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our firm **FOUNDATION**

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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.

In the January issue of Our Firm Foundation I included an article in regard to those who keep the feast days. I included Ellen White quotes, and I mentioned an excellent book by Elder Ron du Prez, but the title of that book was not given correctly. It should have been Feast Day Keeping and the Faithful.

I sent a copy of that magazine to Elder du Prez, and he responded with a telephone call. In discussing the feast days with him, he indicated that he had never yet met any one who, once involved in the feast days, had ever given them up.

Since that time I have been studying the Book of Isaiah and have noticed several interesting items in that Book. Isaiah was called as a prophet to Judah a few years before Israel was forever lost as a nation. In 722 BC, Israel was conquered by Assyria, and the people were dispersed throughout the Assyrian empire. But prior to that dispersion, Isaiah was called as a prophet to Judah. He clearly saw the path that Israel, on the North, had been taking—they had not one faithful king. They were into idolatry and other activities in contradiction to what God required. Prophet after prophet had been sent to them, but to no avail.

Although Judah had several good kings, Judah was beginning to go down a similar path as Israel, and therefore Isaiah was called to attempt to turn Judah back to God.

To be a prophet in that time could be dangerous business; those people, as people today, did not like to be corrected. God strengthened

Isaiah through giving him a view of the heavenly throne room and then touching his lips with a coal from off the altar.

Isaiah has been given many titles—king of the prophets, the St. Paul of the Old Testament, the St. John of the Old Testament, the Gospel Prophet, and others. His book contains 66 chapters as the Bible contains 66 Books. The first 39 chapters speak of judgment, and the last 27 speak of encouragement and prophecies of the Messiah to come.

But one of the areas that God spoke strongly of through Isaiah

was in regard to the ceremonies. The priests were pushing ceremonial sin offerings because

In this ordinance (the communion service), Christ discharged his disciples from the cares and burdens of the ancient Jewish obligations in rites and ceremonies.

they became enriched by them. The prophets came in conflict with the priests because they spoke of the need of an internal change while the priests encouraged offerings and sacrifices and the ceremonial law. But this did not result in an internal change.

In chapter one of Isaiah we read: “Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: Yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear...” (vs. 14 & 15).

In my article in January is the following quote from the Review and Herald of June 14, 1898: “In this ordinance (the communion service), Christ discharged his disciples from the cares and burdens

of the ancient Jewish obligations in rites and ceremonies. These no longer possessed any virtue; for type was meeting antitype in himself, the authority and foundation of all Jewish ordinances that pointed to him as the great and only efficacious offering for the sins of the world.... To continue these rites would be an insult to Jehovah.”

As in Isaiah’s day, the people involved choose to not listen, or seek to make some excuse saying it does not apply to them and their feast day worship.

God is looking for a change in heart among His people that will

produce a character that will fit them for heaven. People today, as in the days of old, like to carry out external forms.

In Steps to Christ we read, “The whole heart must be yielded to God, or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness. By nature we are alienated from God....God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him.” SC 43.

Please note my article “The King is not Exempt” in April, 2012, Our Firm Foundation, on the good kings that followed God to a degree, but still fell into presumption or other sins. Like David or King Uzziah or King Manasseh, we can always fall and end up suffering the consequences of our sins, even though God is always there to forgive 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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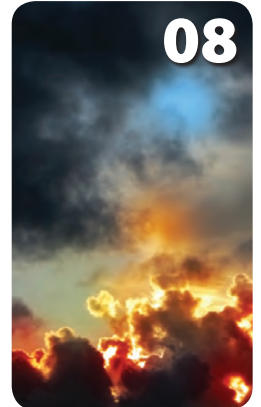
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How to Have a Perfect Marriage - The Man

By Joe Olson

I am so glad you are getting the opportunity to read this message before it becomes a phenomenon on the New York Times bestseller list. But... this probably will never make the bestseller list because the formula we will use for a perfect marriage will be the truth. One would assume that everyone would want to know the secret to a happy and successful and perfect marriage. And I stand ready to share not only the truth from God's word as to success, but am more than happy to add my own experience to the mix.

Perfection with God means perfection with one another

Hopefully, we can all agree that if we are in perfect unison with Jesus Christ, our marriages will be perfect... right? Surely, if all is right and well and perfect with our God, then all has

to be right and well and perfect with one another. That being said, and if we are in agreement with that idea or concept (perfection with God means perfection with one another), then if we do not have a perfect marriage, the problem lies with our relationship with Jesus Christ. Well, at least one of the two parties in a marriage is the problem. I can hear someone saying now... "You are absolutely right there." But, strangely enough, I seem to be hearing those words often from *both* spouses.

Look at how true love worked out for Jesus

So, let's go to the Bible for a reference to appropriate spousal behavior. Let's start with



the men... "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" Eph. 5:25. Pretty straight-forward, isn't it? The word in the Greek here is not referring to physical love, but moral or social love. This is relationship and goodness love. This is a love that cares enough to do the right thing, regardless of how it impacts your own life.

What I mean by that is the true, caring love does not always end well for you. True love is often not appreciated. Look at how it worked out for Jesus Christ. How many people really appreciate what the Lord has done for them? Your goal, as a man, is to marry someone who *will* appreciate the true love you express, the love that Christ has for His church. Does that make sense to you?

Just how long is "everlasting"?

Now, when we consider the kind of love that Christ has for the church, we note, of course, that He loves us whether or not we do the right thing. If Christ only loved us when we acted right, what chance would any of us have? Would we not all be lost for sure? Yet this is the kind of love, this is the example that men are to follow. "Love your wife like I love you," Jesus is saying to us.

"The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jer. 31:3. THIS is the kind of love that we are to express towards our wives. How long is "everlasting"? How committed is "everlasting"? How enduring is "everlasting"? This is the kind of love that we are supposed to have. Nothing shuts it off. Nothing causes

it to flag or fail. And here is the killer for most of us men - this love does not depend upon anything in return! "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that

he loved us..."1 John 4:10.

Well,, maybe this message *won't* be a best seller.

Men are to love their wives as Christ loves the church

God commands the man to love his wife like He loved us... His church. And He says, "herein is love..." NOT that we love Him, but that He loved us. You might need to put the magazine down for a moment just now. We really need to concentrate on what God is telling us here; especially us men. The love that we are to have for our spouses is independent of their attitude or reaction to us, or our love.

I should probably say this again, because this is very, very important. We are to love regardless of whether or not they love, or act right towards us, or do anything that we ever want. Before the men flip out on me, don't kill the messenger. All I am doing is repeating what Christ said we are to do... to love our wives as He loves the church.

Jesus loved the church even though they killed Him

The church didn't like Jesus. The church treated Jesus very, very badly. Actually, the church killed Jesus. But Jesus loved the church anyway. When you think about that, maybe marriage is not the best thing for a lot of us men. I think that is why Paul wrote this... "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman." 1 Cor. 7:1.

A husband has a grave responsibility towards his wife. And it bears repeating that these responsibilities are due regardless of how the wife acts. This is so hard for most people to understand. But it is so much clearer for us when we think of how Christ loves us. We are



all about Him loving us and forgiving us and doing all He can for us, etc., etc. But when we are the giver and not the receiver, we can have a whole different attitude.

No excuse is acceptable for not loving your wife

As usual, we are more than willing, and find it so much clearer to do the right thing... when it is someone else. But we justify *our* path because we are tempted by the devil that *our* situation is different. "Oh, you just don't understand."

"MY wife doesn't love me as she should."

"MY wife won't work to help pay the bills."

"MY wife won't be intimate enough with me." "MY wife degrades me and talks mean to me." "MY wife has a very vicious tongue." She's a busy-body or a gossip. She's a lousy cook. She's gained weight. She's so different than she was when we first married. Have you ever heard these words? Have you ever thought them yourself?

Now, think of the Bible verses we have discussed, and think about how the church acts towards Jesus... Does

any one of those verses, or that behavior, excuse us from being loving to our wives? No matter how she acts or what she does or does not do, we are supposed to act just as loving to her. THIS is a Christian, and true, loving husband. Can you imagine the kind of marriages we would have if husbands acted this way? Can you imagine

how fewer men would be married if they were told that this was their obligation to start with? Men are duty bound to act this way towards their wives. Duty bound!

Christ does not give His "wife" everything she wants

We cannot keep the Sabbath and return tithe and preach and teach to everyone in our neighborhoods, and expect to be heaven-bound, if we will not follow God's instruction towards our wives. Our obedience to be loving to our wives is not contingent upon our wives being loving to us! Was Christ loving to us because we loved Him? Absolutely not! Our love is to be unconditional!

Every single young man should think very, very carefully about whom he chooses to marry. It is supposed to be life-long. Physical characteristics will pale to insignificance if all your love is poured out and you do not get her love in return.

Now, let me address for a moment another aspect of what true love is. Remember when we quoted the scripture that we are to love our wives like Christ loved the Church? Christ did not and does not give the Church whatever she asks for. Christ does not act like a weak spineless lover, allowing the Church to run all over Him. Christ makes the right choices... even if He is hated for it.

Jesus does not give in to improper desires or feelings

I should probably repeat this as well... Christ makes the right choices for Him and His "wife", even if He is hated for it. Jesus is not driven by whining or nagging or complaining, because He actually *loves* His bride. He does not give in to improper desires or feelings, just because His wife insists upon it. He does the right though the heavens fall. You see, many men give their wives what they want, not because it is good for their wives, or their family situation, but because they don't want to hear about it any more. Many men love themselves more than they love their wives. They don't give in

because they love you... they give in because they love not hearing any more griping. That's not love... it's selfishness. And we are not to be selfish. Christ is not selfish. Christ loves by leading appropriately. Christ is the head of the Church. The man is supposed to be the head of the wife. "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Eph. 5:23. We are the head! We are the ones who are supposed to lead and direct... but lead and direct where? To heaven of course.

How did Christ lead His bride when He was here on earth?

Most men that I know who beat their chests about being the head of the wife, do not beat their chests about being the *spiritual* head. The man is the spiritual leader... the priest of the household. I have often said to the man that if you want to be the head... then BE the head. And you *be* the head just exactly like Christ is the head of the Church. How did Christ lead and direct His bride while here on earth? He prayed continually... sometimes all night. Why? Because His bride often misunderstood Him and rarely appreciated what He was doing for her. Because He was man's example and He did nothing of Himself. He depended upon His Father for all He needed to be the leader and example and the good "husband" of His bride.

Spiritual guides must have spiritual maps to lead their families home

We are the leaders of our wives and families. How can we possibly do it aright if we do not get continual guidance and direction from God? And not just prayer, but Bible study and reading and memorizing. We need the word of God totally immersed in our being. We are sure to go the wrong way and do the wrong thing and not be the husbands and

leaders we are meant to be if we do not do this. The Bible is our map to lead our families and ourselves home. How many of us men are able to look at a map once or twice a week to know where to drive to get to a distant location? How can we have the wisdom and intelligence to lead without constant, fresh applications of spiritual insight and direction that come only from prayer and Bible study?



We are priests... spiritual guides! We have to be up early to prepare, we have to be first to be ready for church, we have to be foremost in desiring to be at the services connected to God. If a man wants to be a husband, if he wants to be married, then he must follow the counsels... ALL the counsels. You must be the light to your family. And the only way you can be the light is to ignite yourself on fire by communion with God.

Still want to be a husband?

Still want to be a leader? Still want to be the head? Being the man means more than any of us realize. Be very careful when you assume the title, or presume to assume the title of the "man" or "husband". "... For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required..." Luke 12:48. God will ask of each of us husbands "... where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?"



Jer. 13:20. We will stand before God and answer for our charges. When we marry, we become responsible. We are responsible

for our wives, for our children, for their physical and mental and spiritual well-being. THIS is what it means to be a proper husband and father. And if the man will be this leader, there is a much better chance that he will bring his family home... to our *real* home.

This is what God wants... no... this is what God *demand*s of the husband. It is the most important responsibility of a married man, if he decides to take it upon himself. And we are

told exactly how he is to act and to lead and to love.

What to look for in a potential mate

For you women who hear or read this message, *this* is what you are supposed to be looking for in a man and in a marriage. It is not only the most important and serious and responsible duty of a man and father, but it *can* be a glorious and fulfilling and enjoyable duty as well.

And for the men who listen to or read this message, your goal is not only to *be* these things, but to look for a woman who would appreciate these things. You need to find out if the woman you plan to marry wants you to be the head.

Oh, let me say that again... You need to find out if the woman you plan to marry **wants** you to be the head. Oh... not just the head when it comes to an income, but to be "her" head.

Are you both in agreement with the Word?

Of course the goal is to be in unison and to discuss and pray over matters, but at the end of the day, the responsibility devolves upon your shoulders. Does the woman you decide to marry want that and will she accept that? Remember... LIFE long! As you open the Word of God, and prayerfully study together what a

true Christian family is all about... are you both in agreement with what the Word says? What if, on a particular subject or decision, she feels or wants to do this... whatever *this* might be... and you determine, by your study and prayer, that it should be something else, or nothing at all; will your wife-to-be acquiesce and let you be the head? You see, many women are all about the man being the head and the spiritual leader and the decision-maker... until they DON'T want him to be that man. Be very, very careful who you pick!!!



Which of you will acquiesce and give in?

As the man, do you plan to continue to do what you understand is right by your wife and family, or will YOU be the one to acquiesce and give in? And please, understand that we are referring to following the scripture in your decision-making duties. You don't go off half-cocked on some ridiculous idea that has no support from the word of God. I know a man who came home and told his wife that he decided he was going to be like Abraham and take another wife... or... at least another lover. No woman is ever responsible to follow her husband's leading if that leading is away from the Bible and its truths.

The husband is to be there for the wife's needs

Now another aspect of the husband's duty of love towards his wife... "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence..." 1 Cor. 7:3. Strong's concordance renders this Greek word, in addition to "benevolence", as "conjugal duty". Many Bible translations render this verse as, "intimacy".

God holds husbands accountable for giving to their wives their desires for intimacy. Paul is very explicit here

- "... the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife." 1 Cor. 7:4.

The wife is the one who has the power over her husband's body, since we are talking about the husbands here. He is to be there for her needs. And there is much more to intimacy than the bed. If you want to be the man, give the woman what *she* wants, not just what *you* want. Sometimes the woman just wants someone to listen. Maybe just the warmth and strength of your embrace. Possibly just the holding of hands. The Bible says that

the man is to give her what SHE wants in that department. And again, there is no indication that she must *earn* these things... it is due her. If you marry her, then it is her due, no matter how she acts, what she looks like or how obedient she is to you. It is your God-given responsibility to nurture and comfort and please your wife... of course, as long as what she asks for is Biblical, or not against the Bible. These are the duties and responsibilities of a husband.



Agreeing with Biblical rules is imperative

If a man looks at these injunctions and commands and feels he is willing, and desires to live up to them, then let that man consider marriage. And if you look to marry, then make absolutely sure you find a woman who agrees with these Biblical rules for the man. This is imperative! Many a woman *says* she wants a man to follow the Bible and the Bible alone. Make sure, or as sure as you can. If there is anything you want to get right... it is in *this* department. The man's

responsibilities are like following the commandments; we are to do ALL of the man's jobs, not just choosing and picking the duties we want, like a buffet. For the man, I will say that the beauty of the body of a woman will fade quickly if she rebels against the godly model of a man and husband.

And one more thing before I close this thought... If you want a woman who values the righteousness and holiness of the man's responsibilities, then by all means, you must act that way when you look for a spouse. If you act one way when dating, and then try to turn the tables once you are married, you will make the marriage 100 times harder and misery often ensues.

A marriage based on deception is doomed

Be open and honest with your potential mate and be on your knees as often as possible. Ask the Holy Spirit to not only guide you to the right woman, but to open your own eyes as to your need to step up into the position of a man of God. A marriage based on deception from the start is doomed to pain and suffering.

As you consider these verses and ask for the Spirit's guidance, see if you, too, do not agree that God's plan for a man and a husband is based on the eternal principles of love. If you will follow these principles, your part of the marriage will be the best it can be. May God give us men the wisdom and resolve and power to be all He has asked us to be.



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

THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE

By Mrs. E. G. White

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Today many cry “Away with the law of God!”

Every Christian must take a part in the warfare against sin. The enemies of God would crush his law. They hate it because it reproves their sins. A profligate man once said that he wished all evidences of the truth to be destroyed; for they were so convincing that they could not be controverted. So today many cry, “Away with the law of God!” for the same reason that the Jews, in condemning Jesus, cried, “Away with this man!” The word of God rebukes iniquity, and his law condemns the lawbreaker. “Sin is the transgression of the law,” John declares. The law is the sin-detector, and therefore the very mention of the commandments of God stirs up the evil attributes of him who is wilfully sinning against God.

A single mention of God’s law is a sting to the conscience of such men

A single sentence of Holy Writ, which expresses the binding claims and the immutability of the law of God, drives them beside themselves with rage. The words, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;” “Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments;” “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law,” cause them to be stirred to madness. They make no such prayer, but close the eyes of their understanding, lest they shall see, and be convinced and converted.

Our work was to preach the truth

During our recent camp-meeting at Adelaide, two men took their stand on the street just outside the entrance to the camp-ground, and preached against the truth. They were men who had before fought like tigers against the truth, and had exulted in their supposed victory; and now the evidence for the truth was so strong that they wished

to storm it down. They interrupted the meetings, and made a tirade against the truth. The people were indignant at these interruptions; they wished to hear what was said in the tent; and finally the police took the matter in hand, and there were no more outbreaks. But though these disorderly elements were at work, we knew that the Lord had a work to be done, and we went right on, making no reference to the persistent opposition. Our work was to preach the truth.

God is our refuge and strength

From hour to hour those who work to promulgate the truth must depend on the blessing which



comes from God, and from God only. And just in proportion as we have faith and trust in God, we shall receive blessings in rich abundance. The blessing of the Holy Spirit will be on the truth, which is proclaimed in the sight of the heavenly universe, and heaven’s light will shine forth to elevate and ennoble.

Many things were said against Mrs. White during the Adelaide meeting. Soon after my work there commenced, an article appeared in one of the papers, representing me as among the greatest fanatics. But these things disturbed me not. God is our refuge and strength. He teaches us where we may hide from the strife of tongues; if we will let him, he will lead us into his pavilion. Our lives, hid with Christ in God, will be refreshed and strengthened.

Without Christ we can do nothing

Those who hate the law of Jehovah reveal that they have carnal minds, which are not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. This is not for want of proof, but because of the stubborn resistance of their unbelieving hearts,—not because of ignorance, but because they have set their feet in the path of transgression. It is not evidence that they need; for they have had evidence piled upon evidence, and it has only rendered them more desperate, abusive, and cruel in their denunciations. They are determined not to turn their feet out of the path of sin into the path of holiness; they will not run in the way of God’s commandments. They have cast the Lord’s instruction behind their backs, and they manifest the attributes of the destroyer. This is the root and groundwork of all the terrible hatred against the law of Jehovah. We have this hatred to meet, but if we arm ourselves against our assailants with, “It is written,” we are in no peril. It was thus that Christ met the foe, and he says, “Without me ye can do nothing.” We

must have the mind which was in Jesus. Read what composes the Christian's armor. Take this armor, and put it on, trusting in God to give you the victory.

There is no enmity between fallen angels and fallen men

When the Lord Jesus visited our earth, he brought with him renovating energy. He put enmity between the seed of the woman and the serpent. But there is no enmity between fallen angels and fallen men. Both, through apostasy, are evil; and wherever there is evil, with no disposition to repent, it will always league with Satan against God. Fallen men and fallen angels unite in a desperate struggle to destroy God's great standard of righteousness. There was a bond of sympathy among the angels that Satan succeeded in drawing into rebellion, and he made them his allies in the effort to dethrone God and to abolish his law. Satan's work in our world today is to destroy the moral image of God in man, by making void the divine law; and our enemies are inspired by his spirit. By casting aside God's great standard of character, he can deprave human nature, and win men and women to his standard; for, "Where no law is, there is no transgression." With what triumph, then, he watches the professedly Christian world, as they earnestly do the very work he is doing.



As Adam and Eve ate of the tree of life they acknowledged their dependence upon God

As God's servants strive to fight against the enemy of God, Christ must be to each one of them a personal Saviour. Each one must experience his pardoning grace. The tree of life is a representation of the preserving care of Christ for his children. As Adam and Eve ate of this tree, they acknowledged their dependence upon God. The tree of life possessed the power to perpetuate life, and as long as they ate of it, they could not die. The lives of the antediluvians were protracted because of the life-giving power of this tree, which was transmitted to them from Adam and Eve.

Christ is the source of our life, the source of our immortality

He is the tree of life, and to all who come to him he gives spiritual life. "Verily, verily, I say unto you," he declared, "Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God



is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. . . . I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. . . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. . . . I am

the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. . . . It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

Connect with him, that in his strength you may do his commandments

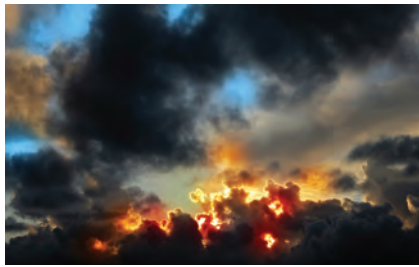
Christ also speaks of the relation existing between himself and his followers, under the symbol of the vine and its branches. "I am the true vine," he says, "and my Father is the husbandman. . . . Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

My brother, my sister, Jesus is inviting you to become a branch of the Living Vine. He is calling upon you to connect with him, that in his strength you may do his commandments. You have tried to sever yourself from him, but you have not succeeded. God loves you, and would have you sit at his feet and learn of him. His forgiveness, compassion, and long-suffering are represented to the world in Christ. If Christ had not paid the ransom for our souls, we would not have had a probation in which to develop characters of obedience to God's commandments. Then do not disappoint Christ by perversity and unbelief. Appreciate God's gift to man. Show that you understand what your probation means. It means life or death to each one of us. By our daily conduct we are deciding our eternal destiny.

Sin is the only nakedness, the only degradation, the only dishonor, that we can know

It is not toil that degrades men, or that ranks them among the outcasts of society; it is sin. Adam, pure and innocent, and fresh from the hand of God, was given his work. This work did not degrade him. While he was engaged in

his appointed work, he never thought of hiding from God, but responded as soon he heard his footsteps in the garden, and hastened to shorten the distance between him and his Maker. What precious communings he had with God! But after he sinned, he feared that every sound was the footstep of God. He did not want to see God, and when he heard him coming, he did not hasten to meet him, but hid himself. "And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" This, then, was the reason. He had broken the command of God; and the light of righteousness that had encompassed him as a garment had disappeared,



leaving him naked, and he was afraid to meet God. Sin is the only nakedness, the only degradation, the only dishonor, that we can know; it is the only thing that

will make us afraid to meet God. After transgressing God's commands, man was excluded from the tree of life; for by eating of it, he would only prolong a life of sin. But Christ has promised, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

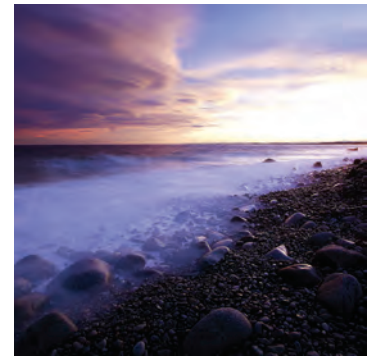
If you will cast your burden upon Christ, he will remove your sins

God sent Christ into the world to redeem men from sin. Shall we not, then, accept the society of the only begotten Son of God? The sinner is privileged to recognize Christ as his divine and adorable brother, but this relationship cannot be claimed while he continues to cherish sin. If you will cast your burden upon Christ, the sin-bearer, he will remove your sins, and irradiate your mind with the bright beams of his righteousness. Then you will no longer look upon the requirements of God as briars and thorns which pierce the flesh. When you consider thoughtfully the commandments of God, when you behold God in Jesus Christ, you will turn from the deceptions of Satan. You will acknowledge the truth which sanctifies the receiver, and a marvelous change will be wrought in you. The prejudices and jealousies which have proved your stumbling-block and spoiled your life will vanish.



Religion does not consist in observing mere forms

A religion that has been handed down to us by our teachers, and which we have received only as a part of our education, will not stand against the devices of Satan. Religion must be conviction, deep and penetrating, crucifying the flesh. As the blood circulates through the body in a vitalizing current, so Christ must be received into the heart. What will avail any soul unless Christ is received into the heart by faith? Of all who thus receive him the word declares, "To them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."



Take Jesus as your partner, asking him to help you keep God's law

The commandments of God are not the dry theories and maxims growing on the trunk of Phariseeism. Every jot and tittle of the law of God is a pledge of perfect rest and assurance in obedience. If you will obey these commandments, you will find, in every specification, a most precious promise. Take Jesus as your partner. Ask of him help to keep God's law. He will be to you a safeguard and counselor, a guide that will never mislead.

No power but truth can keep us loyal to God

There is no safe armor for the Christian but truth. This will be our safeguard in our associations with our fellow men. Our convictions must be true, our feelings must be true. We need to make sure that we are on the Lord's side in the warfare that is going forward on this earth. Truth must become our personal property, a part of our individual selves, if we would fight manfully the good fight of faith. If God's truth is cherished as an abiding principle, it will keep watch over our souls, and will send an alarm if danger threatens, summoning us to action against every enemy. But no power but truth--steadfast, pure truth--can keep us loyal to God. The simple truth of God, as it is in Jesus, brought into the practical life, will elevate and refine; but if it is not rooted in the heart, we cannot stand against evil. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ alone can make us steadfast to true principles and keep us so.



RH, January 26, 1897

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.



Be Still

Be still my soul; Jehovah loveth thee;
Fret not, nor murmur at thy weary lot;
Though dark and lone thy journey seems to be,
Be sure that thou art ne'er by him forgot.
He ever loves. Then trust him, trust him still;
Let all thy care be this—the doing of his will.

Take courage! Faint not, though the foe be strong;
Christ is thy strength; he fighteth on thy side.
Swift be thy race; remember 'tis not long;
The goal is near, the prize he will provide;
And then from earthly toil though resteth ever,
Thy home on the fair banks of life's bright river.

He comes with his reward, 'tis just at hand—
He comes in glory to his promised throne.
My soul, rejoice; ere long thy feet shall stand
Within the city of the Blessed One—
Thy perils past, thy heritage secure,
Thy tears all wiped away, thy joy forever sure.

EVERYONE WHO HAS THIS HOPE

By David Agyemang

For over two thousand years, many have looked forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ to this earth. “Jesus is coming again”, how sweet the sound! It thrills the heart of the devoted Christian, quickens the lukewarm from his slumber, and fills the unbelieving with apprehension. It’s a solace to the dying and a source of strength to the weary. In a world full of worries and woes the promise of a second coming which shall usher in eternal life with peace and joy has made, and continues to make, strong impressions on many hearts.

The multi-billion-dollar questions which remain unanswered in many minds, however, are: Have Christians believed in vain? Is the coming of Jesus Christ just wishful thinking fabricated by some miserable and disappointed Jews? Will Jesus come again?

Will a woman forget her sucking child?

Along with many other Christians, I believe that Jesus will come again and I’m happy to share my conviction with you! First, I believe Jesus will come again because of the cross. In Isaiah 49:15, God asked an interesting question, “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb?” Then He answered “yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee”. Even in this sin-marred world hardly will a woman forget her sucking child. When she goes far away from home and becomes busy with many of life’s important activities, she will remember and go back for her child! Why? Because she loves him! Yes,



a woman loves a child of her womb and so she will not forget about him. But will God forget His own? Friends, we serve a God



who loves us with love that is greater than the love of a mother! The Bible says; “greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” John 15:13. “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” Rom. 8:32. Since God loves us this much, we can trust Him to honour all His promises including the Second Advent. The cross is our guarantee.

He will come again according to His promise

Second, I believe Jesus will come again because He promised to. It was Jesus who promised; “I will come again, and

receive you unto myself” (John 14:3), and we believe that He will keep His promise. This promise which



Jesus gave to His disciples was also emphasized by angels at His ascension. “This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” Acts 1:11. This same Jesus who loved everyone; including the poor, the weak and the down trodden; this same Jesus who received all people and showed compassion on sinners; this same Jesus who died for you “Shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go”! Therefore “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised ;)” Hebrews 10:23.

The disciples were eye-witnesses of His majesty

Third, there is enough evidence in the Bible that the

first recipients of this promise, who were also eyewitnesses of the life, the death, the resurrection and the ascension of Christ, believed the promise. What was responsible for the zeal of these disciples who, immediately after the death of Christ, were afraid and hiding in rooms? What motivated them to remain committed to their faith in the face of persecution, maltreatment and even death? It was their faith in the risen Saviour and His promise! Peter testified about this during the Pentecost; "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses." Acts 2:32. Writing later on a similar theme he said; "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." Indeed the disciples were motivated by the truth of the resurrection of the Lord but more so by their faith in the Second Advent. For without the Second Advent hope what is the use of the resurrection? To them Jesus was alive and since He was alive, He will bring to pass all his promises including the Second Advent. So the zeal and the devotion of the disciples after the ascension testify to us that the Lord lives and that He will come again according to His promise. Peter assured us "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13.



Each believer has his own testimony

Fourth, beyond the testimony of the disciples, "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself." (1 John 5:10). That is, believers have individual testimonies through their experience with the Lord. They have seen His love, power and grace in action. They have had experience with Christ to the extent that, it is very difficult for them to doubt His existence or the Second Advent promise. Christians have experienced the forgiveness and life-changing power of Christ; they have experienced his protection and care; they have seen him performing miracles in their lives. To them, Jesus is alive and real like any other person.

As the Lord Himself promised; "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14:23. Yes, we serve a living God! He dwells in our hearts and we are his children. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God,



and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3:2, 3. Having lived with Christ, having experienced His sweet companionship and amazing grace; how can we doubt his promise to come and take us unto Himself? Yes, Jesus will come again; we have this testimony in ourselves!

We can be as close to Jesus as Lazarus was

There is a story in the Bible that mimics the Bible's description of the Second Advent. I'm referring to the story of the death and resurrection of Lazarus. Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were friends to Jesus. Jesus often rested in their home. One day, Lazarus fell sick and the sickness became serious and life threatening. The sisters therefore sent a word to their friend, Jesus! Their message was: "Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick." John 11:3. That was enough for them. No need for many words of plea or praise. Jesus was their friend so they believed that He would not disappoint them. And what a friend they had! A friend with an unmatched love and power; He walked on water, opened the eyes of the blind and made the lame to walk.

The one who loved even the leprous and the disowned tax collectors was their friend! Oh, "what a friend we have in Jesus all our sins and grief to bear". The good news is that we can be as close to Jesus today



just as Lazarus was! Friends, we have a friend who never fails and has power over all things! As we wait for Him to come, we shall not be afraid or discouraged no matter what happens, for the king of the universe is our friend. He holds the entire universe in his power.

Jesus will arrive at His appointed time

Meanwhile the sisters waited for their friend to come. They waited and waited and waited but He did not appear! They trusted Him and knew that He loved them but He did not appear when they expected Him! Imagine them pacing up and down and looking up the road with anxiety every minute, expecting Jesus to appear! It is difficult to describe the anxiety and perplexity those women went through in the anticipation of the coming

of the Lord. It is not difficult to anticipate a disappointment from an unfaithful and indifferent person, but from a true and dependable friend, it is difficult. However, Jesus did not show up until Lazarus had died and was buried. The Bible says that four days after he was buried, apparently the time many had given up hope or were not expecting Jesus, he appeared!

So friends, Jesus will surely come at His own appointed time. The days may be long and the times hard. Troubles may abound with the darkness of this life appearing to veil His face, yet we shall not be afraid or be discouraged. We will continue to keep the hope burning for we know whom we have believed.

With God, there is no hurry or delay

The story continued to explain to us why Jesus delayed His coming. “Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.” John 11:5-6. Jesus had healed many people from all kinds of diseases so healing Lazarus of his sickness wouldn’t have made much news. He loved that family so he decided to do something special for them. He allowed enough time to elapse such that there was no doubt whatsoever, that Lazarus was dead. Then He went in to wake him up to the glory of God and the family! Friend, Jesus has delayed because He loves you and me. “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” 1 Cor. 2:9. Remember also that, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9.

With our God, there is nothing like delay or hurry. Neither can anything associated with Him be described as hopeless or beyond remedy. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. With Him all things are possible and work together for good to them that love Him, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28). So the Lord will come at His own appointed time and on that day we shall find that all things, including the apparent delay have worked



for our good!

We have this faith that our God lives!

We have this hope

that our Lord will come again and take us unto Himself.

“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:3. Everyone who has this hope of being like Christ, everyone who has this hope of

living eternally with Jesus, purifies himself, even as He is pure! Everyone who truly believes or has this faith that we serve a living Saviour who wants us to be like Him, would be motivated enough to allow the Holy Spirit to work in him each day.



We must strive to enter in at the strait gate

A sad truth is that among the millions who desire to be part of this blessed hope, only a few will make concerted effort on a daily basis to meet the criteria set for its realization. Many sincere individuals would be lost because they failed to meet the standard. They worked in the vineyard but they did not know the owner of the vineyard. They desired to enter the narrow gate but failed to strive to enter it. They ate

and drank in the presence of Christ but did not know Him. They taught on the streets in the name of Christ but worked iniquity. “Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.” Luke 13:23-27.

Jesus is coming! Our salvation is drawing near, so let everyone who has this hope purify himself even as the Lord is pure. Amen.



David Agyemang is an Elder at the Prince of Peace SDA Church in Mamponse, Accra, Ghana. He is a biologist by profession, living in Dansoman with his wife Augustina, and three sons, Louis, Israel and Josiah.

The Beauty of Holiness

By Worthie Harris

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
Clad by his garment in spotless array.
So shalt thou rev'ence in holy devotion
Him who is clothed in the brightness of day.

Beauty of holiness, robe of redemption,
Spun in the counsels of mercy and love,
Wove by the life of the Master and Saviour,
Brought by our faith from his dwelling above.

Thus we appear in acceptable service,
Glad that our raiment his praises may sing;
So we present with our heart's adoration,
Glory and honor to Jesus our King.

Daily this garment so pure and so comely
Graces our workshop, where'er we'er at meat.
Or, when His presence we seek in his temple,
Shrouds earthly likeness at heaven's mercy-seat.



PERFECTION IN CHRIST

By Raymond F. Cottrell

Editor's Note: This is a continuation of the series which began in February, 2012.

Inspired Counsel

Excellent counsel has come to us from the messenger of the Lord to the remnant church on the problem in regard to Christian perfection. This counsel is a priceless prescription for radiant spiritual health and a safeguard against discouragement on the one hand and fanaticism on the other.

Ellen G. White states the problem of maintaining radiant spiritual health as follows: A healthy concern for one's spiritual condition leads all "who have known the pardoning love of Christ, and who really desire to be children of God" to "realize that their character is imperfect, their life faulty"; but, confronted by this disappointing fact, some Christians of limited experience begin "to doubt whether their hearts have been renewed by the Holy

Spirit". SC 64. Sooner or latter most of these find their way through to God's own solution to this universal problem. But in the experience of some this healthy concern gives way to a morbid brooding over their spiritual condition, and to misguided efforts "to obtain by faith so called holy flesh", that is, absolute, sinless perfection, here and now. 2 SM 32.

When a Sincere Christian Makes Mistakes

First let us ask, How does God regard the sincere, repentant Christian who aspires to live above sin, but who stumbles and falls before the onslaughts of the evil one? The answer is given: "Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, nor forsaken and rejected of God." SC 64. Failure on our part "does not make" us "less dear to the heart of God". FLB 118. "While the followers of Christ have sinned, they

have not given themselves up to be controlled by the satanic agencies." Of such the Lord says, "They have imperfections of character; they may have failed in their endeavors; but they have repented, and I have forgiven them." PK 589. "When we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ...we may [still] make mistakes, but we will hate the sin that caused the sufferings of the Son of God." 1SM 360.

We must constantly seek to follow Jesus

Next we ask, When can an earnest Christian expect to be immune to the onslaughts of Satan? When will his aspirations to perfection be translated into reality? When will he obtain to absolute sinless perfection? We are told that "sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime," and that "so long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say,

I have fully attained.” AA 560 “We cannot say, ‘I am sinless’, till this vile body is changed and fashioned like unto His glorious body. But if we constantly seek to follow Jesus, the blessed hope is ours of standing before the throne of God without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; complete in Christ, robed in His righteousness and perfection.” ST March 23, 1888.

No human being on earth has holy flesh

To some who supposed it possible to reach a state of absolute, sinless perfection this side of the close of probation, the servant of the Lord once wrote: “To those who have tried so hard to obtain by faith, so-called holy flesh, I would say, You cannot obtain it. Not a soul of you has holy flesh now. No human being on the earth has holy flesh. It is an impossibility....When human beings receive holy flesh, they will not remain on the earth, but will be taken to heaven. While sin is forgiven in this life, its results are not wholly removed. It is at His coming that Christ is to ‘change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body’ Phil. 3:27.” 2SM 32, 33.

When Christ is at work in our minds to will and to do of His good pleasure, we learn to think and act from principle instead of from inclination. “The righteousness of Christ...is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct....It is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven.” DA 555, 556.

Perfection in Christ a Present Reality

Can perfection in Christ become a reality here and now? Is it possible to bridge the disparity between a



sincere aspiration to reflect the perfect character of Christ, and the chronic tendency to fall short of the mark? The messenger of

the Lord wrote: “The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven; the second is our fitness for heaven.” MYP 35. What does this mean?

Being in right relationship with God does not mean being in a state of sinless perfection

As we have seen, Christ’s righteousness abiding in a sincere Christian is the settled state of being in a right relationship to God, of taking a right attitude toward God, of being accepted by God, of being at peace with God. It is not, as some have imagined, a state of sinless perfection. A person stands justified when he has been released from the guilt and responsibility incurred by his past sins, and has been reconciled to God. He is being sanctified as he gains the victory over his inherent tendency to do wrong.

Justification is possible by virtue of Christ’s vicarious death on the cross; sanctification is possible by virtue of the

indwelling power of His perfect life. In the now obsolete sense of the word, as used in this quotation, to impute means to reckon or to credit to one’s account, as an unmerited favor, that to which he is

not entitled by right. Accordingly, we may paraphrase the statement to read: “We stand in a right relationship to God when He has released us from responsibility for our past sins by crediting Christ’s vicarious death to our account (as if we had died and thus paid the penalty for sin), and when He is imparting to us the grace and power of Christ to gain the mastery over our inherent sinful tendencies.” We are morally solvent by virtue of the fact that Christ has paid our past debts (justification), and that He is now teaching us how to keep out of debt (sanctification).

True sanctification is a lifelong process

Many err in believing that feelings of joy and strong emotion necessarily accompany, and constitute evidence of sanctification. (See SL 9). To be sure, Bible sanctification does bring with it “the peace of God, which passes all understanding” Phil. 4:7, but sanctification itself does not consist of emotions and feelings. Proof that the process of sanctification is going forward in the life is not how one feels about it, but the knowledge and calm assurance that God “has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” 2 Cor. 1:22. The Spirit Himself bears witness with

our spirit that we are children of God” Rom. 8:16. Furthermore, “there is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification. True sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long

as life shall last.” SL 10. In other words, throughout this present life, sanctification is not an attainment but an attaining, not an achievement but an achieving. In other words, it is a lifelong process.



The Bill Of Rights Of The United States

March 4, 1789

Editor's Note—The following listing of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution is for your study so that you can be more informed as God's people, and as the threat of removal of some of these rights are sought by the Congress and President of the United States—"The time has come when judgment is fallen in the streets, and equity cannot enter, and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey. But the Lord's arm is not shortened that it cannot save, and his ear is not heavy that it cannot hear. The people of the United States have been a favored people; but when they restrict religious liberty, surrender Protestantism, and give countenance to popery, the measure of their guilt will be full, and "national apostasy" will be registered in the books of heaven. The result of this apostasy will be national ruin." RH, May 2, 1893.

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free

exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment 2

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment 3

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment 4

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches

and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment 5

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment 6

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory

process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment 7

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of a trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment 8

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment 9

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment 10

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

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GINGER Ginger has been known for thousands of years to work directly on the digestive system and stomach when we are distressed and suffering from nausea and pain, restoring and maintaining a healthy digestive tract and overall stomach comfort.

CARDAMOM Another delicious kitchen spice is very much at home in the medicine cabinet. Cardamom is used to prevent indigestion, relieve flatulence and intestinal cramping, as well as aid in the discomfort of gluten intolerance. Cardamom is an old-time appetite stimulant that may even sweeten your breath!

CAYENNE Has been used for years to help with pain related to stomach aches and gas. According to a recent New England Journal of Medicine study, Italian doctors managed to reduce indigestion symptoms significantly simply by giving daily doses of red pepper.

PAPAYA Papaya contains papain, a remarkable, protein-dissolving enzyme that eases many stomach ailments and is an exceptional aid to digestion. A rich source of minerals and vitamins A, C and E, papaya also breaks down wheat gluten, which may be of great help those with gluten sensitivity.

PRICKLY ASH BARK Prickly ash bark has a long history of use for improving digestion and relieving stomach cramps. Eastern Native American tribes used prickly ash bark as a means to stimulate saliva flow and as a remedy for: upset stomach, sore throat, aching muscles, skin infections, among other things. Around the nineteenth century holistic physicians in the United States began using prickly ash bark primarily as a digestive aid and to strengthen the nervous system.

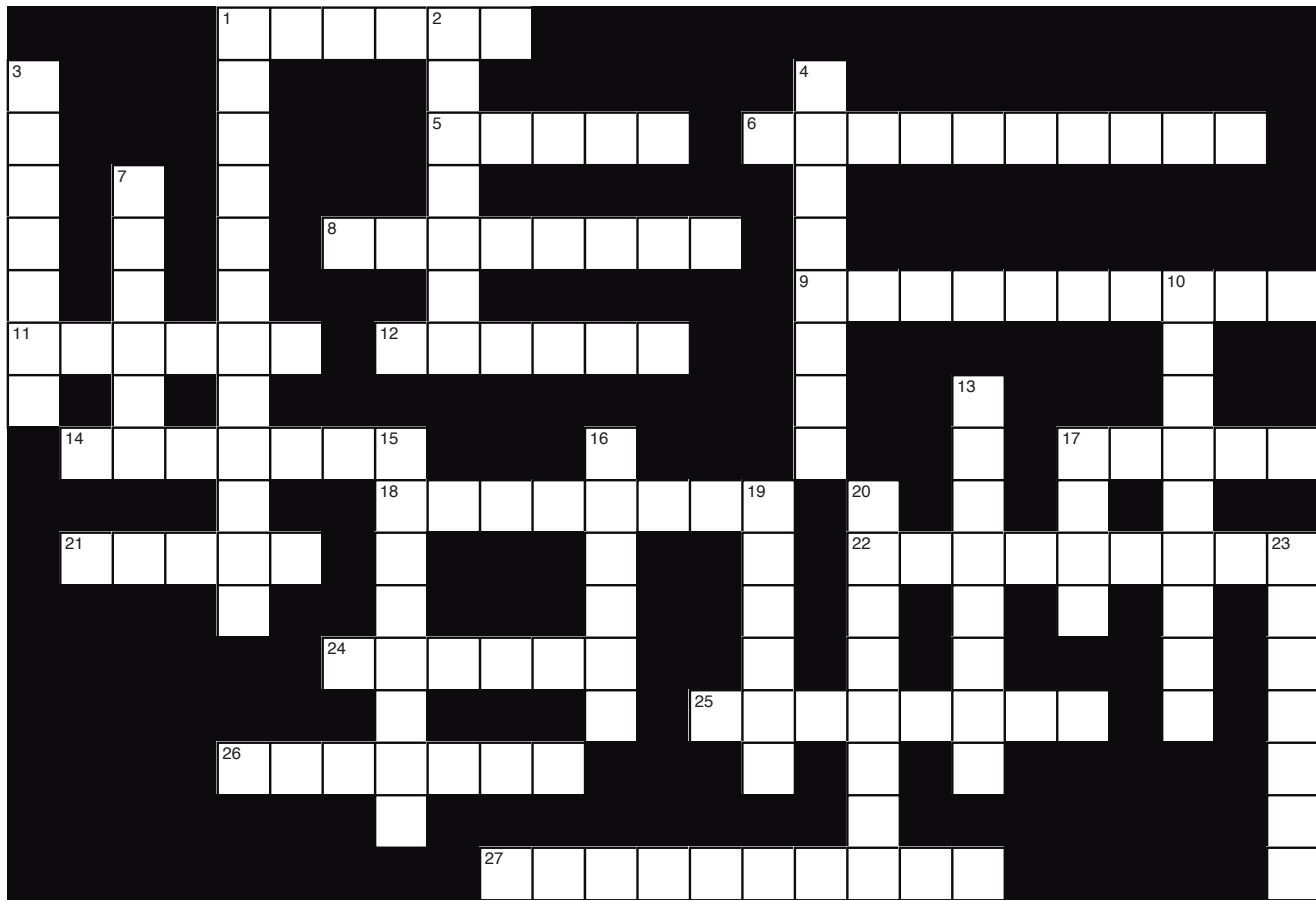
ALLSPICE Allspice settles the digestive system and relieves gas, bloating, and indigestion. It is known to increase digestive power by increasing gastrointestinal secretions. Consuming allspice with meals can result in better digestion and can reduce gas, bloating, and nausea. It can also help prevent wild, unhealthy swings in your blood sugar levels which is particularly helpful if you are trying to tame your appetite in an effort to lose weight.

*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.

Christian Crossword



ACROSS

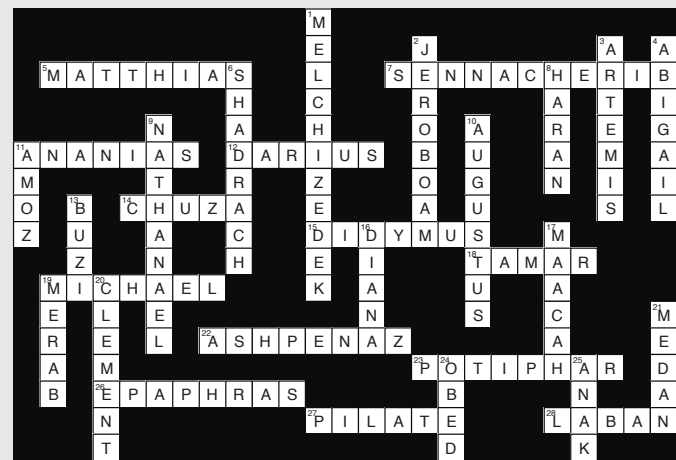
1. The Shuhite who was a friend of Job
5. Jesus was anointed by Mary at the home of ____
6. They would not receive Jesus because He was on His way to Jerusalem
8. The criminal released in lieu of Jesus
9. The king during the handwriting on the wall
11. The prophet that warned the king of Israel of many plans of the Syrians in advance
12. The king that placed Daniel in the Lion's den
14. The father of Joash, king of Judah
17. The king of the Amorites killed during the time of Moses
18. Matthew, the gospel writer, was the son of ____
21. The first husband of Bathsheba
22. The king that Esther married
24. The last king of Israel
25. What chapter of Revelation has the Three Angels' Messages
26. The northern kingdom of Israel was also called ____
27. A blind man healed by Jesus

DOWN

1. Daniel's Babylonian name
2. Sennacherib was the king of ____
3. The prophet in Babylon, not in the castle, during Judah's captivity
4. Special stories given to illustrate the mysteries of God's kingdom
7. Made king of Judah instead of his father Amaziah

10. The prophet who had a vision of a golden candlestick
13. The name given to Solomon in the Book of Ecclesiastes
15. What was the occupation of Hosea's wife?
16. He gave a fiery series of sermonettes to encourage rebuilding of the temple
17. A king of Israel who presumed to officiate as Priest
19. The father of Boaz, the husband of Ruth
20. A ____ shall eat or drink no product of the grape vine
23. A king that was praised highly by the Queen of Sheba

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



Excitotoxins Part 9: Cover-up: Unethical Associations and Big Names



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.

Much credit due to and reference from the Accountability in Research Journal article: *The toxicity/safety of processed free glutamic acid (MSG): A study in suppression of information, Accountability in Research: Policies and Quality Assurance* (See bibliography for reference)

The Glutamate Association

Last month we told you about the **first** company formed to promote MSG and its safety (IGTC) and explained how easily science can be bought (even more on that this month). In 1977, the IGTC spun off another organization called **The Glutamate Association**, with both organizations accommodated under the umbrella of the **Robert H. Kellen Company**, a trade organization and association management firm, specializing in the food, pharmaceutical, and health care industries.

- The Encyclopedia of Associations is a comprehensive source of detailed information on over 151,000 nonprofit membership organizations worldwide. In it, under The Glutamate Association, 1990, is listed **Robert H. Kellen** as **president of The Glutamate Association**. [The owner and namesake of the trade organization] (1)
- **Richard Cristol**, the **Executive Director of The Glutamate Association in 1990** becomes the **Vice President of The Kellen Company** in 1993 (2) According to The Kellen Company's website, he is the currently the president of the company. Prior to working at the Kellen Company, Mr. Cristol held marketing management positions with Libby, a division of Nestlé. The website goes on to say that Mr. Cristol holds a BBA in **marketing** from Georgia State University and an MBA from the University of Georgia. However, they say he is available for speaking engagements on the topic of "**food and nutrition**". *I would like to know how a business and marketing major is qualified to speak on "food and nutrition"!* (3)
- In 1992, and still in 1998, **Andrew G. Ebert, Ph.D.**, **Chairman of the IGTC**, was also **Senior Vice President of The Kellen Company**. (4) To show you how much influence he (and these groups) actually have, **IGTC chairman** Ebert has served (with *undoubtedly unbiased* opinions) on:
 - The FDA Food Advisory Committee
 - The Grocery Manufacturers of America

- Technical Committee on Food Protection
- Codex Subcommittee on Food Additives
- The National Food Processors Association
- The Institute of Food Technology (Technology Toxicology and Safety Evaluation Division, and Scientific Lecturer)
- The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences Assembly of Life Sciences (Food and Nutrition Board: the Committee on Food Protection, and the GRAS List Survey)
- The American Medical Association (Industry Liaison Panel)
- The FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Food Standards Program
- The International Food Additives Council as Executive Director. (5)

As a food-industry pharmacologist and toxicologist, Ebert has provided scientific and technical expertise for programs of many associations managed by **The Kellen Company**. However, his nomination to the FDA Food Advisory Committee did **not** refer to his affiliation with the IGTC, but listed him only as Senior Vice President of The Kellen Company. Also, with him on the FDA Food Advisory Committee, was Kristin McNutt, a **paid spokeswoman for the glutamate industry**. (6)

So basically, a management firm (we're talking strictly business and money-making), called The Kellen Company takes over management of the Glutamate Association and the IGTC (two "non-profit" organizations made to appear as companies that "educate" the public about MSG safety). We're talking mega marketing and advertising promoted as unbiased "science".

From The Glutamate Association's website:

"The Glutamate Association, established in 1977, is an association of **manufacturers, national marketers, and processed food users** of glutamic acid and its salts, principally the flavor enhancer, monosodium glutamate (MSG). Among the Association's international members are **many of the world's largest food companies** involved in such diverse areas as the manufacturing and marketing of food ingredients, spice and flavor blends, and canned, frozen and other packaged prepared foods. The Glutamate Association seeks to provide an effective channel of communication among its members, **the public, the media, the scientific community, food professionals and government officials** about the use and **safety of**



glutamates. The Association also seeks to assure that relevant research and information on the safety and efficacy of MSG are made available to all interested parties." (7)

So to recap what they just said about their own organization:

- They are an association of **basically** everyone who stands to make money off of the use of MSG.
- They seek to provide information about the **use and safety** of MSG.
- They seek to assure that "**relevant**" research and information on the "safety and efficacy" of MSG are made available to the **public, the media, the scientific community, and government officials.**

So this company is set up to protect their interests! This organization was created solely to make the public feel good and "safe" about using their products. They are in no way actually concerned about the health of the public. It's just made to **seem** that way by promoting it as a group of doctors and scientists devoted to educating the public. Interestingly, with all the years and funded studies, their website is still **solely** lacking in positive studies. And some, like one promoting the safety of MSG during pregnancy that was on the site when I started the series, has since been removed.

The "Red Herring" Continues

Worth noting is an egregious (though laughable) error on the Glutamate Association's website. Under the section entitled "Resources" is listed the name of a "business technology" website which contains articles about MSG safety. First of all, the links don't even work. But that's not the funny part. The funny part is the name of this website. A source that is so reputable as to be featured on the Resources page of the billion-dollar industry-funded

Glutamate Association website? Would you like to know the name of this trustworthy, reliable, informative, and most definitely **scientific** site? The name of the website is literally "Red Herring". I'm not kidding.

Now if that's not just a blatant slap in the face to John Q. Public, I don't know what is. Come on, really? The organization who promotes a toxic substance by citing irrelevant and skewed studies in an attempt to mislead the public, actually cites a website called "Red Herring" for information about the poison, simply implying, by its name, that they are capable of diverting our attention, misleading and misinforming us? **Unbelievable!!**

How Can Science Support This?

Remember last month when we talked about IGTC and how they assembled a group of scientists who **conducted research for them and/or spoke publicly about the safety of MSG? Here are their researchers:** Altman, 1994; Anantharaman, 1979; Auer, 1996; Bunyan, 1976; Ebert, 1970; Fernstrom, 1996; Filer, 1979; Garattini, 1979; Geha, 1998; Germano, 1991; Giacometti, 1979; Goldschmiedt, 1990; Heywood, 1977; Iwata, 1979; Kenney, 1979; Kerr, 1979; Matsuzawa, 1979; Morselli, 1970; Newman, 1973; Owen, 1978; Puke, 1992; Reynolds, 1971; Reynolds, 1976; Schiffman, 1991; Stegink, 1975; Stevenson, 1997; Takasaki, 1979a; Takasaki, 1979b; Tarasoff, 1993; Yang, 1997). Those who identified their funding sources in their publications or in communications with the FDA are listed with their funding sources in the table below. (8)

That list is quite impressive. You'll probably look at that list and think, "Wow! That's a lot of scientists! If that much science is backing it up, it must be right!" But take a look at **what companies "funded" their studies:**

(Taken from the journal "Accountability in Research", *The toxicity/safety of processed free glutamic acid (MSG): A study in suppression of information*) (9)

SCIENTIST NAME

Altman, D.R.Fitzgerald, T. and Chiamonte, L.T (1994)
 Anantharaman, K. (1979) Bunyan, J., Murrell, E.A., and Shah, P.P. (1976)
 Ebert, A.G. (1970)
 Fernstrom, J.D., Cameron, J.L., Fernstrom, M.H., McConaha, C, Weltzin, T.E., and Kaye, W.H. (1996)
 Geha, R. Saxon, A. and Patterson, R. (1998)
 Giacometti, T. (1979)
 Goldschmiedt, M, Redfern, J.S., and Feldman, M. (1990)
 Iwata, S., Ichimura, M., Matsuzawa, Y, Takasaki, Y, and Sasaoka, M. (1979)
 Kenney, R.A. (1979)
 Kerr, G.R., Wu-Lee, M., El-Lozy, M., McGandy, R., and Stare, F.J. (1979)
 Kirby, D. (unpublished)
 Matsuzawa, Y., Yonetani, S.; Takasaki, Y , Iwata, S., and Sekine, S. (1979)
 Morselli, P ., a n d Garattini, S. (1970)
 Newman, A.J., Heywood, R., Palmer, A.K., Barry, D.H., Edwards, F.P., and Worden, A.N. (1973)
 Owen, G., Cherry, C.P., Prentice, D.E., and Worden, A.N. (1978)
 Reynolds, W.A., Lemkey-Johnston, N., Filer, L.J. Jr., and Pitkin, R.M. (1971)

FUNDED BY:

IGTC
 Nestle
 IGTC
 IGTC, NIH
 IGTC
 IGTC, Nestle
 Ajinomoto; NIH; International Life Science Institute-Nutrition Foundation (ILSI)
 Ajinomoto
 IGTC
 Ajinomoto, USA
 IGTC
 Ajinomoto
 COFAG (IGTC Europe)
 Huntingdon Research Centre
 Huntingdon Research Centre
 Gerber; International Minerals and Chemical Corp. (IMC)

SCIENTIST NAME

Schiffman, S.S. (1991)
Stevenson, D.D., Simon, R.A., and Woessner, K.M. (1997)
Takasaki, Y., Matsuzawa, Y., Iwata, S., O'Hara, Y., Yonetani, S., and Ichimura, M. (1979)
Takasaki, Y., Sekine, S., Matsuzawa, Y., Iwata, S., and Sasaoka, M. (1979)
Tarasoff, L. and Kelly, M.F. (1993)
Yang, W.H., Drouin, M.A., Herbert, M., and Mao, Y. (1997)

FUNDED BY:

International Food Information Council (IFIC)
IGTC
Ajinomoto
Ajinomoto
IGTC
IGTC

Or how about all the different organizations where glutamate industry-sponsored (funded) research has taken place: (just to name a few)

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Harvard University, School of Public Health
- George Washington University Medical Center
- Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA
- The University of California, Davis
- The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)
- The University of Illinois at the Medical Center, Chicago
- Northwestern University
- Huntingdon Research Centre
- University of Texas Health Science Center
- Medical College of Virginia
- University of Pittsburgh, USA
- Monell Chemical Senses Center, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- Mario Negri Institute, Milan, Italy
- The University of Iowa
- Nestle Products Technical Assistance Co., Ltd
- Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Central Research Laboratories

Do we even need to go on?

Paid Spokesmen

From "A study in suppression of information": "Steve Taylor, Ph.D., a prominent representative of the glutamate industry, has done little or no basic research related to monosodium glutamate safety/toxicity but is respected for his knowledge about food allergy, having served for example, as an officer of the Toxicology and Safety Evaluation Division and a member of the Expert Panel on Food



Safety and Nutrition of the Institute of Food Technologists. His name appears **prominently** on advisory boards such as the Food Allergy Network and editorial boards such as the Encyclopedia of Food Science Food Technology and Nutrition. (10-11) He has acknowledged being a **paid glutamate industry spokesman**, yet when he introduces himself, he typically refers to his University of Nebraska affiliation, but not to the fact that he is an agent of The Glutamate Association, the IGTC, or Ajinomoto.)" (12-13)

So when he states that there is no association between MSG and allergies, he *implies* he's speaking as an allergy specialist, yet he is speaking as a paid glutamate spokesman! Of course he's going to say there is no association! **Clever, isn't it?**

"You see, the focus of researchers who **represent** the glutamate industry has been to demonstrate that various food additives are "safe." But careful scrutiny of the literature will demonstrate that for some of these scientists, **early research** relevant to the safety/toxicity of glutamic acid suggested that glutamic acid might have **toxic potential** (14-15), while **subsequent studies and/or public statements made by those same scientists** proclaimed that **MSG is safe** (16-17)." (18)

"By and large, those who represent the glutamate industry have produced research relative to the safety/toxicity of MSG **only in response to encouragement from the glutamate industry to do so**; and **the only research that they have published** has been research from



which they have concluded that MSG is safe. And while a great deal of research points to MSG causing damage to the brain, only **two** of the glutamate-industry researchers or speakers have been **neuroscientists**: Richard J. Wurtman, M.D. (19), and Roland Auer, M.D., Ph.D. (20).” (21)

You would think that if MSG **were** actually safe for the brain, The Glutamate Association/IGTC/Ajinomoto would recruit **every** neuroscientist they could find to show just how safe it is!! Apparently even with their billions of dollars in funding, they could only find (*cough* pay off *cough*) **two** neuroscientists who were willing to disregard all of the studies and back the industry up by saying that excitotoxins and MSG do **not** harm the brain.

Secret Agents...

Depending on the roles they play, **researchers** might be considered “**secret agents**” of the glutamate industry. In addition, there are those who promote the products of those they work for, just as **public relations** firms do, but these organizations **highlight** the fact that they are **non-profit corporations**, while **minimizing** the fact that they promote the products of those who **employ** them. The International Food Information Council (IFIC) and the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) are examples of such glutamate-industry agents.

Secret Agent #1 IFIC

For example, in 1990, faced with the threat of a “60 Minutes” segment scheduled to appear on CBS television that might expose the toxic potential of monosodium glutamate, the **IFIC** became actively involved in representing **the interests of the glutamate industry**.

The IFIC **represents** itself as an “**independent**” organization, yet it sends attractive brochures to dietitians, nutritionists, hospitals, schools, the media, and politicians, proclaiming the safety of monosodium glutamate, while the **IFIC’s paid relationship** to the glutamate industry is **documented** in the Encyclopedia of Associations (22).

Secret Agent #2 ILSI

The International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) is an association sponsored by companies within the food, pharmaceutical, chemical, toxicology, and related industries, including the well-documented relationship with companies promoting MSG. (23-24) In fact, the **ILSI has provided funding for:**

- The Food Allergy Network, which

promotes the safety of MSG (25)

- Dean D. Metcalfe, M.D., of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), who has spoken out publically on the safety of MSG, and Sheldon Cohen, M.D., who evaluated possibly MSG-sensitive subjects at NIH with Metcalfe. Both of them are, or were, ILSI Allergy and Immunology Institute Scientific **Advisors**. (26-27)
- Taylor and Sampson. Sampson was recommended by The Glutamate Association as one who might be interviewed by “60 Minutes” about the safety of MSG (28).
- ILSI has also funded the work of Jonathan H. Pincus, M.D., who, **at the request of IFIC**, reviewed the book Excitotoxins: The Taste that Kills by Russell L. Blaylock, M.D.

In Adrienne Samuels article “A study in suppression of information”, she writes: “Blaylock sent me a copy of the letter he wrote to Pincus following publication of Pincus’ review (29). Blaylock wrote, “I have just finished reading your review (**to tax the meaning of the word**) of my book, Excitotoxins: The Taste That Kills, for the International Food Information Council. From your ‘**review**’ I have come to several conclusions. First, you did not read the book carefully, if at all... and second... apparently, you are of the opinion that only you should be allowed to draw conclusions from research or to propose hypotheses based on basic scientific research. Your review is **full of errors** and **unfair characterizations**... For example, you open your salvo by saying that I was ‘armed primarily with the research of Dr. John Olney, which was published more than 20 years ago, and his own interpretation of a few more recent studies.’ **Dr. Olney has not retired and he is not dead**. He is still engaged in primary research in the area of excitotoxins and **his work has been, and continues to be, published in highly respected scientific journals.**”



What about Journals

Consider that journals such as the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology take **advertising**, and journals such as The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition acknowledge the **generous** support of members of the food and/or drug industries. Both of those journals publish **glutamate-industry sponsored studies**.

And if a (non-industry-sponsored) study gets out saying that MSG is bad, the glutamate conglomerate just refutes it! The Glutamate Association responds to the New York Daily News Washington, DC (May 13, 2010):
“Contrary to what was written in an article that appeared in the New York Daily News on 11 May, there is **no** reason for sufferers of celiac disease to avoid foods with monosodium glutamate.... Click here to download a **peer reviewed** article concluding that it is **safe** for people with celiac disease to use MSG.” They just fail to mention that the “peer-reviewed article” they are citing was **funded by their organization**.



So what happens when people try to stand up against them?

Mention of MSG by major media sources has been virtually nonexistent since “60 Minutes” aired a story about the toxic effects of MSG in 1991. (You can still find that clip on youtube – for now).

- Some time after the “60 Minutes” program aired, Nancy Millman, writing for the Chicago Tribune, did an article focusing on the activities of J. Samuels and his fight to have MSG labeled. According to Millman, prior to beginning her work, she had cleared the story with her editor, but the article was never published.
- Similarly, the Baltimore Sun accepted and then refused to print an article on MSG by Linda Bonvie; and an editor at the New York Times told Bonvie that she wouldn’t take a story that even mentioned MSG. According to Bonvie, the editor had said she was unwilling to face the pressure that she knew she would face if she did.

- In 1991, Don Hewett of “60 Minutes” said, on television, that he had never had so much pressure applied to him by industry as he had prior to the airing of the MSG segment. Although rated by TV guide as one of the two most watched segments of the 1991 year, “60 Minutes” won’t now touch a story about MSG.
- In Dr. Russell Blaylock’s presentation entitled “Excitotoxins: Aspartame & MSG” he discusses the difficulty of getting information out regarding the dangers of these substances. He says that he was warned that if he attempted to write a book about the dangers of excitotoxins that he would come under attack like he’d never dreamed of. He states that Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate, at one point took an interest in this topic. But he says “he was so brow-beaten, so destroyed by this industry, that he said he would **never touch it again**” (as told by Ralph Nader’s personal attorney, Jim Turner). **And this is a man who took on General Motors!**

What can you do now? You have to be aware. Now you know that these substances are absolute poisons and the people selling them will do anything to convince you otherwise. **What can you do if you’ve been eating them? Can the damage be reversed?? Stay tuned next month to find out!!**

****For bibliography, please contact Dr. Olson.**



Hope for Health

Dragon HerbaDrops contains 100% potent and pure dragon's blood herb! "Dragon's blood" (also known as sangre de drago) may sound like an exotic ingredient in a magic potion, but this bright red plant sap used for thousands of years in traditional Chinese medicine is the best aid for almost any skin or digestive problem. When applied topically, it helps repair skin after cuts, rashes, bites, burns, stings, abrasions, sores, wounds, and skin problems of all kinds. When used internally it soothes the digestive tract and relieves a variety of digestive complaints. This powerful blend helps the body inside and out!

Dragon HerbaDrops

DID YOU KNOW?

- Your skin is alive. It's made of many thin sheets of layers of flat, stacked cells in which you'll find nerves, blood vessels, hair follicles, glands, and sensory receptors.
- Your skin is considered the largest organ in the human body.
- Older skin cells are constantly being pushed to the surface by new cells which grow from below. When the old ones reach the top, they become wider and flatter as they get rubbed and worn by all your activity. Then, sooner or later, they pop off!
- In fact, your skin loses about 30,000 to 40,000 dead skin cells from the surface almost every minute, even though you do not see it happening.
- Your skin sheds a layer of these dead cells every 24 hours and renews itself about every 28 days - meaning, in approximately a month's time, your body has made a whole new layer of skin cells!
- Your skin swells when it absorbs water.
- Your skin is the thinnest on the eyelid and is thickest on the soles of our feet, palms of our hands, and backs.
- The entire surface of the skin measures about 20 square feet and weighs between 7 to 9 pounds.

Price:

1 oz. liquid* \$9.99

Suggested Adult Dosage:

- Internally: 6 drops (about dropperful) two to three times daily as needed
- Externally: Apply directly to affected area and gently rub in.

Tip: Keep a bottle handy for putting on fresh, clean wounds and bites. Use it to brush teeth (even pet's teeth!) to reduce plaque build-up.

*contains alcohol

To Order Call Today:

1-800-468-7884

or Visit us on the web at:

www.hopeforhealthusa.com

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

DRAGON HERBADROPS & THE SKIN

- When the bark of the dracaena draco (dragon tree) is cut, a dark red sappy resin oozes out as if the tree was bleeding, hence its name, "dragon's blood". For centuries the sap of this tree has been painted on wounds by indigenous people to help stop bleeding, accelerate skin regeneration and promote healthy tissue growth.
- One of the reasons Dragon HerbaDrops works so well is because dragon's blood contains taspine, a known tissue-repairing alkaloid. Taspine has been shown to have value for use with abrasions, inflammation, swelling, infections and wounds. One way it helps is by increasing the production and migration of the fibroblasts (tissue cells) responsible for skin and tissue regeneration.
- In addition, dragon's blood also contains a group of compounds called proanthocyanidins, which actually repair collagen, the lattice-like protein that makes up much of our tissues. In fact, it has shown to be composed of up to 90% proanthocyanidins! Also found in grape seeds, proanthocyanidins are the most potent known dietary antioxidants!

DRAGON HERBADROPS & DIGESTIVE HEALTH

- When taken internally, Dragon HerbaDrops can also help maintain a healthy digestive system by reducing inflammation and accelerating regeneration of the tissues lining the digestive tract. Also, researchers are reporting that dragon's blood contains chemicals that aid in fighting bacteria that cause millions of cases of gastrointestinal problems each year. In addition, it contains a compound that restricts the flow of excess water into the intestines, which helps relieve diarrhea. Those with digestive disturbances, especially ulcers and diarrhea may benefit from the use of these drops.

BENEFITS OF HOPE FOR HEALTH'S DRAGON HERBADROPS

- Repairs wounds & stops bleeding
- Relieves diarrhea and soothes hemorrhoids
- Reduces itching & inflammation
- Inhibits unhealthy cell growth & cell mutation
- Helps improve digestive functions
- Increases collagen in the skin
- Can be used in a douche for vaginal issues
- Great for gum, mouth, throat and other oral health issues

*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



1. U.S. Constitutional Free Press, March 29, 2012—Christian T-shirt Company Faces Boycott and Investigation.

“A t-shirt business in Lexington, Kentucky has drawn the ire of critics after refusing to print shirts for the city’s annual gay pride parade. The company, called Hands On Originals, told parade organizers that its Christian beliefs are the reason that it has declined the Gay and Lesbian Services Organization of Lexington’s (GLSO) request. In response GLSO has filed a discrimination complaint with Lexington’s Human Rights Commission. The Commission works on the local level to ensure that discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation and the like doesn’t take place in employment, housing and public accommodations.

“The gay rights group wants to make the community aware of the situation and, based on statements from the president of the organization’s board of directors, is hoping that the stand-off will, to some degree, impact how the community interacts with the t-shirt company.”

END TIME PERSPECTIVE:

“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

Scripture References:

1. “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination.” Lev. 18:22
2. “If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman,

both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood [shall be] upon them.” Lev. 20:13

3. “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.” Rom. 1:24-27

4. See also: 2 Pet 2:6-10; 1Cor 6:9-11; 1Tim 1:8-11



Clive Chilvers / Shutterstock.com



2. Newsmax, April 2012; Iran May Go Nuclear Later This Year by Fred Fielz, page 45

“Reports of enough low-enriched uranium for five bombs indicate Iran will be ready this year.... The International Atomic Energy Agency reported last November that Iran had 5,481 Kg of low enriched uranium. Experts believe that 1,000 Kg of LEU is sufficient to produce enough weapon-grade uranium for one weapon....Iran’s decision to deny

inspectors access to Fordo indicates that Tehran may have decided to start producing weapons fuel....

“The bottom line: Israel’s window for attacking Iran’s nuclear-enrichment facilities is rapidly closing.”

3. Newsmax, April 2012, Iran Must Be Stopped by John Bolton, former US Ambassador to the United Nations, page 39

Statement by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad: (speaking of Israel): The criminal and terrorist

regime...will soon disappear off the geographical scene.”

END TIME PERSPECTIVE:

“Soon grievous troubles will rise among the nations-- trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes. As never before we need to press together, serving Him who has prepared His throne in the heavens and whose kingdom ruleth over all. God has not forsaken His people, and our strength lies in not forsaking Him.” Mar 174

Ellen White's *Vision*

The Loud Cry

I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message.

"Come out of her, My people"

Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." This message seemed to be an addition to the third message, joining it as the midnight cry joined the second angel's message in 1844. The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon and calling upon God's people to come out of her that they might escape her fearful doom.

All were to be tested upon the third message

The light that was shed upon the waiting ones penetrated everywhere, and those in the churches who had any light, who had not heard and rejected the three messages, obeyed the call and left the fallen churches. Many had come to years of accountability since these messages had been given, and the light shone upon them, and they were privileged to choose life or death. Some chose life and took their stand with those who were looking for their Lord and keeping all His commandments. The third message was to do its work; all were to be tested upon it, and the precious ones were to be called out from the religious bodies. A compelling power moved the honest, while the manifestation of the power of God brought a fear and restraint upon their unbelieving relatives and friends so that they dared not, neither had they the power to, hinder those who felt the work of the Spirit of God upon them.





them silent. Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers. God was in the work, and every saint, fearless of consequences, followed the convictions of his own conscience and united with those who were keeping all the commandments of God; and with power they sounded abroad the third message. I saw that this message will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry.

Precious souls were hurried out of the doomed churches, as Lot was hurried out of Sodom before her destruction

Servants of God, endowed with power from on high with their faces lighted up, and shining with holy consecration, went forth to proclaim the message from heaven. Souls that were scattered all through the religious bodies answered to the call, and the precious were hurried out of the doomed churches, as Lot was hurried out of Sodom before her destruction. God's people were strengthened by the excellent glory which rested upon them in

Signs and wonders followed the believers

The last call was carried even to the poor slaves, and the pious among them poured forth their songs of rapturous joy at the prospect of their happy deliverance. Their masters could not check them; fear and astonishment kept

rich abundance and prepared them to endure the hour of temptation. I heard everywhere a multitude of voices saying, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

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“Language is too feeble for us to attempt to
portray the love of God.” -IHP 15

“Hast thou not known? Has thou not
heard, that the everlasting God fainteth
not? there is no searching of his
understanding.” -Isaiah 40:28



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