and a short bio. Please address all correspondence to Editor, *Our Firm Foundation*, P.O. Box 220, Knoxville, IL 61448, or by email to editorial@hopeint.org.

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# The Bible Museum Opened

By A. L. O. E.

Often those things in Scripture that we think we know well take on a deeper meaning when we really look into them more fully.

## the manger

It is in no spirit of vain superstition that we regard this cradle of an incarnate God.

Were the very manger in which Mary laid her lovely babe placed before our bodily eyes, we should not dare to fall down and worship it. But it is well that faith should linger by the manger of Bethlehem, and endeavor there to gain a more vivid perception of the amazing condescension of Him who came to visit us in great humility. While, therefore, with the shepherds, we adore the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, let us attempt to raise our thoughts to the divine nature of Him who, in His poverty and His helplessness, appears to us here so truly human.

### *He who was man was also God*

“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.” There was no room for Him in the Inn. In one sense we might say, that there was no room in the world for One

“Whom heaven cannot contain  
Nor the immeasurable plain  
Of vast infinity enclose and circle  
round.”

For, while we rejoicing cry, Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, we must also with awe remember that His name shall be called the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father. Let us glean from the Scriptures a few from the many proofs that He who was very Man was also very God; that the

Babe who lay in the manger was one with Him who filleth the throne of Heaven. Unless we keep this “central truth” steadily before us, we shall have a very faint idea of the love and grace implied in the words, “who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven.”

### *Eternity is the lifetime of God*

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him.” Such is the sublime commencement of the Gospel of the beloved disciple, upon whom rested the Spirit of Truth. John had probably been present when the lips of the persecuted Jesus of Nazareth uttered the mysterious sentence, “I and My Father are One;” and he heard from the risen Saviour that revelation of Himself, “I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last.” Here was the Lord of Heaven, repeating His own solemn declaration, uttered when He abode upon earth—that declaration for which the Jews would have stoned Him as a blasphemer—before Abraham was, I am. In that mysterious sentence, Christ assumed to Himself that incommunicable name by which God made Himself known unto Moses as the eternal Deity, to whom the past and the future form but one everlasting present. Eternity, it has been said, is the lifetime of God.

### *“Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever!”*

St. Paul also bears witness to Him who lay in the manger of Bethlehem, as the Creator and Preserver, as well as the Saviour of the world. “God... hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by whom also He made the world: who, being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” St. Paul quotes from the Psalms the testimony of the Eternal Father to the dignity of the Redeemer: “Unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever!”

### *Christ took upon Himself the form of a Servant*

Micah the prophet witnessed of Him who was to be born in Bethlehem that His goings forth have been of old, from everlasting. Zechariah, in a passage, part of which our Lord Himself quoted exclaims: “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the Man that is My Fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.” This is He who, “being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a Servant”—yea, even that of





a feeble Infant, lying in a manger, in an obscure corner of the world which He Himself had created.

Such a mystery as this the understanding of man cannot grasp; but faith meekly receives it, and reason bids us acknowledge, that He whose sacrifice was to be of infinite merit must needs Himself be infinite; that no created being could possibly have made satisfaction for the sins of a whole world, the redemption of which is a work as marvelous as was its first creation.

### *That tiny Babe gave motion to our world*

But nowhere do the marvels of that creation strike us with more overpowering force than when we muse on them beside the manger of Bethlehem. Let us consider Him who deigned to become a mortal Babe in the single attribute of power, as displayed in launching into space this globe in which we live, on which He stooped for a while to dwell, and which, as compared with the heavenly bodies around it, is but as a grain of dust in the universe created by Him by whom all things were made. Though the giving motion to our world was but a comparatively small exercise of such power, how overwhelmingly great it appears when set before us in the scientific page!

### *In that manger lay strength and power beyond our scope of comprehension*

Let us make an extract from "The Christian Philosopher": "However rapidly a ball flies from the mouth of a cannon, it is the flight of a body only a few inches in diameter.... The earth contains a mass of matter equal in weight to at least 2,200,000,000,000,000,000, or

more than two thousand trillions of tons, supposing its mean density to be only about two and a half times greater than water. To move this ponderous mass a single inch beyond its position were it fixed in a quiescent state, would require a mechanical force almost beyond the power of numbers to express. The physical force of all the myriads of intelligences within the bounds of the planetary system, though their powers were far superior to those of men, would be altogether inadequate to the production of such a motion. How much more must be the force requisite to impel it with a velocity one hundred and forty times swifter than a canon-ball, or sixty-eight thousand miles an hour, the actual rate of its motion in its course round the sun.... The idea of strength and power implied in the impulsion of such enormous masses of matter through the illimitable tracts of space are forced upon the mind with irresistible energy far surpassing what my abstract propositions or reasonings can convey, and constrain us to exclaim, 'Who is a strong Lord like unto Thee? Thy right hand is become glorious in power! The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!'"

### *God was manifest in the flesh in that manger*

And it was He whose Word could thus launch forth, and for thousands of years keep the world and the other planets whirling round the sun at a speed that baffles thought to conceive, it was He who deigned

to inhabit a human form so helpless that a woman's weak arms were needed even to lift Him out of the manger in which that woman had laid Him! The thought is overpowering, we can but prostrate our souls in silent adoration. Well might the angels, bending over the manger, desire to look into such a mystery; God was manifest in the flesh!

### *Grant unto us the grace of Thy Holy Spirit to truly know the love of Christ*

O blessed Redeemer, when even a faint glimpse of the riches of Thy glory falls on the mental eye, it seems to dazzle and blind; and yet, for our sakes, Thou didst become poor, so poor that the stable was Thy first earthly dwelling-place, and Thy cradle this manger! Grant unto us, feeble worms, the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be able to comprehend, at least in part, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge; that love which is infinite as Thy power, and everlasting as Thy existence!







# Will the Structure Last?

By Joe Olson

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet. 2:5.

The Bible never uses the word “structure.” It uses house, building, church or temple.

The word “structure” is mentioned 346 times in the writings of Ellen G. White. We looked up every one of them. As you can imagine, there was a lot of redundancy and many quotes related to health and physical buildings, etc. But as we looked for quotes related to “the structure”, where the structure was the church we were surprised to see very little written about it.

## *The purpose of organization is to advance His cause*

Here is one: “Let none entertain the thought that we can dispense with organization. It has cost us much study and many prayers for wisdom that we know God has answered, to erect this structure. It has been built up by His direction, through much sacrifice and conflict. Let none of our brethren be so deceived as to attempt to tear it down, for you will thus bring in a condition of things that you do not dream of. In the name of the Lord I declare to you that it is to stand, strengthened, established, and settled. At God’s command, “Go forward”, we advanced when the difficulties to be surmounted made the advance seem impossible. We know how much it has cost to work out God’s plans in the past, which have made us as a people what we are. Then let everyone be exceedingly careful not to unsettle minds in regard to those things that God has ordained for our prosperity and success in advancing His cause.” Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White 197(Written on December 19, 1892).

Please note that organization is to advance His cause. Others were advancing His cause without being part of the “organization” and the Lord said to leave them alone: “And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.” Luke 9:49-50.

## *There is need of a church where we can safely send new believers*

There have always been those who have said that we need no organization, we need no coordinated effort..... Let the Spirit lead, they say. But this is not what the Spirit of God has said, at least for that time. There is still a need, even in this day, of a church that we can point the people to, an address

where we can send those who are baptized. A place of fellowship. Now please understand, we are not referring to just any Seventh-day Adventist Church





congregation. There are many SDA Churches we wouldn't step foot in. There is much worldliness, worldly music and all manner of evil in some of our churches, but not all of them. We have been in more than a few that we would be comfortable worshipping in. We know of several Seventh-day Adventist pastors who stand for the right and preach present truth messages. Admittedly, they are not near as plentiful as we would like, but they are still there.



### *Just what is the 'church'?*

Then we have this oft-repeated quote: "The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out--the chaff separated from the precious wheat." 2SM 379, 380 (Written in 1886). Of course, the big question that looms is: What is the church? Is the church the "corporate" Seventh-day Adventist Church, or is it something else? And, is the "structure" that Sister White talks about the same as the corporate church?

Rather than attempt to define the exact line, which frankly, no one we have talked to has been able to do, let us instead look at some of the quotes and see where they lead.

There are 17,699 places that Sister White used the word church. That may take a little time to go through. Then there are many, many more quotes referring to God's faithful, the faithful, the redeemed, Zion, the righteous, the seed of Abraham, the true Israelites, etc, etc. There is one aspect of the church that we have had very little argument from any one, on either side of the line, and that is this: God's true Church, true Israel, His faithful servants, have ever been, and ever will be, just and only those, who have Jesus fully immersed in their lives and live totally for Him. "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed." Romans 9:6-8. "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." Romans 2:28-29.

### *And what is the 'structure'?*

But today, when we are being told, "we must not leave the structure" we need to understand what Sister White was referring to when she used the term "structure". When Ellen White used the term "structure" it did not always refer to the church. There were many ways in which she used the term. Here is one: "We are each of us building for ourselves a structure which will one day be scrutinized by the Judge of the whole earth. This structure is our individual character; and every act of our lives, every thought and word, is a stone in the building." ST, July 14, 1887.

Here is a quote you might find interesting that incorporates the words "temple" and "structure" and "church". "Workers were raised up who ably defended the faith once delivered to the saints. History bears record to the fortitude and heroism of these men. Like the apostles, many of them fell at their post, but the building of the temple went steadily forward. The workmen were slain, but the work advanced. The Waldenses, John Wycliffe, Huss and Jerome, Martin Luther and Zwingli, Cranmer, Latimer, and Knox, the Huguenots, John and Charles Wesley, and a host of others brought to the foundation material that will endure throughout eternity. And in later years those who have so nobly endeavored to promote the circulation of God's Word, and those who by their service in heathen lands have prepared the way for the proclamation of the last great message--these also have helped to rear the structure." AA 598-601. Now, will any try to imagine that the structure here referred to is the Seventh-day Adventist church? Or any "corporate" church?

### *The structure is not yet complete*

"Through the ages that have passed since the days of the apostles, the building of God's temple has never ceased.

We may look back through the centuries and see the living stones [remember 1 Peter 2:5] of which it is composed gleaming like jets of light through the darkness of



error and superstition. Throughout eternity these precious jewels will shine with increasing luster, testifying to the power of the truth of God. The flashing light of these polished stones reveals the strong contrast between light

and darkness, between the gold of truth and the dross of error.

Paul and the other apostles, and all the righteous who have lived since then, have acted their part in the building of the temple. But the structure is not yet complete.” AA 598-601.

Again, I ask the question, is the structure here referred to the Seventh-day Adventist church? Or any “corporate” church?

## *The church is the true family of God*

“We who are living in this age have a work to do, a part to act. We are to bring to the foundation material that will stand the test of fire--gold, silver, and precious stones, “polished after the similitude of a palace” (Ps. 144:12). To those who thus build for God, Paul speaks words of encouragement: “If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.” . . . The Christian who faithfully presents the word of life, leading men and women into the way of holiness and peace, is bringing to the foundation material that will endure, and in the kingdom of God He will be honored as a wise builder.

“The church is God’s agency for the proclamation of truth, empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to Him, obedient to all His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellency of divine grace. If she will be true to her allegiance, if she will honor the Lord God of Israel, there is no power that can stand against her. If the church will put on the robe of Christ’s righteousness, withdrawing from all allegiance with the world, there is before her the dawn of a bright and glorious day. God’s

promise to her will stand fast forever.” AA 598-601. Here, in these few pages from Acts of the Apostles, all the terms are brought together into one harmonious whole. Note how many times the word “if” is used.

I ask again, is the structure, or even the church, here referred to the Seventh-day Adventist church? Or any “corporate” church or structure? Does it not appear to you that the “church” or “structure” or “temple” is the true family of God?

## *Will the structure be swept away?*

Now let’s look at a statement that is often used to say that the “structure” will be swept away. “The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to



the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The

founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.” 1SM 204, 205.

And another quote: “Those who are willing to be led by false theories and unsound doctrines, who build their hopes for eternity on shifting sand, will find that the storm and tempest of trial will sweep away their refuge of lies. Their structure will fall, and they will perish,--lost, lost for all eternity.” RH, April 23, 1901. That is a lot to take in, and all but the most ardent “structure” devotees can see that we have certainly gone a long way in the fulfillment of this scenario.

Have we heard those in the church trying to give up, or at least downplay, our sanctuary doctrine? How about the prophetic gift of Ellen White? Have we seen books of a “new order” that give the impression that obedience is not a prerequisite of salvation? Has the Sabbath been made light of..... in our own church? No question about it.

## *Storms of persecution are to unite us*

Now, in the earlier quotes I just read, what is it that would cause their “structure” to be swept away? Storm and tempest of trial! What do storms represent! Persecution! “The gospel builder frequently carries on his work in tears and amid trials, storms of persecution, bitter opposition,





and unjust reproach; but he feels deeply in earnest, for he is building for eternity." 3T 414. "When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep [or God's true church] will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril strife for supremacy will cease, there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest." 6T 401, LDE 152.

Just as an aside here, what draws the people together into a united front? Persecution, a love for souls, and the "common peril"! That is what draws us all together.

### *Will we give in to the beast power in order to remain 'corporate'?*

Now, back to what sweeps away "their structure"..... storms of persecution. We are told that when the Sunday laws come, we will at first be cajoled into compliance with friendly banter and inducements. If that doesn't work, then more serious measures such as threatened job loss, fines, even imprisonment. If that doesn't work, there will ultimately be the death decree. According to what Sister White said about how the structure that these "founders" have built will be swept away, we see it is storms and tempest, or persecution.

Now, let's just look at the logic of the situation. Once the "persecution" starts, will the United States, the Vatican or the world at large allow us to keep our corporate churches open? Are they still going to let us have our tax exemption status? Are they going to let us operate our educational facilities, health facilities, printing facilities? Only if we have given in to the beast power, and accepted the false Sabbath. If we do that, are we still God's church? Of course not!

### *Let's quit fighting, finish this work and go home!*

Do you think they will call in our notes at the bank and start foreclosure on our churches, office buildings, corporate structure buildings, hospitals, nursing homes, and every other like facility? You better believe it! This



has always been my question: If we know this is coming, and we believe that the Lord is coming soon, then why do we fight against each other so hard about who or

what the "church" is? If you can go to the local church, praise the Lord! If you can't and you need to start a home church, praise the Lord! Let's just finish the work!

If we can quit fighting against those who want to go to the conference church, and the conference can quit fighting against the self-supporting ministries and work united, hand in hand, I believe we might just finish this work and go home! "We are to teach the word of God, and to be doers of that word, which is represented as building upon the rock; the structure thus built will withstand the storm and the tempest, because it is founded on the eternal Rock." PC 137.

### *We should perform our own duty and leave the rest to God*

That is how we will withstand the storm and tempest in that day, the persecution that is to come. Teaching, doing, building on the eternal Rock, Jesus Christ! We are told that the final movements will be rapid ones. "Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones." 9T 11. We are also told that the Lord is soon to take the reins into His own hands. "God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands." TM 299. In this last work, God will do it differently than any of us suppose. "Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning." TM 299. We are told plainly that it will be contrary to any human planning. If we can't plan for it, then maybe it is just up to us to do our own duty, as far as it is in our power, and leave the rest to the Lord.



### *We are never to restrict the religious liberty of another*

Go to a church that is following God's instructions. Go where you can be blessed by hearing the word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy. Go where you can hear the word of



God in all its fullness and beauty. Go where the Spirit of God can convict you

is the want of men,--men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.” ED 57 1903.

### *Is your structure built upon Jesus Christ?*

Will the church “structure” last? Will your “structure” last? It all depends upon what that “structure” is built upon. “... he (Jesus) asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?” Matt. 16:13. “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matt. 16:16. “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock [the rock of Him being the Christ, the Son of the living God] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matt. 16:18.

You can't build your faith on the Jewish church or the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You must build upon Christ!

Jesus Christ has had a church since the Garden of Eden.

The “structure” of God’s church in the days before the flood came and went.

The “structure” of God’s church in the wilderness with Moses came and went.

The “structure” of God’s church with the Jews in Jesus’ day came and went.

The “structure” of God’s church in the Reformation came and went.

The “structure” of God’s church in Protestantism came and went.

The “structure” of God’s church in Seventh-day Adventism has come, and will go.

The only “structure” that will last is the one that God Himself builds.

Psalms 127:1 “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...:”

May we each one be more concerned about how to finish the work and go home than we are in who is in the right “building” or “structure” is my prayer.



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

to higher and holier living. Send your tithe and your offerings where ever you understand the Lord is leading you to send it. Pray about it. Study it out for yourself. Our faith and the truth are strong enough to endure some questions. Check it out yourself! Don’t take my word for it and don’t take anybody else’s word for it. You check it out! Then, follow your duty and leave others to follow their duty.

“We need to cultivate faith and love, for our churches are becoming leavened with unbelief, and with hardness of heart. We need to pray for the Lord to give them hearts of flesh.” EGW Materials 1888 665. It is our “churches” that are being filled with unbelief and hardness of heart! This was written in 1888! Do we imagine that our “churches” have become less filled with unbelief since then? Less hardness of heart? Are we still inclined to condemn one another because we want to go somewhere that we can hear the word of God? How dare we try to restrict each other’s religious liberty! That is the spirit of Anti-Christ!



### *Do right simply because it is right*

My prayer for each one of us is that we love our church, defective though it may be. Even though we might not be able to attend the local services, love and pray for each member, even though we might not be able to fellowship with them, and do all we can to bring each one out of darkness into God’s marvelous light. Not the pithy, do-nothing love that the world has, but the love that will make a difference, the love that comes from Christ. The love that will cause each of us to do right because it is right. “The truly converted soul is illuminated from on high. . . . His words, his motives, his actions, may be misinterpreted and falsified; but he does not mind it because he has greater interests at stake. . . . He is not ambitious for display; he does not crave the praise of men. His hope is in heaven, and he keeps straight on, with his eye fixed on Jesus. He does right because it is right.” Conflict & Courage 365 “The greatest want of the world



# Christians to Be Co-laborers With God

By Mrs. E. G. White

There is no respect of persons with God. Those who have the largest responsibilities are under the most sacred obligations to be the most Christlike in spirit, word, and action, and to manifest tenderness toward all, especially toward those who do not feel that they are important personages. Let there be no putting forth of the finger and speaking vanity, no word spoken that will depreciate or condemn another. It is important work to deal with human minds. Man is God's property, and angels are looking with intense interest to see how man will deal with his fellow man.

When heavenly intelligences see those who claim to be the sons and daughters of God putting forth Christlike efforts to help the erring, manifesting a tender, sympathetic spirit for the repentant and the fallen, angels press close to them, and bring to their remembrance the very words that will soothe and uplift the soul. Holy angels are on the track of every one of us. We are not to despise the least of God's little ones, not to exact homage from any one toward ourselves. The angels are all ministering spirits sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. Shall we be privileged to co-operate with heavenly intelligences? Will God accept us as light bearers to the world?

*Holy angels encamp round about them that fear God*

Jesus Christ has taken the position of one who came to seek and to save that which is lost, and he has exalted the world inasmuch as he died to redeem it, to bring back the one lost sheep to the fold. Jesus has given his precious life, his personal attention, to the least of God's little ones; and angels that excel in strength encamp round about them that fear God. Then let us be upon our guard, and never permit one contemptuous thought to occupy the mind in regard to one of the little ones of God. We should look after the erring with solicitude, and speak encouraging words to the fallen, and fear lest by some unwise action we shall turn them away from the pitying Saviour.



## *Take these lost sheep as your special burden*

Those who love Jesus will love those for whom Christ died. If many of the sinners that are around us had received the light which has blessed us, they would have rejoiced in the truth, and have been in advance of many that have had a long experience and great advantages. Take these lost sheep as your special burden, and watch for souls as they that must give an account. Draw not a glance to yourself, but cry with earnest, heartfelt interest, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." This is the Christian's message to the world. This is the effective argument. Encourage your heart to put forth earnest endeavors to induce perishing souls to fix their eyes upon Him who was uplifted upon the cross; and remember that as you do this, unseen angels are flashing the light of truth into the mind, and impressing it upon the heart, and leading the soul to believe in Jesus. The sinner is enabled to see Jesus as he is,--full of compassion, pity, and love,--and he exclaims, "Thy gentleness hath made me great."

## *The burden of saving souls is not to rest completely on the shoulders of the ministers*

Jesus would impress upon the hearts and minds of his disciples the value of the human soul. He demands co-operation on the part of his followers in rescuing lost sinners. There is one lost sheep, the very least that could be numbered; and yet he represents the shepherd as leaving the ninety and nine, and going into the mountains to seek that one lost wanderer. Then why is it that the sons and daughters of God are so cold of heart, so indifferent to the souls that are perishing around them? Why is it that the members of the church are so willing to let the whole burden rest upon the shoulders of the ministers? How

great a mistake is this, since every subject of grace is to have a part to act in saving those that are lost. To every man Christ has given his work, and personal efforts must be put forth to save the perishing. The worker must be much in secret prayer; for this work requires great wisdom in the science of saving souls. Christ said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

## *We are to be Christ's representatives to the world, taking up the work where He left it*

He said also to his disciples, "Ye are the light of the world." He made the church the depository of sacred truth. He left his church a stewardship of sacred truth, and it is the work of the church to carry forward his mission of saving the world. He is the Sun of Righteousness, who is to impart bright rays to his followers; and they, in turn,



are to shed his light upon others. They are to be his representatives to the world. Believing in Christ as their personal Saviour, they take up the work where he left it. "Without me ye can do nothing," said Christ; but with him we can do all things. There is a large, a very large number of straying and lost sheep that have perished in the wild deserts of sin, simply because no one went after them, to search for them and to bring them back to the fold. Jesus uses the illustration of a lost sheep to show the need of seeking after those who have wandered from him; for a sheep once lost will never find its way back to the fold without help. It must be sought for; it must be carried back to the fold.

## *All heaven is interested in the work of saving the lost*

Angels watch with intense interest to see who will leave the ninety and nine, and go out in tempest and storm and rain into the wild desert to seek the lost sheep. The lost are all around us, perishing and sadly neglected. But they are of value to God, the purchase of the blood of Christ. "And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, He rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

## *The disciples of Christ are to copy the example of their Master*

The world's Redeemer said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. . . The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise." In the same way the disciples of Christ work the works of Christ, copying the example of their Master. Jesus commissioned his disciples, saying, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." This commission rests upon every one who claims to believe in Jesus Christ. We are to seek to save those that are lost. We are to search for the one lost sheep, and bring him back to the fold; and this represents personal effort.

## *Our influence upon others it to be a sweet aroma to God*

A church may be composed of those who are intelligent, well educated, and wealthy, and to the world it may appear to be a strong church; but if





its members are not men and women who walk humbly with God, they are stumbling-blocks to sinners; for they direct the feet into false paths, and do not shine by reflecting the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. They may have an appearance of shining, like an iceberg in the sun; but they do not shine with the rays of Heaven. Then there may be another church composed of men and women who have not been educated in the colleges, and who have no wealth or worldly honour, yet they feel the sacred responsibility that rests upon them, and they shine as burning lights for the Master. Wherever they go, they shed light, and diffuse a heavenly atmosphere. They go forth to seek the lost sheep. They feel that it is a great privilege to deny self, to lift up the cross, and to be partakers of the divine energy. The influence of these workers goes up to God as a sweet aroma.

*All the glory of our work is to return to God*

The true worker for God wrestles with God in prayer, and puts intense earnestness into the work of saving lost souls. He does not seek to exalt self by word or deed, but simply seeks to win souls. God pronounces the purest, the meekest, the most childlike Christian, the best worker for him, the mightiest in labor for souls. Heavenly intelligences can work with the man or woman who will not absorb the glory to himself, but who will be willing that all the glory shall redound to the honor of God. It is the man who most feels his need of divine wisdom, the man who pleads for heavenly power, that will go forth



from communion with Christ, to hold converse with souls perishing in their sins; and because he is anointed with the Spirit of the Lord, he will be successful where the learned minister may have failed. God has given lessons that are all-important in regard to the duty of every disciple. Not one need be in darkness; for it is evident that every Christian is to be a living epistle, known and read of all men.

*The greatest work on earth is to seek and save those who are lost*

Every one who believes in Christ as a personal Saviour is under bonds to God to be pure and holy, to be a spiritual worker, seeking to save the lost, whether they are great or small,



rich or poor, bond or free. The greatest work on earth is to seek and to save those who are lost, for whom Christ has paid the infinite price of his own blood. Every

one is to do active service, and if those who have been blessed with light do not diffuse light to others, they will lose the rich grace which has been bestowed upon them, because they neglect a sacred duty plainly marked out in the word of God. As the light of the unfaithful one diminishes, his own soul is brought into peril; and the ones to whom he should have been a shining light, miss the labor that God intended that they should have through the human instrument. Thus the sheep unsought is not brought back to the fold.

*Those who meet together for prayer will receive an unction from the Holy One*

God depends upon you, the human agent, to fulfil your duty to the best of your ability, and he himself will give the increase. If human agents



would but co-operate with the divine intelligences, thousands of souls would be rescued. The Holy Spirit would give devoted workers glimpses of Jesus that would brace them for every conflict, that would elevate and strengthen them, and make them more than conquerors. When two or three are met together to unite their counsel, and to send up their petitions, the promise is for them: "Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find: knock, and it shall be opened unto you." "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" The Lord has promised that where two or three are met together in his name, there will He be in the midst. Those who meet together for prayer will receive an unction from the Holy One. There is great need of secret prayer, but there is also need that several Christians meet together, and unite with earnestness their petitions to God. In these small companies Jesus is present, the love of souls is deepened in the heart, and the Spirit puts forth its mighty energies, that human agents may be exercised in regard to saving those who are lost. Jesus ever sought to show how worthless are formal ceremonies, and strove to impress upon his disciples that the Holy Spirit must enlighten, renew, and sanctify the soul.

RH, June 30, 1896



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.

# PERFECTION IN CHRIST

By Raymond F. Cottrell

*Editor's Note: This is a continuation of the series which began in February, 2012. Each of these articles is complete in itself, but all go together well.*

## The Disparity Between Aspiration and Attainment

Those who essay to walk in the upward pathway toward the goal of perfection in Christ usually set out with blithe hearts, little realizing that “the way is hard”—and long (Matt. 7:14, R.S.V.). All who take the name of Christ are summoned to “fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Tim. 6:12, R.S.V.), making “no concession or compromise...to evil habits or sinful practices” (1 SM 380). Character, we are told, “is formed by hard, stern battles with self”, and “conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies” (COL 331). This is the great dilemma of the quest for perfection in Christ—the utter disparity between aspiration and attainment.

### No person is more miserable than a “worldly” Christian

There are various reasons why the Christian life sometimes seems too deplorably hard, why the chasm between what we are and what we long so much to be often seems too wide and impassable. Let us note some of the reasons. A good diagnosis is the first step toward a remedy. One very common reason is that people try to attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from their cherished idols (see 5 T 231). The most miserable person in the world is the Christian whose affections still cling, in part, to the things of the world, a person who has one foot aboard the good ship Zion as it sails heavenward, and the other on the shore. The remedy for this situation is to be wholehearted in one's commitment to Christ.

### Satan tempts us to blame God for making life miserable

Another seeming difficulty we experience on the heavenward journey is this: The closer we

come to Jesus and appreciate the excellence of His perfect character, the more we become aware of our own imperfections, and the more painful they are to us. God never intends this vision of the lofty goal He sets before us to be a cause for discouragement. By it He beckons us upward. Day by day we pray for grace to resemble our great Example more closely, and God answers our prayers by permitting circumstances that will develop the very traits of character we seek. But alas and alack, we do not understand His purpose and we are dismayed (COL 61). Satan tempts us to blame God for making life miserable, and we wonder why He permits Satan to annoy us and beset us with trouble.

### God permits trials in order that we might be cleansed

When such is our lot, the very first thing to remember is that it is Satan who tempts, annoys and troubles us—not God. Yet, as a wise Father, God does permit these experiences to come. He



“permits trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, unChristlike traits of character....Often we enter the furnace of trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character.”—Ibid., p. 175.

### **God gives us opportunity to develop character**

When from our shortsighted perspective it may seem that God is dealing severely with us, let us “not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when we are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives” (Heb. 12:5, 6, R.S.V.). “God’s great object in the working out of His providences is to try men, to give them opportunity to develop character.”—Ibid., p.283. He will not permit us to be tested beyond our strength. So be of good courage.

## **What Does “Perfection” Mean?**

By Bible definition a “perfect” Christian is a person wholly committed to Christ, who aspires by His grace to complete victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. He ardently longs and labors to be ready to meet the Lord in joy and peace, but an honest appraisal of his life leads to the sometimes disturbing realization that he is still far from the goal of absolute, sinless perfection despite his firm faith, his worthy intentions, and his best efforts to emulate the pattern set before him. He still makes mistakes, not because he chooses to do so or because he doesn’t care, but seemingly in spite of himself. In spirit he is ever so willing, but the flesh proves to be weak beyond words! Not for a moment would he deliberately consent to sin, nor does he, indeed, have any relish

for it; nevertheless, Satan succeeds, ever and anon, in tripping him up.

### **An understanding of Christian perfection protects against discouragement**

Does this continuing disparity between aspiration and attainment mean that he has not been truly converted, that he is not entitled to wear the glorious robe of Christ’s righteousness, that he is ineligible for Heaven’s seal of approval, that he may be refused admission to the eternal kingdom? Why is he not enjoying the vibrant spiritual health for which he longs, and which he feels should be possible? A person in perplexity about this aspect of Christian experience needs to understand what perfection in Christ is and how it becomes a reality in the life. This will protect him against discouragement on the one hand and against extreme and fanciful ideas about perfection on the other.

## **An Important Distinction**

In the first place, it is essential to distinguish between relative perfection as a present possession and absolute perfection as a goal to be reached at the end of life’s journey. The Scriptures speak of a state of perfection to which every sincere Christian can attain instantly, by an intelligent act of the will now (1 Cor. 2:6; Phil. 3:15). This may be described as a perfection of one’s attitude toward God and toward God’s will as it is presently understood and as it may yet be revealed. It is the state of perfection a person enjoys when, having experienced justification by faith, he is at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1). He has resolutely renounced the world, the flesh, and the devil, and is wholly committed to a

new life in Christ Jesus. He still makes mistakes, but he has learned how to come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and to find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16). In a continuing process, divine grace makes the righteousness of Christ his righteousness. He is perfect in Christ, not by virtue of any supposed good works of his own, but by virtue of Christ’s forgiveness of past mistakes and by virtue of the grace Christ imparts moment by moment for gaining the victory over his sinful tendencies. He is perfect not because he never makes mistakes, but because, in spite of his mistakes, he is covered by the perfect righteousness of Christ (Eph.1:6).

### **Pressing steadily onward toward sinlessness**

As a “perfect” Christian, however, a person in this state realizes that he has not yet attained to absolute perfection in the sense that he never makes mistakes. But, turning his back on past mistakes and straining for the prize of sinless perfection that lies at the end of the way along which he walks hand in hand with Christ, he unites his own best efforts with those of Christ at work in him to will and to do of God’s good pleasure, and presses steadily on toward the lofty goal of sinlessness (Phil. 2:13; 3:12-14).



# A KING IS NOT EXEMPT

*((from punishment or life change))*

By Clark Floyd

Israel became a nation as they emerged from Egyptian bondage and eventually entered the Land promised to them by God. They initially were governed as a theocracy by men called by God—Moses and Joshua. And later came under the guidance of men under God called judges, and finally, because of their own insistence, came under the ruling of kings, “like other nations around them”.

## **God’s character and His plan are unchanging**

“As a nation the children of Israel failed of receiving the benefits that God desired to give them. They did not appreciate His purpose or cooperate in its execution. But though individuals and peoples may thus separate themselves from Him, His purpose for those who trust Him is unchanged. ‘...whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever...’ Ecclesiastes 3:14.

“While there are different degrees of development and different manifestations of His power to meet the wants of men in the different ages, God’s work in all time is the same. The Teacher is the same. God’s character and His plan are the same. With Him ‘is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.’ James 1:17.” Ed 50.

## **Israel sought their own way, not God’s way**

The first king of Israel, Saul, was chosen because of his great stature. “There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he

was taller than any of the people.” 1 Sam. 9:2. “In Saul, God had given to Israel a King after their own heart... They did not ask for one who had true nobility of character, who possessed the love and fear of God. They had not sought counsel from God as to the qualities a ruler should possess, in order to preserve their distinctive holy character as their chosen people. They were not seeking God’s way, but their own way... Under the rule of this king they would obtain the experience necessary in order that they might see their error, and return to their allegiance to God.” PP636.

Saul was given a measure of the Holy Spirit, but it left him as he sought his own ways and turned from God.

## **David waited on God’s timing**

The second king, King David, was a man chosen by God (see PP637); a man given more than one opportunity to end the life of King Saul and thus put himself into the kingship at a much earlier time than it actually happened. He was willing to wait upon God’s timing, and in God’s good time eventually came into the leadership of Israel. His training as a shepherd served him well, and he evidenced a love for God, as brought forth through

his many Psalms. The people, in general, were very happy with David becoming king. Israel prospered, and God was with them and King David in many ways.

## **David took advantage of his position as king**

But often when we seem to be the closest to God, we may be the most vulnerable to the snares of Satan. There is much we can learn from the life and fall of David.

David had a wife, a beautiful, palatial home, and a nation that was prospering under his rule while continuing to add new territory to its boundaries. But his carnal lust was able to take him down.

From the roof of his palace, David was able to observe a very beautiful woman bathing herself. “So David inquired about the woman. And someone said, ‘Is this not Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?’” It should have been very clear to a godly man, like David, that he had no business going any further with this inquiry, but David, taking advantage of his position as king, “sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her..., and she returned to her house.” 2 Sam. 11:3-5.

## **Satan is a master of setting snares for God’s people**

What about





Bathsheba? Does a Godly woman submit to someone other than her husband under any circumstances? Satan is a master of setting the snares to entrap God's people—are we prepared, in our own lives to resist those deadly snares?

"She, Bathsheba, returned to her house." She was soon with child, and she let David know.

Often, once we fall into sin, instead of repenting and confessing the sin immediately, we seek to protect ourselves and cover the sin. This is exactly what David sought to do.

### David's plan was not God's plan

David called Bathsheba's faithful husband back from the front lines hoping that Uriah would go in and have a relationship with Bathsheba and thus be close enough to the period of conception to be called the father, believing he was the father. But Uriah would not go into his wife while others were still at the front fighting. He was a faithful soldier in David's army.

Once we start on that downward course, a course like David's, brought about because of his carnal desires, we have set up more and more of Satan's snares to fall into. Next we find that David seeks to make Uriah drunk in the hope that he would go to Bathsheba. But Uriah would still not go into her.

David's plans were not working—he was unsuccessful in protecting himself from the scandal of being the father of Bathsheba's child. So David sinks even further into Satan's miry pit and away from God.

### When we submit to

## Satan, the pit deepens

Here is how the Bible puts it: "David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter saying, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.'" (See 2 Sam. 11). This happened and Uriah died. And Joab was drawn into the snares of Satan by his own commander, David. The pit was deepened!

Ellen White comments: "As [David] departed from God and yielded himself to the wicked one, he became for the time the agent of Satan; yet he still held the position and authority that God had given him, and because of this, claimed obedience that would imperil the soul of him who should yield it. And Joab, whose allegiance had been given to the king rather than to God, transgressed God's law because the king commanded it." PP719.

Bathsheba mourned for her husband, and when the mourning was over, she became David's wife and bore him a son. But the Bible is very clear.

What David had done displeased the Lord. The question is: Do we see how, when we consent to that first sin, Satan seeks to put us into a downward spin?

### God sent Nathan to David with a parable

But God was not through with David, and He will not give up on any of us! God sent Nathan the prophet to David with a parable, a story, seeking to help David see more clearly

exactly what David had done. Satan is often successful in helping us to accept our own excuses for our sins, making us think we are okay after all.

Nathan told the story of two men in one city, a rich man and a poor man. The rich man had many flocks and herds but the poor man had only one little ewe lamb which grew up with him and his children and was very dear to the poor man.

When a traveler came to the rich man's house, the rich man took the poor man's ewe and prepared for the traveler's meal. This greatly angered David and "he said to Nathan, 'As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!'"

### "You are the man!"

So often it is much easier for us to see the sins of others and miss or avoid our own sins. WE can become very judgmental of others without seeking to overcome in our own lives.

But Nathan would not let David escape. Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" Would we have had the courage of Nathan to speak thus to the King? Will we listen to God rather than man, no matter how powerful that man is?

Psalm 51 is a Psalm of David "when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone into Bathsheba."

### Even after confession and repentance, there are consequences for our sins

David finally readily admitted his sins and asked for forgiveness. In spite of how bad those sins were, God was willing to forgive them. But they still had their consequences. David was told:

"Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house;

because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife  
Thus saith



the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give [them] unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst [it] secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.”

“And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.” (See 2 Sam. 12)

Again, when there is sin, there are consequences, even though the Lord is willing to forgive.

### Uzziah’s downfall

After David, came Solomon, and after Solomon the kingdom split into two, with Israel on the North and Judah on the South. Israel did not have a single good king, and in 722 BC was destroyed as a nation, never to rise again.

Judah had several good kings, and one of these was King Uzziah who ruled from 790 to 739 BC. The Bible says of him, “he did what was right in the sight of the Lord.” 2 Chron. 26:4. It goes on to say, “He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper.” 2 Chron. 26:5. He actually restored much of the land that belonged to Israel under Solomon. “His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he became exceedingly strong.” 2 Chron. 26:8.

But in 2 Chronicles 26:15, we read: “When he was strong his heart was



lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God by entering the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.”

### Uzziah’s reward for disobedience was leprosy

He was warned against what he was doing by the High Priest backed up by 80 other priests. But Uzziah became furious with these men. “While he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead.” 2 Chron. 26:19. He was a leper from that time forward to the date of his death.

Ellen White comments: “Unto the day of his death, some years later, Uzziah remained a leper--a living example of the folly of departing from a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord.’ Neither his exalted position nor his long life of service could be pleaded as an excuse for the presumptuous sin by which he marred the closing years of his reign, and brought upon himself the judgment of Heaven.” PK 304.



No matter how long we have been a Christian, nor how close we have been to God, we will suffer consequences if we presumptuously go against the command of God. Satan loves to encourage us to commit any kind of sin but especially presumptuous sins.

### Through Manasseh we learn that there is hope for us all

The third king I wish to speak of was also a king of Judah, some time after King Uzziah.

“Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. But he did evil in the sight of the Lord according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel.” 2 Chron. 33:1, 2.

He put up pagan altars and images, encouraged witchcraft and spiritualism, and other pagan rites.

“So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, [and] to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.” 2Chron 33:9 & 10.

He was also the King in authority when Isaiah was sawn asunder. Therefore he appears to be a king that there could be absolutely no hope for salvation. What more could have been done to anger the Lord? But God is gracious and would that all would be saved. He never gives up, even on the worst of us. Nor should we.

Manasseh was allowed to be taken into captivity by the Assyrians and was carried off to Babylon. While in affliction, Manasseh humbled himself before the Lord, and had a conversion experience.

God is not through with any of us yet.



Clark Floyd, editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine, has been co-host of the radio program Bible Answers with Clark and Lee and is a licensed attorney and an ordained Seventh-

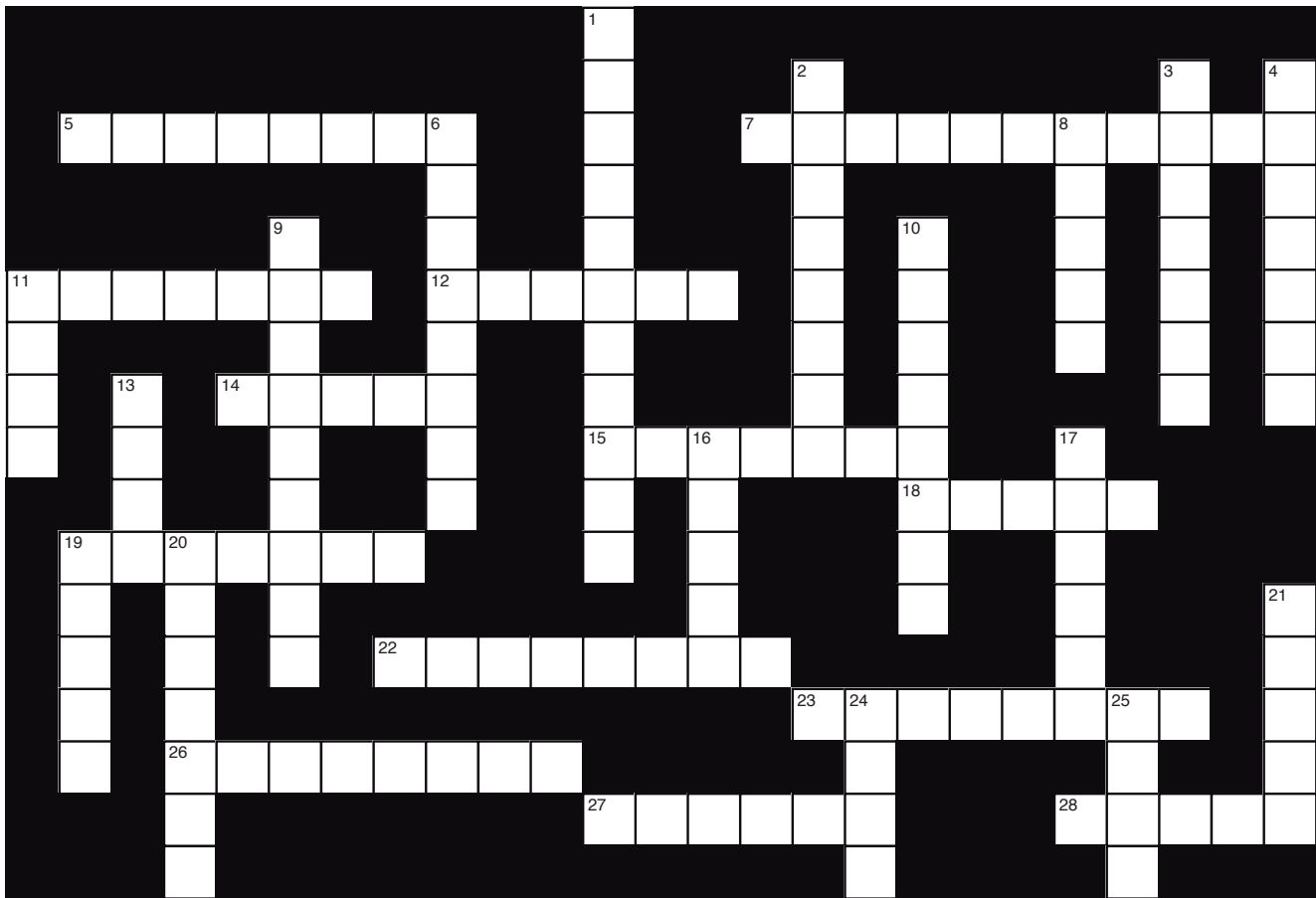
day Adventist pastor. He has spoken internationally and makes his home in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

Our Firm Foundation





# Christian Crossword



## ACROSS

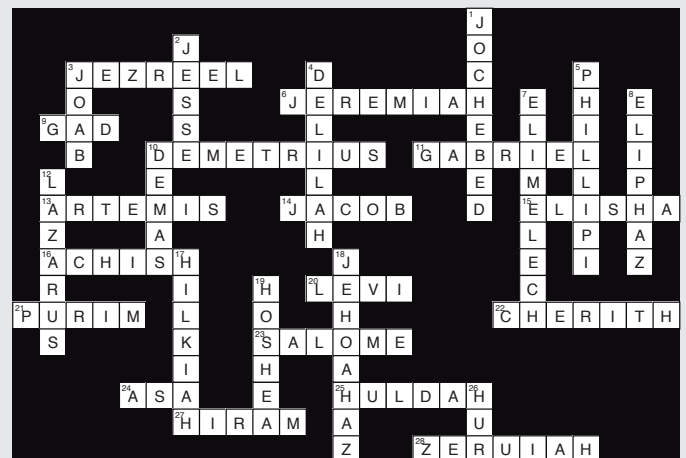
5. The one elected to replace Judas
7. King of Assyria from 704-681 BC
11. High priest in Jerusalem and chairman of the council at Paul's trial
12. He authorized governor of Tattenai to permit the Jews to rebuild the temple
14. Husband of Joanna, one of the women providers of Jesus and the twelve
15. Another name for Thomas of the New Testament
18. The wife of Judah's elder sons
19. The greatest of the archangels
22. Chief eunuch of King Nebuchadnezzar
23. The one who purchased Joseph in Egypt
26. An evangelist trained by Paul in Ephesus
27. Fifth Roman procurator of Judea
28. Jacob's father-in-law

## DOWN

1. 18th century BC king of Salem
2. First king of Israel after the kingdom split
3. The great goddess of the Ephesians
4. Wife of Nabal and later of King David
6. Babylonian name given to Hananiah
8. Brother of Abraham and Nahor
9. Personal name of Bartholomew
10. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem for a census under which ruler?
11. Father of the prophet Isaiah

13. The father of Ezekiel the prophet
16. The huntress goddess of the Romans
17. The mother of Absalom
19. Oldest daughter of King Saul and his wife Ahinoam
20. A fellow worker with Paul and others at Philippi
21. A son of Abraham by his wife Keturah
24. A son of Boaz and Ruth
25. Founded a race of giants known as Anakim

## Answers from Christian Crossword published in the March 2012 issue of Our Firm Foundation





*Jesus is Coming Again*

Jesus our Saviour is coming again,  
Not as he once came, in sorrow and pain,  
But joyful, with honor, with power, with might,  
To clothe his own children with garments of white.

Those sleeping in Jesus awake and arise.  
And God wipes away all tears from their eyes.  
As morning dispels all the shadows of night,  
Our Jesus is coming, our sun and delight.

The redeemed are rejoicing; they shout and they sing,  
Giving honor and glory to Jesus their king.  
God's dealings with us, his mysterious way,  
In the splendor of heaven shine clear as the day.

Many saints of the Lord, here despised and unknown,  
In garrets and cellars, forsaken, alone,  
With the hundred and forty-four thousand they stand,  
Having bright golden harps and green palms in their hands.

I watch for this morning, the dawn of the day  
When Jesus is coming in glorious array;  
When the good and the faithful are never to part,  
But are resting for aye on our dear Saviour's heart.  
Lord Jesus, my hope and my faith are in thee;  
Help me that in heaven thy face I may see.

--John H. Ricken



# Hope for Health



Cat's Claw is a tropical vine that grows in rainforest and jungle areas in South America and Asia. Some cultures refer to the plant as the "Sacred Herb of the Rain Forest". This vine gets its name from the small thorns at the base of the leaves, which look like a cat's claw. These thorns enable the vine to attach itself around trees climbing to heights up to 100 feet!

## Cat's Claw

### MILK THISTLE

Actually a member of the daisy family, milk thistle could be called the liver's best friend! Used for over 2,000 years as an herbal remedy for a variety of ailments, particularly liver, kidney, and gall bladder problems, it not only protects the liver from toxins but it also plays an important rehabilitating role too, in that it actually helps repair liver cells. It ensures the liver's daily tasks are carried out and helps promote the regeneration of new healthy cells.

### BOLDO

Boldo preparations have been used extensively in popular herbal medicine. In support of its accepted use, the benefits of boldo are even listed in the official pharmacopoeia of France, Germany, Brazil, Chile, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland. In Europe, especially in Greece and Italy, boldo is used as a digestive aid to stimulate a sluggish liver, improve digestive functions and eliminate gall bladder problems.

#### Price:

120 capsules .....\$13.99

#### Adult Dosage:

• One capsule, 2 to 3 times a day with meals.

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\*Prices listed above do not include shipping and handling or sales tax



### GREAT HEALTH BENEFITS

- Acts as an antioxidant to rid the body of free radicals
- Inhibits unhealthy cell growth
- Helps maintain normal blood sugar levels
- Has anti-inflammatory properties, which makes it helpful for any condition involving inflammation
- Helps with intestinal complaints, gastrointestinal issues, respiratory health, menstrual problems and pain
- Enhances function of white blood cells and increases immune response in the body
- Has a positive regulating effect on brain neurotransmitters called 5-HT(2) receptors. These receptor sites are targets for drugs used in treating a variety of conditions, including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, chronic pain conditions and obesity.

**INFLAMMATION-** Another significant area of study has focused on Cat's Claw's anti-inflammatory properties. While plant sterols and antioxidant chemicals found in Cat's Claw account for some of these properties, new and novel plant chemicals called quinovic acid glycosides were documented to be the most potent antiinflammatory constituents of the plant. This study and subsequent ones indicated that Cat's Claw (and, especially, its glycosides) could inhibit inflammation from 46% up to 89% in various tests. The results of these studies validated its long history of indigenous use for joint pain, as well as for other types of inflammatory stomach and bowel disorders.

**IMMUNE SUPPORT-** Contemporary herbalists consider Cat's Claw to be a natural immunostimulant, enhancing the function of white blood cells. A group of alkaloids found in Cat's Claw have been documented with immune-boosting properties, with the strongest constituent being Isopteropodin (Isomer A), which increases the immune response in the body and acts as an antioxidant to eliminate free radicals. In fact, Cat's Claw has been used in Peru and Europe since the early 1990s as an adjunct or supplemental treatment for health problems that target the immune system. Some advocates of Cat's Claw suggest that the immuno-therapeutic actions of this herb are even superior to those of Pau d'Arco, Echinacea, Goldenseal and Astragalus!

**HEART HEALTH-** The alkaloids (rhynchophylline, hirsutine and mitraphylline) found in Cat's Claw have vasodilating properties that may have heart and cardio-protective effects by promoting healthy blood pressure and cholesterol levels, improving circulation, and contributing to a healthy heart rate.

**GASTROINTESTINAL HEALTH-** Many health practitioners have reported successes using the herb for chronic bowel problems. After using Cat's Claw in working with approximately 150 patients between 1988 and 1992, Dr. Brent Davis reports that "Uncaria tomentosa (Cat's Claw) has the ability to break through severe intestinal derangements that no other available products can touch." He refers to the herb as "the opener of the way" because of its remarkable ability to cleanse the entire intestinal tract and help patients suffering from many different stomach and bowel problems. In addition, by cleansing the intestinal walls, Cat's Claw enables the body to better absorb nutrients, thus helping to correct nutritional imbalances created by digestive blockages.

\*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.

*Combining nature, faith, and love to bring healing to the world.*

## Excitotoxins Part 8: Cover-up: Unethical Associations



Dr. Olson comes from a long line of health professionals including MDs, naturopaths, and osteopaths. Having always wanted to help people, especially in the area of health, she was a missionary to Belize and Korea. A national speaker, an RN for years, a certified herbologist, and a naturopathic doctor, Dr. Olson is utilizing this experience and wealth of knowledge for the benefit of people all over the world.

For the last few months we've been warning you about the dangers of MSG, aspartame, and other excitotoxins and how you should avoid them like the plague. But, you say, how can they really be *that* bad? If they were, we would know. Everyone agrees that cigarettes are bad for you, but even though it seems like we've known this for a long time, it was successfully hidden from the public for years. Tobacco has been used commercially for at least 200 years, yet only within the last 50 years (particularly the last 30) have people actually heard about the health risks of tobacco. In fact, the pages of The New England Journal of Medicine and The Journal of the American Medical Association were home to *many* tobacco advertisements from the 1930s through the early 1950s, with doctors recommending cigarettes to patients as a cure for many ails.



So if a product that has been promoted and touted as safe for over 200 years is just now being recognized as dangerous in the last 30 years, how long do you think it will be before MSG (commercially used for about 100 years) and aspartame (commercially used for about 40 years) will have caused so much damage that the companies will finally do what the tobacco industry did and admit they are selling poison?

But still, how are they able to hide it so well?

### The International Glutamate Technical Committee

In 1968, faced with allegations that MSG had toxic potential, Ajinomoto U.S.A., Inc. decided to use an old-

fashioned "Red Herring" technique. They began *recruiting* scientists and others to **defend** the safety of its product (not to *make sure it was safe*, but to *defend* it), and they unleashed a massive public relations campaign to get the focus off the dangers of their product. The following year, the IGTC, or The International Glutamate Technical Committee, was organized to represent the interests of the glutamate industry. The IGTC was founded as an association of member companies engaged in the manufacture, sale, and commercial use of glutamates. (1)

So, in short, all the companies who **benefited** from the manufacture, sale, or use of glutamates got together to **prove that these products were safe**. Can we say "**agenda**"? But they couldn't just come out and say it **themselves**. Obviously the public would know **they** were just saying it was safe since they stood to profit from increased sales! So they got sneaky. They created a "non-profit" (wink, wink) organization that would say it was safe for them! Everyone trusts a non-profit, right? When you think of a non-profit, you think that company will not stand to gain by telling you a product is safe, which makes you that much more willing to trust them! In fact, if you look at information about the IGTC today, it will read like this:

"The International Glutamate Technical Committee (IGTC) is a worldwide **research** organization composed of physicians and scientists **interested in research** on the physiology, biochemistry and toxicology of glutamic acid and its salts - especially as these products are used in food." (2)

### They're just looking out for your best interest

Sounds good, right? Sounds like these are just some interested doctors and scientists looking out for the best interest of the public. The only problem is, Ajinomoto was **funding** this non-profit organization, and **hand-picked** all the members themselves! Now, what are the odds that this Ajinomoto-funded organization is going to report anything that would put their funder's ingredients in a questionable light? Can you say "**conflict of interest**"?!

I think Natural News writer Mike Adams said it best when he said: "For the Ajinomoto Company to fund a review by paying money to an industry-friendly consulting group [IGTC] that coincidentally happens to find



aspartame/MSG to be perfectly safe, strains credibility to such a degree that only a fool would put any weight in this announcement. It's like the R. J. Reynolds Company announcing nicotine is not addictive or Coca-Cola declaring that high fructose corn syrup does not promote obesity." (3)



### The studies just might be a little 'compromised'

Just think about it. If Ajinomoto is **paying** to have studies done on a product that **they** make and sell, chances are, the studies are going to be leaning "pro-product" before the study even begins. Believe it or not, there are actually ways to manipulate studies without "technically" lying or cheating so that you can get the result you want. Some **common** practices of misconstruing study outcomes include:

1. Failure to report information that contradicts results you're looking for.
2. Changing the initial desired outcome of the study based on what actually happens.
3. Disqualifying test subjects whose outcome contradicts the one you're looking for.
4. Throwing out studies that do not give you the desired outcome – and never reporting them.
5. Introducing another toxin in the placebo so the placebo group will have negative effects as well.

Don't believe it? A great example is the recent study published in "Food and Chemical Toxicology" entitled "Monosodium L-Glutamate: A Double-Blind Study and Review" by L. Tarasoff and M.F. Kelly. This study is a typical example of how bad research can get when it is funded by the "non-profit" International Glutamate Technical Committee.

### The published study summary is as follows:

*"71 healthy subjects were treated with placebos and MSG doses of 1.5, 3.0 and 3.15 g/person... before a standardized*

*breakfast over 5 days. The study used a **rigorous** randomized double-blind crossover design that controlled for subjects who had MSG after-tastes. Capsules and specially formulated drinks were used as vehicles for placebo and MSG treatments. Subjects **mostly had no responses** to placebo (86%) and MSG (85%) treatments. Sensations, previously attributed to MSG, did not occur at a significantly higher rate than did those elicited by placebo treatment... The present study led to the conclusion that 'Chinese Restaurant Syndrome' is an **anecdote** applied to a variety of postprandial illnesses; rigorous and realistic scientific evidence linking the syndrome to MSG **could not be found.**" (4)*

*"From reading the summary and the countless press releases that followed its publication, the average person might conclude that MSG is really not the cause of the acute reactions that some people were experiencing. However, a look at the way the experiment was designed reveals that the **poor experimental design virtually guaranteed this result.**" (5)*

### Some of the more glaring errors in the design of the experiment are as follows:

1. **Aspartame was used in the placebo.** Aspartame contains 40% aspartate, an excitotoxin which has been shown to act in a similar fashion to glutamate and **produce similar acute reactions.** This has been pointed out in the past (since 1978), yet the researchers continue to repeat this same mistake. The IGTC **supplied** the placebo and non-placebo mixtures. This major error would tend to make the experimental and control (placebo) groups have very similar reactions.
2. **All persons with pre-existing conditions including allergies, asthma, and aspirin sensitivity were excluded from the experiment.** It has been shown that persons with allergies and especially asthma tend to have acute reactions to excess MSG. The researchers decided to limit the population to **persons who most likely would not have acute reactions.** This major error would tend to significantly reduce the number of acute reactions.
3. **The patient interviews occurred two hours after consuming the MSG or placebo.** It has been shown through previous research that MSG reactions can be delayed for as much as 72 hours. Two hours is not nearly enough time to measure adverse reactions. In addition, the meal appeared to be high in fat, which would delay gastric emptying. If the fact that persons with allergies and asthma were excluded didn't reduce the number of reactions enough, this would tend to reduce the acute reactions **even further.**

4. The meal given to both groups included \*flavored\* milk. Why include *flavored* milk??? Such a product very often contains some form of glutamate (if not more aspartate).
5. **Persons who experienced an aftertaste (13 people, 11 of whom took MSG, two took placebo) were excluded from the results.** However, it is certainly possible that persons who have more acute reactions from MSG also tend to experience an aftertaste. The researchers' excuse for eliminating this group of people did not make sense.
7. **The researchers were very careful not to suggest "sensations" to the subjects.** They simply asked if any "sensations" were experienced. Since the subjects did not know that they were testing for adverse reactions to MSG, they may have felt some sensations (e.g., headache), but simply ignored it and not mentioned it to the researchers.

This study was bad almost to the point of being fraudulent. It is hard to understand how this study could have passed peer review -- unless one takes into account the fact that the **editor** of "Food and Chemical Toxicology," Dr. Joseph F. Borzelleca and his associate **have received grants from the International Glutamate Technical Committee.**" (6)



### Bad Science or Bought Science?

Don't believe this happens all the time? I assure you, it does.

From Bloomberg News, November 11, 2009 comes the article entitled "Data From Studies of Pfizer Neurontin Drug May Have Been Skewed". In it, the author states: "Researchers say trials of Pfizer Inc.'s Neurontin epilepsy treatment for uses that were not yet

approved may have been **skewed to emphasize favorable results**... Comparisons of **internal company documents** with **published data** from 12 clinical trials found **inconsistencies** between data that made it into the medical journals and findings from the original trials, according to a report in tomorrow's New England Journal of Medicine.

### It's positive... no, it's negative... no wait, it's positive

Discrepancies included reports of positive results from trials that were initially found to be negative, and primary study goals reported as secondary study goals. Of 21 primary study objectives of off-label uses of Neurontin described in original documents, **six weren't included in published reports and four were reported as secondary goals**, according to tomorrow's study in the journal. For eight of the twelve published trials, **the definition of the primary study goal differed between the original and published documents.** Seven of the nine trials published as full-length research articles reported statistically significant results for the study's main goal, and **in more than half of those, the outcome differed between the published account and the original documents, the study showed."** (7, 8)

In fact, in the actual NEJM article, researchers wrote: "We are concerned that the reporting practices observed in our analysis **do not meet the ethical standards for clinical research or maintain the integrity of scientific knowledge.** Fair and honest treatment of patients enrolled in clinical trials of any kind requires full, open, and unbiased reporting. Journal publication, a formalized platform for scientific discourse and dissemination of knowledge, should not be used as a marketing tool for off-label drug use.

Reporting biases such as those we describe here increase the likelihood that interventions will appear to be effective when they are not." (9-13)

### Pfizer didn't do it – they said so themselves

So they are saying that Pfizer has purposely misled the public regarding safety and effectiveness of a new drug, and Pfizer responds to this simply by denying the charges. The Bloomberg News article goes on to say: "The drug maker said the new review **isn't credible** and they **didn't attempt to mislead the medical community.**" (14)

Are you kidding me?! Seriously? They have just been caught and exposed by none other than the New England Journal of Medicine itself. Yet their response is "we didn't do it". But the worst part about the whole thing? We listen to them! We believe them and then continue using their products without a question about the safety or effectiveness of that product. Think you don't? Did you know that Pfizer is the maker of Lipitor, ranked the **number one-selling drug every single year from 2003 to 2009?** Also, if you are taking: Lyrica, Celebrex, Viagra, Chantix, Caduet, Zolof, Norvasc, or Ambien, you're using a Pfizer product. (15)



## Unnecessary Medicine & Big Money

“In just the last two months, two pillars of preventive medicine fell. A major study concluded there’s **no good evidence** that statins (drugs like Lipitor and Crestor) help people with no history of heart disease. The study, by the Cochrane Collaboration, a global consortium of biomedical experts, was based on an evaluation of **14 individual trials with 34,272 patients**. Cost of statins: more than \$20 billion per year, of which **half may be unnecessary.**” (16)

According to Dr. Marcia Angell, former editor in chief of the New England Journal of Medicine: “The combined profits for **the ten drug companies** in the Fortune 500 (\$35.9 billion) were more than the profits for **all the other 490 businesses put together** (\$33.7 billion) [in 2002]. Over the past two decades the pharmaceutical industry has moved **very** far from its original high purpose of discovering and producing useful new drugs. Now primarily a **marketing machine** to sell drugs of **dubious** benefit, this industry uses its wealth and power to co-opt every institution that might stand in its way, **including the US Congress, the FDA, academic medical centers, and the medical profession itself.**” (17)

You still think medicine and science can’t be bought? When you’re talking about a nearly endless supply of money, you’d better believe they can. How much money, you say? According to the University of Alaska Fairbanks professor, Neil Davis, “Worldwide, the pharmaceutical industry is a financial giant with **\$400 billion** in sales, and the **American** consumption of prescription drugs accounts for **half** of that. It is **THE most profitable of all industries in the United States**, with profits equaling **25 percent** of sales. **Big Oil isn’t even close.**” (18)

Or what about this, from the respected Journal, ‘**Accountability in Research**’: “Journals are failing in their obligation to ensure that research is fairly represented to their readers, and must act *decisively* to retract fraudulent publications. Recent case reports have exposed how **marketing objectives usurped scientific testing** and **compromised the credibility of academic medicine**. But scant attention has been given to the role that journals play in this process, especially when evidence of research fraud fails to elicit corrective measures.

Our experience with The Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (JAACAP) illustrates the nature of the problem. The now-infamous Study 329 of paroxetine [Paxil] in **adolescent** depression was **negative for efficacy on all eight protocol-specified outcomes** and **positive for harm**, but JAACAP published

a report of this study that concluded, “paroxetine is **generally well tolerated** and **effective** for major depression in adolescents.” The journal’s editors not only failed to exercise critical judgment in accepting the article, but when shown evidence that the article misrepresented the science, **refused either to convey this information to the medical community or to retract the article.**” (19)



## Ajinomoto, IGTC and Science

Why am I using information about drug companies? First of all, Ajinomoto does **own** drug companies, but I’m not even talking about the drug companies themselves. I’m trying to illustrate how “big business” (whether it’s drugs, foods, or the chemicals that are put into the foods) can alter scientific results (or what you hear about the results). Make no mistake, **science and scientists can be bought.**

But getting back to the IGTC. According to the Encyclopedia of Associations, the International Glutamate Technical Committee, then an 8 member organization (1992):

1. **Sponsored, gathered, and disseminated research on the use and safety of monosodium glutamate;**
2. **Designed and implemented research protocols;**
3. **Provided financial assistance to researchers;**
4. **Promoted acceptance of monosodium glutamate** as a food ingredient and “glutamate” as its generic term; and
5. **Represented members’ collective interests.**

Ok, I want you to think about this for a minute. Does **any** of that sound like they are protecting the public health and safety? Does **any** of that sound like they are concerned about honest science? I think number 5 is particularly interesting. Make no mistake; those “collective interests” were to **sell monosodium glutamate**. In fact, the National Trade and Professional Associations of the United States (International Glutamate Technical Committee, 1994) stated that the IGTC was: an association of 25 individuals,



20 companies, and 3 staff, composed of physicians and/or scientists **employed by**, listen to this, **employed by producers or users of glutamic acid and its salts** or doing research on it in university laboratories. (20-21)

The **IGTC** was bad enough, but it was just the **first** company formed specifically to promote (a.k.a. mislead the public about) **MSG** and its safety. Then came **The Glutamate Association**. Stay tuned to hear more about this **Unethical Association** next month!

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# Hope for Health



Milk Thistle & Boldo is your liver's best friend! A digestive aid, this blend helps facilitate digestion, stimulate bile production, and cleanse the gallbladder, all while protecting and improving liver function.

# Milk Thistle & Boldo

## MILK THISTLE

Actually a member of the daisy family, milk thistle could be called the liver's best friend! Used for over 2,000 years as an herbal remedy for a variety of ailments, particularly liver, kidney, and gall bladder problems, it not only protects the liver from toxins but it also plays an important rehabilitating role too, in that it actually helps repair liver cells. It ensures the liver's daily tasks are carried out and helps promote the regeneration of new healthy cells.

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## WHY IS THE LIVER SO IMPORTANT?

The liver is the largest and heaviest organ in the body (not counting the skin). It's located in the upper right part of your belly under the ribs and is responsible for functions vital to life. The main functions of the liver are to process nutrients from food, make bile, remove toxins from the body and build proteins. All of the blood in the body will eventually pass through the liver to be filtered and detoxified. When this process is impeded in any way, health is compromised.

## VALUABLE FUNCTIONS OF THE LIVER:

- Stores vitamins, sugar and iron to help give your body energy.
- Controls the production and removal of cholesterol.
- Clears your blood of waste products, drugs and other poisonous substances.
- Makes clotting factors to stop excessive bleeding after cuts or injuries.
- Produces immune factors and removes bacteria from the bloodstream to combat infection.
- Releases a substance called "bile" to help digest food and absorb important nutrients.

## AMAZING LIVER FACTS:

- The liver is such an important organ that we can survive only one or two days if it shuts down. If the liver fails, your body will fail too.
- If your body was an automobile, your liver would be considered the engine. It does hundreds of vital things to make sure everything runs smoothly. In fact, it contains over 300 billion specialized cells that help with these various functions throughout the body.
- The liver is often called the body's chemical factory. Scientists have counted over 500 liver functions.
- Your liver consists of 96% water.
- Medical words pertaining to the liver often have hepato or hepatic in them. This comes from the Greek word for liver.
- Your liver can regenerate (re-build) itself. Even if only 25% of it is still healthy, your liver can regenerate itself into a full liver again!
- The human liver is spongy in texture, similar in size to a football, and in an average adult weighs 3 lbs. Its color is a mixture of brown and pink. To keep your liver functioning well, keep alcohol consumption out of your life and eat a consistently healthy diet.

\*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.



*Combining nature, faith, and love to bring healing to the world.*

# News Watch

SHARES WORTHLES  
Crash!  
assets  
Interest rates  
liquidity  
tumble  
deepens  
doubt  
FORECAST  
review



**1. ACLU—February 22, 2012 On December 31, 2011, President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), codifying indefinite military detention without charge or trial into law for the first time in American history. The NDAA’s dangerous detention provisions would authorize the president — and all future presidents — to order the military to pick up and indefinitely imprison people captured anywhere in the world, far from any battlefield.**

The breadth of the NDAA’s worldwide detention authority violates the Constitution and international law because it is not limited to people captured in an actual armed conflict, as required by the laws of war. Under the Bush administration, similar claims of worldwide detention authority were used to hold even a U.S. citizen captured on U.S. soil in military custody, and many in Congress assert that the NDAA should be used in the same way. The ACLU does not believe that the NDAA authorizes military detention

of American citizens or anyone else in the United States. Any president’s claim of domestic military detention authority under the NDAA would be unconstitutional and illegal. Nevertheless, there is substantial public debate around whether the NDAA could be read even to repeal the Posse Comitatus Act and authorize indefinite military detention without charge or trial within the United States.

Although President Obama issued a signing statement saying he had “serious reservations” about the NDAA’s detention provisions, the statement only applies to how his administration would use them, and would not affect how the law is interpreted by subsequent administrations. The provisions – which were negotiated by a small group of members of Congress, in secret, and without proper congressional review – are inconsistent with fundamental American values.

Both Congress and the president need to clean up the mess they have created. No one should live in fear of this or any future president misusing the NDAA’s detention authority. The NDAA’s detention provisions must be repealed.

**End Time Perspective: The above law is an attack upon the religious liberty of all peoples, and can be used to hold people without their being able to exercise many rights guaranteed under the U. S. Constitution.**

**“When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As**

the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof.” GC 635.

**2. Morning Express—March 6, 2012—Robin Meads. Tornado Timing – Recent Outbreak ‘Deadly and Unusual’**

Last week’s tornado outbreak was deadly and unusual in its size and intensity for the month of March. Over a hundred tornadoes were reported on Friday alone! Confirmed tornadoes on March 2nd were at 43 at the time I’m writing this, but compare that to the approximate average of number of March tornadoes that occur for the *entire month* - around 50.

**End Time Perspective: “While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power.” 1T 302.**



Photo: Dustie / Shutterstock.com



# *If I Can Live*

“Whatsoever things are true,  
whatssoever things are honest,  
whatssoever things are just,  
whatssoever things are pure;  
whatssoever things are lovely,  
whatssoever things are of good  
report; if there be any virtue,  
and if there be any praise,  
think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

If I can live  
To make some pale face brighter, and  
To give  
A second luster to some tear-dimmed eye,  
Or e'en impart  
One throb of comfort to an aching heart,  
Or cheer some wayworn soul in passing by;

If I can lend  
A strong hand to the fallen, or defend  
The right against a single envious strain,  
My life, though bare,  
Perhaps of much that seemeth dear and fair  
To us on earth would not have been in vain.

The purest joy,  
Most near to heaven, far from earth's alloy,  
Is bidding clouds give way to sun and shine;  
And 'twill be well  
If on that day of days the angels tell  
Of me: "She did her best for one of thine."

--Helen Hunt Jackson



# Ellen White's *Vision*

## *A Firm Platform*

I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps-- the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received." I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. I saw individuals approach the platform and examine the foundation. Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. Others commenced to find fault with the foundation. They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier. Some stepped off the platform to examine it and declared it to be laid wrong. But I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform and exhorted those who had stepped off to cease their complaints; for God was the Master Builder, and they were fighting against Him. They recounted the wonderful work of God, which had led them to the firm platform, and in union raised their eyes to heaven and with a loud voice glorified God. This affected some of those who had complained and left the platform, and they with humble look again stepped upon it.

*Those who rejected the message of John were led by Satan to go farther and reject Christ*

I was pointed back to the proclamation of the first advent of Christ. John was sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way of Jesus. Those who rejected the testimony of John were not benefited by the teachings of Jesus. Their opposition to the message that foretold His coming placed them where they could not readily receive the strongest evidence that He was the Messiah.

Satan led on those who rejected the message of John to go still farther, to reject and crucify Christ. In doing this they placed themselves where they could not receive the blessing on the day of Pentecost, which would have taught them the way into the heavenly sanctuary. The rending of the veil of the temple showed that the Jewish sacrifices and ordinances would no longer be received. The great Sacrifice had been offered and had been accepted, and the Holy Spirit which descended on the day of Pentecost carried the minds of the disciples from the earthly sanctuary to the heavenly, where Jesus had entered by His own blood, to shed upon His disciples the benefits of His atonement. But the Jews were left in total darkness. They lost all the light which they might have had upon the plan of salvation, and still trusted in their useless sacrifices and offerings. The heavenly sanctuary had taken the place of the earthly, yet they had no knowledge of the change. Therefore they could not be benefited by the mediation of Christ in the holy place.

*The Jews hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches*

Many look with horror at the course of the Jews in rejecting and crucifying Christ; and as they read the history of His shameful abuse, they think they love Him, and would not have denied Him as did Peter, or crucified Him as did the Jews. But God, who reads the hearts of all, has brought to the test that love for Jesus which they professed to feel. All heaven watched with the deepest interest the reception of the first angel's message. But many who professed to love Jesus, and who shed tears as they read the story of the cross, derided the good news of His coming. Instead of receiving the message with gladness, they declared it to be a delusion. They hated those who loved His appearing and shut them out of the churches. Those who rejected the first message could not be benefited by the second; neither were they benefited by the midnight cry, which was to prepare them to enter with Jesus by faith into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. And by rejecting the two former



messages, they have so darkened their understanding that they can see no light in the third angel's message, which shows the way into the most holy place.

*Nominal churches consider that God is working marvelously for them, when it is the work of another spirit*

I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, so the nominal churches had crucified these messages, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and they cannot be benefited by the intercession of Jesus there. Like the Jews, who offered their useless sacrifices, they offer up their useless prayers to the apartment which Jesus has left; and Satan, pleased with the deception, assumes a religious character, and leads the minds of these professed Christians to himself, working with his power, his signs and lying wonders, to fasten them in his snare. Some he deceives in one way, and some in another. He has different delusions prepared to affect different minds. Some look with horror upon one deception, while they readily receive another. Satan deceives some with Spiritualism. He also comes as an angel of light and spreads his influence over the land by means of false reformatations. The churches are elated, and consider that God is working marvelously for them, when it is the work of another spirit. The excitement will die away and leave the world and the church in a worse condition than before.

*All who are honest will leave the fallen churches*

I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and before the loud cry of the third angel is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches. But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.

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*"Those who are  
connected with  
Christ have happiness  
at their command."*

*IHP 198*



*"Thou hast put  
gladness in my  
heart."*

*Psalms 4:7*



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