

our firm
FOUNDATION

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

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- The Two Realities
- Jesus Knows
- Make All Things According to the Pattern
- The Love of 1st Corinthians 13
- The Lord's Ascension
- Afterwards
- Health Gem: Flesh as Food
- Ellen White's Vision: Spiritualism

OUT OF THE DARKNESS!

Editorial

Clark Floyd



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.

I receive Time Magazine on a regular monthly basis for the purpose of the News Watch. Milestones is a regular section that appears in the magazine and contains the death notices of well known people. Two of the well known people in my growing up years were Andy Griffith and Ernest Borgnine, each of whom had very family oriented television shows, and they were well known and well liked actors. Ernest Borgnine was 95 when he died, and Andy Griffith was 86. In seeing their obituaries, I was reminded of how very mortal we are, and how important it is to have a day by day personal relationship with Jesus.

A third person that was also listed in Milestones was Stephen Covey at the age of 79. Many people will probably not recognize his name. He was the author of the best selling book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People—over 25 million copies sold. We all would like to be “Highly Effective People” in the service of Jesus Christ.

In his book, Mr. Covey mentions that when we plan something we need to picture the end result in our mind. At the next funeral we attend, he suggests that we might want to picture the end of our own lives. When people come to view us - our family, our friends, our business associates - how will each person see us at the terminal point of our lives? My thoughts were directed to Jesus and the heavenly angels, and the Father. How will I be seen at this endpoint? How will you be seen? What will be the result of each of our lives in the Lord's service?

I pray that each of you will read and study my article on 1 Corinthians 13. I believe that how we understand and look at and practice love, as opposed to selfishness, will have a major effect on our Christian walk.

Mr. Covey, at pages 79 & 80 in his book, shares the following experience: “At one seminar where I was speaking on the concept of proactivity, a man came up and said, ‘Stephen, I like what you’re saying. But every situation is so different. Look at my marriage. I’m really worried. My wife and I just don’t have the same feelings for each other we used to have. I guess I just don’t love her anymore and she doesn’t love me. What can I do?’

‘The feeling isn’t there anymore?’ I asked.

‘That’s right,’ he reaffirmed. ‘And we have three children we’re really concerned about. What do you suggest?’

‘Love her,’ I replied.

don’t love?’

‘My friend, love is a verb. Love—the feeling—is a fruit of love, the verb. So love her. Serve her. Sacrifice. Listen to her. Empathize. Appreciate. Affirm her. Are you willing to do that?’

“In the great literature of all progressive societies, love is a verb. Reactive people make it a feeling. They’re driven by feelings. Hollywood has generally scripted us to believe that we are not responsible, that we are a product of our feelings. But the Hollywood script does not describe the reality. If our feelings control our actions, it is because we have abdicated our responsibility and empowered them to do so. Proactive people make love a verb. Love is something you do, the sacrifices you make, the giving of self, like a mother bringing a newborn into the world.... Love is a value that is actuated through loving actions.”

Brothers and Sisters, let us learn to

“I believe that how we understand and look at and practice love, as opposed to selfishness, will have a major effect on our Christian walk.”

‘I told you, the feeling just isn’t there anymore.’

‘Love her.’

‘You don’t understand. The feeling of love just isn’t there.’

‘Then love her. If the feeling isn’t there, that’s a good reason to love her.’

‘But how do you love when you

love as Jesus loves!

Please look at the other articles with the thought—How does this help me in my Christian walk? Our main purpose in this magazine is not to just entertain, but to help prepare you for and encourage you in your Christian walk. May the Lord be your true guide.

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:

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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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OUT OF THE DARKNESS!

ERIC WILSON

**"IF THEREFORE THE LIGHT THAT IS IN THEE BE DARKNESS,
HOW GREAT IS THAT DARKNESS!"**

Matthew 6:23

The year was 2007. I arrived home at almost midnight, after a long day of teaching both private and group classes; the more than 15 hours of training had taken its toll of my energy. The last class that night had been reserved for my advanced students in the arts. Now it was late, and I was exhausted. My wife and two children were upstairs in bed, and I was finally alone.

I SENSED A FRIGHTENING, TERRIBLY EVIL PRESENCE AT MY BACK

I set my gym bag down in the kitchen doorway, and stepped toward the icebox to quench my thirst, when . . . Suddenly, I stopped dead in my tracks. The hair on the back of my neck stood on end, cold chills ran all across the surface of my body, and I realized I was not alone. A terror gripped me such as I had never known before. I sensed a presence behind me,

something big, something frightening and terribly evil!

After more than 24 years of training in the martial arts, and full-contact fighting, I had grown unafraid of anything, human or otherwise. But now, this enormous presence which stood towering behind me, caused me to doubt . . . I was very afraid! None of my training had prepared me for this!

I REALIZED MY HELPLESSNESS

Thoughts race through my mind . . . Fight or run?

Combat training, and the sayings of the old masters I had studied under, flashed vividly in my memory; but I knew in that moment, to fight was futile; and to run would have been equally as useless. What I was feeling offered no hope of victory.

Then came sounding, from somewhere deep in my memory, that Name above every other name





- **Jesus (Yehushua)**! Suddenly, I fell to my knees, tears were running down my face, as it dawned upon my darkened mind, that after decades of training under these men of renown, I was helpless !

Jesus! I knew, because I *knew*, He was my only Hope! That Seed which had been planted in my heart as a child so long ago, was now reaching for the Light!

DARKNESS IS ITS ELEMENT

“Today there are coming into educational institutions and into the churches everywhere **spiritualistic teachings** that undermine faith in God and in His Word. **The theory** that God is an essence (*energy, force*) pervading all nature is received by many who profess to believe the Scriptures; but, however beautifully clothed, this theory is a most dangerous deception. It misrepresents God and is a dishonor to His greatness and majesty. And it surely tends not only to mislead, but to debase men. Darkness is its element, sensuality its sphere. The result of accepting it is separation from God. And to fallen human nature this means ruin.

. . . . The spiritualistic theories concerning God make His Grace of no effect. If God is ‘an essence’ pervading **all nature**, then He dwells in all men; and in order to attain holiness, man has only to develop **the power within him**. These theories, followed to their logical conclusion, sweep away the whole Christian economy. They do away with the necessity for **the atonement** and make man his own savior. These theories regarding God make His Word of no effect, and those who accept them are in great danger of being led finally to look upon the whole Bible as a fiction.” MH 428-430.

THE BLENDING OF LIGHT WITH DARKNESS

Since the 1960s we have witnessed an explosion of new age, eastern mystical, and occult philosophies within our western traditionally Christian culture. Books such as The



Shack, blockbuster movies such as the Star Wars series by George Lucas, the new trend of video gaming, and even within the natural medical fields, there has been a growing presence of the philosophies of Buddhism, Taoism, and Hinduism.

And now, over the last five years, fundamental Christians are watching with horror as the serpent is being welcomed with open arms by many in the Emergent Church and Spiritual Formation movements! Even within many of our own congregations, the practice of blending Christian faith, and the Word of GOD, with the pagan teachings of Martial Arts, Tai-chi, Qigong, and Yoga, is becoming more widely accepted. Within our schools and churches, programs called “Christian Karate”, “Anointed Warrior”, “Yahweh Yoga”, and “Christoga”, are being introduced. But can we just re-label the pagan arts of the far east, and expect them to be accepted by Jehovah?

CAN THESE PRACTICES REALLY BE CALLED CHRISTIAN?

“Beware of false prophets (*those speaking under false inspiration*), which come to you in sheep’s clothing (*Christian garments*), but inwardly they are ravaging wolves . . . Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them!” Matt. 7:15-20.

To know the Truth, we must look at the spiritual roots of the Tree. For no unclean fountain can bring forth pure water, neither doth a pure spring bring forth bitter water (ref: James 3:10-12). The roots of all martial arts worldwide are found at Shaolin temple, China. Although this temple was originally one of **Chan (Zen) Buddhism**, it has over the last 1000 years also incorporated more openly the philosophies of Taoism, and Hinduism. And it is Shaolin’s stated purpose to “evangelize” and spread Chan Buddhism throughout the entire world.

Often it is said that the physical practices of the martial arts and yoga can be separated from their spiritual roots. But is this possible? While in the Asian countries there has never been a question of the spirituality of these fighting arts, here in the west these practices are now being marketed under the banner of self-defense, self-discipline, and self-esteem. And it is in these that the character of the dragon is revealed.

Self! And it is upon this foundation that all the principles of the martial arts are built - self-exaltation and pride.

MARTIAL HIERARCHY

All martial styles are based on a system of ranking (or

Nicolaitanism). There are many ranks of students, ranging from white belt to red and brown; then levels of discipleship (usually black belt thru 5th degree), and then the masters, and grandmasters. At the beginning levels, training is primarily focused on the physical attributes and techniques; then in the intermediate levels the student is introduced to the concept of “Chi” (Ki), or “internal strength”.

This power, or energy, is first taught through breath control during kata, or forms with the “Kia!” yell so familiar to karate styles world wide. Training then progresses through meditation and deep breathing exercises. At the advanced levels this “energy” is channeled and focused into the demonstration of martial power; such as breaking of boards, brick or stone. And finally, at the highest levels, this same power is used in **esoteric skills** such as clairvoyance, divination, telepathy, telekinesis, astral travel, and energy healing!

BUILDING A PYRAMID

At each level the student is required to submit their will to that of their guru or master. While instructor, in turn, surrenders his will to the master or grandmaster above him. In this way a pyramid is built, a tower as in the days of Babel, reaching once again to the heavens. Each student and teacher receives honour, rank and inspiration (*in-spirit-ation*) from the spiritual powers influencing the master above him. And thus the tower is built, each man and every brick joined in spiritual bonds unseen by the human eye!

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants (*slaves*) ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto Righteousness!” Rom. 6:16.

YIN AND YANG

This internal strength or “Chi” is based on the eastern philosophy of yin and yang; opposites but equals. It is by bringing these two spiritual energies together in harmony, that man is said to achieve inner peace. Within the Buddhist, Taoist, and Hindu religions, these mystical powers are symbolized by male and female, fire and water, light and darkness, and heaven and earth.

Every martial practice is designed to bring these two opposites in union and balance with one another, thus



giving to man “god-like” abilities to control his surroundings and his fellow man. This union or joining of forces is known as the **Dao** (Tao).

And it is this Dao, which is said to be the Creative Force, or “god”,

which begat the universe. It is this “energy” which is said by new agers, Taoist, Buddhists, Hindus, and occultists, to dwell within all matter, both animate and inanimate. And it is this “universal (catholic) energy” which they strive to tap into and become one with; thereby making themselves immortal . . . making themselves gods!

DO WE NOT HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SERPENT ECHOING FROM EDEN?

“Yea, hath God *really* said ? . . . Ye shall not surely die. For God (*Elohim*) doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil (*yin and yang*)?” Gen. 3:1-5.

“When Satan has undermined faith in the Bible, he directs men to **other sources** for light and power. Thus he insinuates himself. Those who turn from the plain teaching of Scripture and the convicting power of God’s Holy Spirit **are inviting the control of demons**. Criticism and speculation concerning the Scriptures have opened the way for **Spiritism** and **Theosophy** -- those modernized forms of ancient heathenism--to gain a foothold even in the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . Side by side with the preaching of the gospel, agencies are at work which are but **the medium of lying spirits**. Many a man tampers with these merely from curiosity, but seeing evidence of the working of a more than human power, he is lured on and on, until he is **controlled by a will stronger than his own**. He cannot . . .

without the power and Salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ . . . escape from its mysterious power.” DA 258.

THE ALPHA OF APOSTASY

It is this fruit from the forbidden tree, which the serpent is using to entice the people of God once again, right on the borders of the heavenly Caanan. For this is the ultimate goal of all the eastern healing and martial arts - **enlightenment** (nirvana)! Mankind is being led in



preparation for the greatest deception of these final days just before Christ Jesus' second advent in the clouds of glory. And of this we have been faithfully warned by the LORD through His servant. The Creator is being portrayed not as a Living Divine Being, but as an "energy" or "force" to be used by us, for the final step in the evolution of mankind. Ellen White spoke of this **Pantheism** as it was presented in the writings of Kellogg, as the Alpha of apostasy. And she warned that the Omega would be of a most startling nature.

"I call upon those who have been connected with **these binding influences** to break the yoke to which they have long submitted, and **stand as free men** in Christ. Nothing but a determined effort will break **the spell** that is upon them. Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines (*teachings*) of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. **The omega will be** of a most startling nature." 1SM 197.

THE "DIVINE SPARK"

This theory which makes God and Christ a "non-entity" is verily the same which is now known throughout the world as the "divine spark" within every human being; awaiting to be awakened by us through the eastern practices of martial arts, tai-chi yoga, contemplative prayer, mantras, labyrinth walking, and other forms of mysticism.

That which remains unrevealed until the advanced stages of training is the true meaning of this union between "heaven and earth" (yin and yang). For it is literally the "prince of the power of the air, the spirit which now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2), which is **being joined** to men, women, and little children, through the practice of these occult arts. For even the word "yoga", means to yoke, or join as one with the hindu gods of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, the destroyer!

MANY ARE ATTRACTED TO PLEASING FORMS OF SPIRITISM

"There are many who shrink with horror from the thought of consulting spirit mediums, but who are attracted by more pleasing forms of **spiritism**, such as the Emmanuel movement. Still others are led astray by the teachings of Christian Science, and by the mysticism of Theosophy and other **Oriental religions**. And there are not a few, even in this Christian age, who go to these healers, **instead of trusting in the power of the Living God** . . . The mother, watching by the sick bed of her child, exclaims, "I can do no more! Is there no physician who has power to restore my child?" She is told of the wonderful cures performed by some clairvoyant or magnetic healer, and she trusts her



dear one to his charge, placing it as verily in the hand of Satan as if he were standing by her side.

In many instances the future life of the child is controlled by a satanic power, which it seems impossible to break." RH, January 15, 1914 par. 11.



WHO DO YOU BOW DOWN TO?

Even if one attempts to set aside the spiritual aspects of the martial arts, we as Christians are still faced with a great dilemma. For do we believe the Word of God, and obey it's instructions, or do we compromise Jehovah's precepts, and ignore His Voice in those areas of our lives we are yet unwilling to surrender to Him?

For the Word of God says, "Thou shalt have no other gods (*mighty ones*) before Me (*in my place*) . . . thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve (*obey*) them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me." Yet, in almost all martial styles, you are required to bow before your superiors.

The Word of the LORD says, "And be not ye called **Rabbi**: for One is your Master, even Christ; and ye are all brethren. And call no man your **Father** upon the earth: for One is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for One is your Master, even Christ!" Yet, within the martial arts, this title is given to every man who achieves the rank of 6th Dan or above.

TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

And our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ says, "Resist not evil (*don't push back*) ; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law (*court*), and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also . . . **Love your enemies**, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and **pray for them** which despitefully use you . . . **that ye may be the children of your Father** which is in heaven . . ." Matt. 5:39-45.

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I

will repay, saith the Lord !" Rom. 12:19-21. Yet, in the practice of martial arts (often termed "self-defense"), every student is taught that when an enemy strikes, you are to block, and then counter. For at the moment of confrontation, the art reveals its true nature - one of offense, pride, violence and retaliation.



give the trumpet a certain sound, to proclaim with faith the Word of GOD, and the Sovereign Reign of Christ Jesus over sin, over death, and over all the forces of darkness in this world.

The third angel is ready to sound. "...here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus !" Rev. 14:12.

"Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of Justification (*Righteousness*) by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "It is the third angel's message in verity !" Ev 190.

THE DRAGON VS. THE LAMB - A QUESTION OF CHARACTER?

And it is this spirit, the spirit of "Bushido", which pervades all the combative arts. In the Japanese styles of Judo, Aikido, Kendo and Jujutsu, the word literally means, "the martial or warrior spirit". And this will be the spirit of all who follow the dragon, that first rebel who fought against Jehovah's Kingdom and His Son! And to this very day, the battle rages for every man, woman, and child on planet earth. The struggle for the will and mind of all mankind. The lines are being drawn; two great armies are being prepared for the last great battle in the Conflict of the Ages!

"Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of Almighty God." GC 589.



WE CANNOT REGENERATE OURSELVES

"None but God can subdue **the pride** of man's heart. We cannot save ourselves. We cannot regenerate (*beget*) ourselves. In the heavenly courts there will be no song sung, To me that loved myself, and washed myself, redeemed myself, unto me be glory and honor, blessing and praise. But this is the keynote of the song that is sung by many here in this world. **They do not know** what it means to be meek and lowly in heart; **and they do not mean to know this, if they can avoid it.** The whole Gospel is comprised in learning of Christ, His meekness and lowliness. **What is justification by faith?** It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself." TM 456.

"...UNTO ME EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW..."

As I knelt there on our kitchen floor, the power and majesty of our LORD was revealed to me like never before! For His Word promises us, "**Look unto Me, and be ye saved** (*delivered, set free, rescued, healed and made whole*), **all the ends of the earth:** for I Am God, and there is none else. For I have sworn by Myself, the Word is gone out of My mouth in Righteousness, and shall not return, That unto Me every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess... both of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth !" Isa. 45:22-23, Rom. 14:11 & Phil. 2:10-11.

And that same Word which created the heavens, the earth, and the sea, will not return unto Him void!

GIVE THE TRUMPET A CERTAIN SOUND

The character of Christ Jesus, and the character of Satan can be clearly seen in the life and eyes of their followers. **The Lamb of GOD** - humility, self-sacrificing love, purity, patience, forgiveness, mercy and Truth; **and that of the dragon** - pride, self-exaltation, self-sufficiency, selfishness, anger, unforgiveness, violence, and lust.

Now is the time for all our strength and talents to be used for the LORD. Thousands around us, have yet to hear and see the Glad Tiding of Salvation through Christ. **And it is for this purpose** that you and I have been called; to



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THE TWO REALITIES

By Joe Olson

We live in a world of two different realities. First, you have God's reality. He calls that the truth. Then there is our reality. God calls that a lie. God *helps* us to see His reality. The devil tries to *impose* his reality, or his lies, upon us. We have a choice in which we get to determine which reality we will follow. That choice is given to us every day... many times during the day.

We live in a world of constant denial

But most of us do not even realize that there are these two different realities. We think there is just one, and that we are living it. And the devil is ecstatic that we think there is just one. We live in a world of constant denial. We eat things that we are certain won't hurt us or cause us to gain weight. We watch things that we are certain won't affect our

minds. We say things we are positive have no impact on others. And the whole time, we smile and feel very happy about how things are going for us. Then... when the *real* reality, or the truth, sets in and we are fat or sick or not spiritual or others are hurting because of what we have said or done, we are at a loss to explain it. What has happened? How did this happen? We don't understand.

The Bible makes it clear there is cause and effect

But really, what's not to understand? If you eat unhealthy food... you get unhealthy. If you don't work... you

don't have any money. If you talk mean to people, they will not like you. The Bible makes it clear that there is a very real cause and effect. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7. And this verse enters a whole new realm. This is talking about our spiritual life, as well as other life choices. "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:8. We can sow or plant or act in such a way that it benefits either our material or fleshly or carnal lives, or our spiritual lives. And so often, as when we eat food that is not good for us, we think we can do so without having the negative effects. But just as there is cause and effect in everything in life, we can be sure the same is with our spiritual lives. So many of us think we can read or study or pray for 15 minutes a day and we are prepared for heaven. Really? Is this God's reality or the devil's? Can we spend so little time with God and most all of our time with whatever else, and yet be preparing to be with God forever and ever?

"False reality" says everyone goes to heaven

We live in this alternate universe where we just "hope" things away, or "hope" them for ourselves. It is our alternate reality. But actually, even saying, "alternate" gives the impression that there is more than one. There is God's reality... and then there is every other "false reality". How many of us have been to a funeral where the person is bound for heaven? We hope for the best, to be sure, but really... when a person has not lived for Jesus Christ and has made no such profession and has made no life commitment, what do we really think is going to happen? We have to start living in God's reality.

Peter, speaking under the inspiration of God... or God's reality,



said of Jesus Christ: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12. In God’s reality, the only way to be saved is through and by and in the name of Jesus

Christ. Then if anyone dies who had not committed his life and mind and heart to Jesus Christ... he cannot and will not be saved. Yet, we continue to hold

out hope for anyone who dies and think they might make it. No, they won’t. I am all for holding out hope to the bitter end... but if they do not have Jesus in their heart, they are lost. THIS is reality. There is no salvation for anyone but those who give everything to Jesus. Jesus Christ Himself was asked how to obtain eternal life. “And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Luke 18:18.

We can trust God to tell us how to achieve eternal life

If there is anyone you can trust to give the straight and honest and complete answer, it would be the Creator of the universe... right? It would be the God who died to give us life... right? What was God’s answer? What was His reality? What did He say the requirement for eternal life... or salvation... was? “Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.” Luke 18:20.

Did you notice Jesus did not say, “You need to keep the commandments...” He said, “Thou knowest the commandments...” That was not accidental. When the man asked what was required for eternal life... Jesus said he already knew the

answer - keep the commandments. Jesus said, “You know...” “You know what to do.” “You know the reality.” “You know that you cannot expect to go be with the law Giver, and be a lawbreaker.” We know better. But we convince ourselves that we can do

wrong... and it will be all right. No, it won’t. We strive to live in this alternate universe, this alternate reality, where we can do wrong and it be right; or at least, where we can do wrong, and it will end up being all right. No, it won’t.



The rich young ruler thought he was keeping God’s commandments

When we try to do right, we cannot do it... just like the rich young ruler. He thought he was doing right though... remember? “And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.” Luke 18:21.

He wasn’t keeping the commandments. He was living in a different reality... and it certainly was not God’s. So Jesus, ever kind and thoughtful and merciful, opened his eyes to the true reality. “Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.” Luke 18:22.

Jesus showed the rich, young ruler what his real condition was, what his reality actually was. The young man thought he was keeping God’s law. He thought he was obedient. He thought he was a “Christian”, if you will. But he was living in an

alternate reality. In his reality, he was a commandment-keeping Jew of the highest standard. In his reality, he did everything right. Remember, he said, “All these I have kept...” “I have done, and do, what God says to do,” he says. And rather than argue with the young man, Jesus simply asks him to show his obedience. “Show me your law-keeping.” “Let’s see your obedience in action.” Since he keeps all the law, and has done so from his youth up, then he will have no problem at all following the very first commandment. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Ex. 20:3. By his own admission, he has kept this commandment since his youth up. Nothing has ever been more important to him than his God. Nothing has ever come before his God. Not since his youth!

Jesus just asked him to trade realities

So Jesus said, “Since you are a commandment keeper, and nothing has ever been allowed to come before Me, then get rid of everything you have and follow Me.” Since nothing is more important, and nothing has ever been before God, this will be an easy task. I mean, a history of letting nothing in



front of God would make this request a simple thing to do... right? Yes, it would... were he actually living in God’s reality; were he living the life he *said* he was living.

But sadly, he found out that *his* reality was not God’s. And I’d like you to notice, too, what Jesus offered him: “...thou shalt have treasure in heaven...” Luke 18:22. Jesus didn’t actually ask him to *give up* all he had... just to *trade* it. “Trade *your* reality for *Mine*” He said. “You work and sweat and struggle for what this world has to offer, and I want to

give you something better,” Jesus was telling him. And the man knew it. He *KNEW* it! That’s why, after all this “supposed” commandment keeping, he still asked Jesus how to obtain eternal life. He knew his reality was not the true reality.

The young man had to walk away sorrowful

And even after Jesus offered him the true reality... the true riches in heaven... the man walked away. And not just walked away, but walked away sorrowful. Why sorrowful? Because he *knew*! He knew what Jesus offered was real, but he didn’t want *that* reality. He wanted the one he was living in. He knew, and walked away.

And then Jesus looked at everyone else and addressed their concerns as well. Don’t you think for a minute that everyone else there wasn’t thinking and/or worried about the same thing. Give everything away? You know, rich people want their money, but so do poor people. Surely, poor people have less, so there might be less concern, but there is still concern just as well. As a matter of fact, even poor fishermen are concerned...“Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.” Luke 18:28. I actually kind of smile when I read that.

Please note that Peter did not actually *ask* what he or they would get... he just pointed out the obvious. Peter just pointed out what the rest were thinking. “Hey, um, uh, You know... we uh-hh, have uh-hh, You know, left all and followed You, just like You asked the rich, young ruler to do... so... um, what would we get?” You *know* that’s what he was asking.

In God’s reality everyone wins

And we know it because of Jesus’

response to Peter’s question/statement. “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.” Luke 18:29,30. In God’s reality, everyone wins. In God’s reality, He gives us what is best for us now, *and* in the world to come. But what is best for us we often can’t see. In our reality, we should be rich and healthy and good looking and filled with what the world has to offer. But in God’s reality, we very often need to be devoid of these things, because they can become gods to us. In God’s reality, the *ONLY* thing that He cares about is getting us back home again. And whatever it takes to get us there, outside of forcing us, He will do.

In our reality, in our alternate reality, we want heaven of course, but we want to get there while having all the rest of the stuff the world offers. And when God does not give us these worldly things, then we strive to go out and get them for ourselves. And they often become an

anchor to keep us bound to this earth. If we won’t let them go, these things will keep us from heaven.

Let go of the gold!

There is a story that I heard many years ago, and understood it to be a true story. It was about a rich man



who was traveling aboard a large ocean-going vessel. He was so worried about the money he had, he had it sewed into a belt

that he wore. He actually had gold bars sewn into a belt that he wore wherever he went. And as things turned out, the ship began to sink. I forget now why it was sinking or what caused it, but what I do remember is that the man abandoned the ship and was out in the water. He was struggling to stay afloat. You can imagine why. The gold he had sewn into his belt was dragging him down.

As he flailed and sputtered in the water, he was noticed by others in a lifeboat and they tried to get him into the boat.

But guess what? He was too heavy for them to get him out of the water. They couldn’t understand why he was so heavy. The man finally admitted what the issue was. It was the gold in his belt! The gold was weighing him down and causing him to not be able to get into the lifeboat. Well, as you can imagine, everyone on the boat was telling him to take the belt off. “Let it go!” they screamed. “You’ll die if you do not let it go!” But the man was so worried he might lose his gold, he refused to take it off. He kept it

alright...he kept it all the way to the bottom of the ocean. You might say, he went away sorrowful. He knew what would happen if he did not let it go. He knew what the result would be. Yet he still held on to it.



Don't let anyone or anything keep you from following Jesus

Is there anything *we* are holding on to? Is there anything we are not letting go of? It can be gold, like the man in the story, or riches, as in the case of the rich, young ruler, but it could be anything else too. Do you have an attitude towards someone? Do you insist on eating whatever you want? Are you lazy and won't get up to spend time with Jesus? Are you a workaholic and won't take time with your family? Pick what you want. Is it worth it to you? Will you really hold on to it all the way to the bottom of the ocean? Are you allowing your family to get in the way of following Jesus fully? Don't let them drag you down either. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matt. 10:37.

We cannot get to heaven by our own reality

Are you unwilling, like the rich, young ruler, to keep God's commandments because it might interfere with your livelihood or your financial gain? What about all the other things you want to do, but reading and studying and the time it takes to get to know Jesus fully takes too long? Is that a cross too heavy to bear? "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." Matt. 10:38. We cannot allow our gold or our desires or our laziness or our jealousy or our hatred or even our love for our parents or children to drag us downward. But



still get to heaven. But Jesus says the opposite is true... "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." Matt. 10:39.

What can be more important than preparing for heaven?

God's reality, the true reality, is that when we do exactly as God says to do in every particular, then we will be the happiest we can be, and we will be bound for heaven. And speaking of being "bound for heaven...", I ask people, especially young people, what their goals are. You know, I rarely hear, "Getting ready for heaven!" How can that be? I even hear this, or actually, *don't* hear this, from Christian people! What else can possibly be more important? What can a parent possibly instill in their children that's more important than an intense longing and desire for heaven? What else matters?

Don't we believe it is all going to burn up anyway? "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be



too often, we make for ourselves this alternate reality in which we can do what we want, act like we want and go where we want, and

burned up." 2 Pet. 3:10. Is that our reality? Do we really believe it will all burn up? Do we actually act and live as if we believe that? We wonder why our children do not believe as we do. Do we act as if *we* believe it?

Does our reality match the reality of God?

Peter asks the question... "[Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness," 2 Pet. 3:11. If our reality corresponds with God's reality, then should we not be doing all we can to get ready for the grand and glorious day? Should we not be... as Peter says: "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God..." 2 Pet. 3:12.

Don't let family keep you from

following God all the way. Don't let jobs or TV or food or sports or anything else keep you from that great and terrible day of the Lord. We do *not*

want to be the ones who say: "...to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." Rev. 6:16.

We want to be the ones who say: "...Lo, this [is] our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this [is] the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Isa. 25:9. *Are we waiting for Him? Is this our reality? Please resolve with me today to make it so.*



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



Jesus Knows

By Eliza H. Morton

He who formed the world
And all therein
Can read the human heart
And see its sin

No costly robe, no cloak,
No veil of pride
Can cover one dark blot,
Or error hide.

The world with flattering praise
May sing its song,
But know, O mortal man,
'Tis not for long.

Messiah, Christ, the Lord
Seeks moral worth.
His children all must be
Of royal birth.

He takes the sinner vile,
Forgives his wrong,
And puts within his heart
Redemption's song.

And then henceforth that heart
Honest must be,
Honest with God and man,
Jesus can see.

Mistakes he covers o'er,
And loves the same,
For Jesus pities man,
He knows his frame.

But no deceit can stand
Before his frown;
All hypocrites at length
Will be cast down.

MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

By Mrs. E. G. White

When the sanctuary was to be built, the Lord directed Moses, saying, "Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount." Moses was full of zeal to do God's work. The most talented, skillful men were at his command to carry out his suggestions; and yet it was not given to him to make a bell, a pomegranate, a tassel, a fringe, a curtain, or any vessel of the sanctuary, except according to the pattern shown him as God's ideal. God called him into the mount, and revealed to him the heavenly things. The Lord covered him in order that he might see God and live, and behold the things that God would have made according to the pattern. Forty days he was in direct communication with God; and when he descended the mount, his face shone with glory, and he was ready to give



directions as to how the sanctuary should be made according to the pattern shown him in the mount.

WE ARE TO DEPEND UPON GOD FOR CONSTANT INSTRUCTION

It is in neglecting to follow the exact directions of the word of God that many err. They turn away from God's plans, to follow their own ideas. Christ himself declared, "The Son of Man can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do; for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise." So utterly was he emptied of self that he made no plans for himself. He accepted God's plan for him, and day by day the Father unfolded his plans.



If Jesus was so wholly dependent, declaring, "I do nothing of myself," how much more should the human agents depend upon God for constant instruction,

so that their lives might be the simple working out of God's will. Oh, that failing, erring mortals would be content to seek wisdom from God, and be entirely submissive in working out his directions, in exemplifying his character! If ever mortals needed to send to heaven an earnest cry, "Lord, show me thy way; teach me the way of the Lord," it is now. Only those will have a fitness for the mansions above who give to God full and implicit obedience. God knows that we would not appreciate his rarest gifts if we were not perfectly submissive to his will.

ARE WE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE FOR ETERNAL LIFE?

And in keeping the way of the

Lord there is great reward. We shall be tempted by the adversary of souls to deviate from God's way, to neglect to search the Scriptures in order that we may find out whether we are walking in the



sparks of our own kindling, or seeking the light which God has given us. Oh, that we may be vessels unto honor, prepared for the Master's use! Oh, that the work of the grace of God may so go forward in our hearts that we may come to see the matchless charms that are revealed in Jesus!

Whatever may be our temperament, we are to form a character after the divine Pattern; we have no excuse for retaining the mold and superscription of our nature; for Christ has died that we may have his mold and superscription. We cannot retain self and yet be filled with the fullness of God. We must be emptied of self. If heaven is gained by us at last, it will be only through the renunciation of self, and the receiving of the mind of Christ. Pride and self-sufficiency must be crucified, and the vacuum supplied with the Spirit and power of God. Are we willing to pay the price required of us for eternal life? Are we ready to sit down and count the cost, and conclude that heaven is worth the sacrifice of dying to self, of having our will brought into perfect conformity with the will of God?

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL FILL THE VOID MADE BY THE RENUNCIATION OF SELF

Until we are willing, the transforming grace of God will not be manifested upon us. When we present

our emptied nature to God, he will by his Holy Spirit supply the vacuum made by the renunciation of self, and give us of his fullness.

The Lord would not have us perish. He would have us consecrate to his service all there is of us; for he desires to bless us more than we desire to be blessed. He would have us abide in Christ, receive his blessing, and diffuse it to others while we live, that we may enjoy a blessed eternity. Life is short, but eternity

is endless.

WHAT WE ARE AT HEART, WE REVEAL IN LIFE

We should ask ourselves, For what are we living and working? And what will be the outcome of it all? We need the religion of Jesus Christ daily; for everything we do or say



comes under the notice of God. "We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." What we are at heart, we reveal in life. Our thoughts, our words, our actions, are



the result of what we are; and our influence is a savor of life unto life, or of death unto death, according to whether we abide in Christ or not. In the judgment we shall be brought face to face with those whom we have had opportunity to help by directing them, through choice words of counsel, into right, safe paths. If we have a daily connection with God, we shall have a living, abiding interest in the saving of the souls of men, and our influence will be a savor of life unto life.

EVIL WORDS BRING FORTH A HARVEST AFTER THEIR OWN KIND

The Lord has blessed us with the light of truth, and we are to let that light be seen, by being doers of the word. We are to let the bright rays

of God's word extend to others, to cheer and bless all that are in the house. If we do not have oil in our vessels, accept of the grace of Christ, which is abundantly provided for us, our light will burn dim, and, if neglected, will die out. But if from the treasure of the heart you bring forth good things, then your light shines out to those who

are in darkness. But if you indulge in slang phrases and foolish talk, you bring forth from the treasure of the heart evil things, and darkness comes upon your soul, and upon the souls of others; for evil words bring forth a harvest after their kind. Evil words do more mischief than you have any idea of; they are seeds sown to produce a harvest, and your influence as a Christian is weakened. Foolish, idle jesting fails to exalt the character of Christ; and when he is not lifted up, souls are not drawn to him. The Lord Jesus calls upon you to place yourself in the channel of light, that the result of thorough faith in Christ as your personal Saviour may appear. Christianity is not to be put on and off

at will, but it is to be our constant adorning; we are to be clothed with Christ's righteousness as a garment.

**TRUE
CONVERSION
IS ABSOLUTE
SURRENDER
TO GOD'S
WILL**

Let no one rob God of the service he requires. Half-hearted service is of no value. Have we not tried our own way again and again, and found it was but foolishness? In following our independent judgment, have we not virtually said, "Lord, I want not thy way, for it does not please me; I want my own way; and if I cannot do as I please, I will not serve thee?" How many have let go of Christ, to follow their own plans? Did Christ, the Majesty of heaven, have his way? Behold him in travail of soul in Gethsemane, praying to his Father. What forced those blood drops of agony from his holy brow? Oh, the sins of the whole world are upon him! It was separation from the Father's love that forced from



his pale, quivering lips the cry, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me." Three times was the prayer offered, but was followed by, "Nevertheless, not my will, but thine, O God, be done." This must be our attitude: "Not my will, but thine, O God, be done." This is true conversion.

**CHRIST DEVOTED HIMSELF
ENTIRELY TO THE WORK OF
SAVING OF SOULS**

The church of Christ is to represent his character. Its members, if their names are written in the Lamb's book of life, will be united by a vital connection with Christ, as the branch is united with the living vine. Jesus says, "For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."



**SPIRITUAL
THINGS ARE
SPIRITUALLY
DISCERNED**

Charged with his exalted mission, Jesus came into the world as the visible representative of the invisible God. He said to Philip: "Have I been so long time with

you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? . . . From henceforth ye know him and have seen him." "I and my Father are one." What height, and depth, and breadth of meaning in the Saviour's words! They are clothed with a mysterious power that can only be spiritually discerned.

ST, November 21, 1892

Christ devoted himself entirely to the work of saving souls. He left the glories of heaven, and clothed his divinity with humanity, and subjected himself to sorrow, and shame, and reproach, abuse, denial, and crucifixion. Though he had all the strength of the passion of humanity, never did he yield to temptation to do that which was not pure and elevating and ennobling. He says, "I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified."



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.

The Love of 1st Corinthians 13

By Clark Floyd

As foretold in the Bible Book of Daniel, Babylon was to be followed by Meda Persia; Meda Persia was to be followed by Greece; and Greece was to be followed by Rome. And so the history of these four nations came about exactly as predicted.

During the time of Greece, Corinth became one of the great cities of the Grecian Empire. However, much of the city was destroyed in 146 BC during the Roman conquest, only to be rebuilt as a Roman colony in 46 BC by Julius Caesar.

Corinth was a city of great pagan influence

During the ministry of Paul, the Apostle, the city of Corinth had a population of around 700,000 people, two thirds of which consisted of slaves. Corinth was a port city having two sea ports and consequently many visitors and a large trade. The city was a city of great pagan influence in that it supported the large pagan temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love. There were a thousand temple prostitutes. There were also other smaller temples and shrines. You can imagine how difficult it was to establish a Christian church in this area, but Paul, with his great faith, was able to do so.

It was difficult to get Corinth out of the Church

Paul, the apostle, came to Corinth during 51 and 52 AD, and was there building the membership of the Corinthian Church for eighteen months. When Paul left for Ephesus and other areas, Apollos continued the work in Corinth.

The Church was in Corinth, and it was hard to get Corinth out of the Church. Corinth was definitely a very wicked city and quite a challenge to those who had joined in membership with the Church.

While in Ephesus Paul became disturbed by reports of quarrels in the Corinthian Church. Paul apparently wrote a letter to the Church before the letter found in 1st Corinthians. (See 1 Cor. 5:9), But Paul felt the need of writing an additional two letters seeking to correct the problems within the Church.

The best definition of love ever penned

Paul wrote 1st Corinthians in 56 AD in reply to the problems within the Church. In the first twelve chapters of 1st Corinthians, Paul gives much advice and counsel, but at the end of chapter 12, Paul, in verse 31, states: "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way." In effect Paul is saying, "Yes, there is all this I have said unto you, but there is something more important," and then he follows with chapter 13, the love chapter. It has been said that 1st Corinthians 13 is the best definition of love

ever penned. The term “charity” as used in the King James version of the Bible falls short of the true meaning of love that Paul is stressing here under our modern understanding of English. We, today, think of charity as the giving of alms.

One of the most important chapters in the Bible

The Greeks had more than one definition of love: 1. Eros—driven by sexual desires and emotions—self is the center—not found in the New Testament. 2. Philos—love between people—actuated by emotions, but on a different level than eros—is found in the New Testament. 3. Agape—not driven by emotion or feeling, but solely by principle—is found in the New Testament.

Chapter 13 is the key chapter of 1st Corinthians and may be one of the most important chapters in the whole Bible in regard to our Christian walk and our “agape” love.

Ellen White has the following to say: “The Lord desires me to call the attention of His people to the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians. Read this chapter every day, and from it obtain comfort and strength. Learn from it the value that God places on sanctified, heaven-born love, and let the lesson that it teaches come home to your hearts. Learn that Christlike love is of heavenly birth, and without it all other qualifications are worthless.” RH 7/21/04.

She says in 5T 279: “Genuine conversion will ever lead to genuine love for Jesus and for all those for whom he died.”

Why is this chapter so important to my Christian walk?

1st Corinthians 13 can be divided in to three parts: (1.) In verses 1

to 3, Paul shows the necessity and importance of agape love; (2.) In verses 4 to 7, he gives a description of the properties and fruits of agape love; and (3.) In verses 8 to the end, he shows how much agape love excels the best of gifts and other graces, by its continuance, when they shall be no longer in being, or of any use.

“Why,” you may ask, “should 1st Corinthians 13 be of such importance to my Christian walk?”



No man can empty himself of self

In Jeremiah 17, verse 9, we read: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and

desperately wicked: who can know it?” And Ellen White, in Christ’s Object Lessons at pages 159 and 160, states, “No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work.”

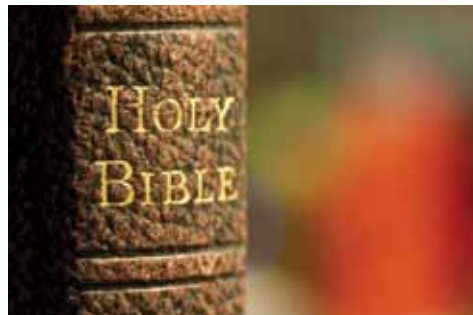
By making 1st Corinthians, chapter 13, a part of our daily study and prayer, we can more fully take in what it stands for in our relation to Jesus Christ and each other.

If the heart is not filled with love, God may regard us as hypocrites

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass and a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” 1 Cor. 13:1-3.

Ellen White says in the Acts of the Apostles at pages 318 and 319: “No matter how high the profession, he

whose heart is not filled with love for God and his fellow men is not a true disciple of Christ....In his zeal he might even meet a martyr’s death,



“Men’s selfish nature is more proof that sin has completely reversed the divine order in the experience of humanity

leading men to concentrate their affections and interests on themselves.” 6 SDABC 782.

We are to be completely absorbed in doing God’s will

In order to restore the divine order in the experience of humanity, true love must be restored through a connection with Jesus Christ. Studying 1st Corinthians 13, and making that chapter a part of us through our daily study of it and our commitment to Jesus is what brings that restoration.

One possessed of the selfless love of God forgets self and is completely absorbed in doing the will of God. That is why he is willing to give his life in loving ministry for others.



yet if not actuated by love, he would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite.”

He who does not love does not know God

“Love suffers long and is kind, love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” 1 Cor. 13:4-7.

In Proverbs 10:12, we read, “Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.”

In 2 John 4:7 & 8, the apostle declares, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows love. He who does not love does not know God for God is love.”

Love will exist through eternity

“Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but

when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know just as I also am known.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.” 1Cor. 13:8-13.



When we speak in the ultimate sense, we are speaking of something that will exist through eternity, and if we don't acquire it in that form here and now through complete surrender to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will not be safe to save. Self is our greatest problem here. It was and is what caused Satan's downfall, and it is what Satan wants each of us to hold on to.

The Christian denies self and exalts Christ

“The mind that is not surrendered to Christ and actuated by His Spirit is under the control of Satan, who works in it to accomplish his own purpose.” 5T 515.

Christ's disciples, even Peter, recognized our need of love. “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.” 1 Pet. 4:8.

“Only the love that flows from the heart of Christ can heal. Only he in whom that love flows, even as the sap in the tree or the blood in the body, can restore the wounded soul.” Ed 114.

“Man naturally tries to exalt himself, to assert his own ideas and opinions irrespective of the feelings

and beliefs of others, but the Christian denies self, exalts Christ, and devotes his life to the salvation of others.” 6 SDABC 751.

The unselfish life has power and influence

“The badge of Christianity is not an outward sign, not the wearing of a cross or a crown, but it is that which reveals the union of man with God. By the power of His grace manifested in the transformation of character the world is to be convinced that God has sent His Son as its Redeemer. No other influence that can surround the human soul has such power as



the influence of an unselfish life. The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.” MH 470.

Dear reader, I am working on memorizing chapter 13 of 1st Corinthians. I go over this chapter as I walk my dogs in the morning. How about you? Don't you really want to have the kind of love that Jesus has? Make this chapter a part of your day.



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

The Lord's Ascension

By James Edson White

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”
Acts 1:9

As the time drew near in which the Saviour knew that He must return to the Father, whence He had come, He began to reveal to His disciples something of what the future had in store for them. The prospect of meeting trials without the Saviour to share them brought sadness to the hearts of the disciples; and lest they should become discouraged, He opened to them the thought that His going away would be an advantage

to them; “for,” said He, “if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you.” John 16:7.

The disciples wondered how they would be able to accomplish the wondrous feats without the presence of Jesus

These words were full of mystery to the wondering disciples. How would it be possible for another to do as much for them as He had done? Who, indeed, besides Jesus, could feed the hungry multitude from a few loaves and fishes, heal the sick,



cure loathsome diseases, quiet the angry waves of the sea, and raise the dead at will?

Had they not, too, been constantly instructed by His gracious words, and able, in His name, to cast out devils? Why should they desire a change? Should He leave them, as He declared He must, how would they then be able to do the wondrous things His presence had enabled them to accomplish?

The presence of the Holy Spirit would not be limited

Notwithstanding all this, Jesus again assured them that it would be better for them to have Him go away. Should He remain with them personally, His presence would be confined to one locality at a time, and this would make it necessary for some who wished to meet Him to travel long distances. But the Holy Spirit, which was to come to the earth in His place, could be found by all at one time, and that without going to





another part of the country.

When on earth in person, Christ was seen by saint and sinner alike; but the Spirit, which He sent to represent Himself while He is away in heaven, is never seen, but may be known through faith in Christ. The unbelieving world does not know this heavenly visitant, because it is felt rather than seen. John 14:17.

To those, however, who accept Christ by faith, the Spirit becomes an indwelling power, by which the possessor is enabled to overcome the world and sinful flesh.

Christ is available to believers through faith

As the disciples had been connected with heaven through attachment to, and dwelling with, the personal Christ, so now, since He has gone to heaven, He has provided an indwelling presence, by which all His believers may have access to Him where He is. So, then, whatever Christ was to His disciples by His personal presence, such He is now to every one who comes to Him by faith,

through the Holy Spirit, which God bestows as freely as He has given His only begotten Son.

Christ was about to leave His thirty-three years of earth life for the throne of glory, which He had once before enjoyed with the Father. But still He did not for a moment forget those who were to remain behind, and in His place become the light of the world, finishing His work. Matthew 5:14-16; Hebrews 2:3; Acts 1:8.

Christ promised to be with us always

He had before prayed that God might not take them out of the world, but rather that they might be kept from its evil. John 17:15. So on the eve of His leaving them, He gave the blessed promise: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20.

Coming near to Bethany, the disciples gathered about the Saviour. As He looked in their faces, a



peculiar light seemed to cover His countenance; and as He stretched out His hands in the act of blessing them, He was taken up slowly from them. Gazing at Him in His ascent, the wondering disciples saw Him enter a cloud of bright glory, and He was lost to their sight.

A message from angels

Lost in amazement their gaze was riveted, for a time, on the point where they had last seen their beloved Lord, when suddenly a voice was heard

near them. Turning, they saw two shining beings, who brought them the comforting message: "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.

The work of Christ on earth was complete

Christ had triumphed in His earthly work. He had come from heaven to earth to take Man's nature, and been born in Bethlehem's lowly manger; He had been subject to his earthly parents; had worked by the side of Joseph at the carpenter's trade; had known weariness in His journeyings; had prayed all night on the mountainside; had in pity fed the famishing multitudes; had healed the sick and raised the dead; had been rejected of men, scourged, and crucified; and had ascended in the form of a man to sit on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. Hebrews 8:1, 2.

Editor's Note: This and other future articles by James Edson White, one of the sons of Ellen White, are taken from The Coming King, by James Edson White written in 1898.





Afterwards

By Eliza H. Morton

After the frosts of winter,
Grass springs beneath the feet.
After the April showers,
Blossoms the mayflower sweet.

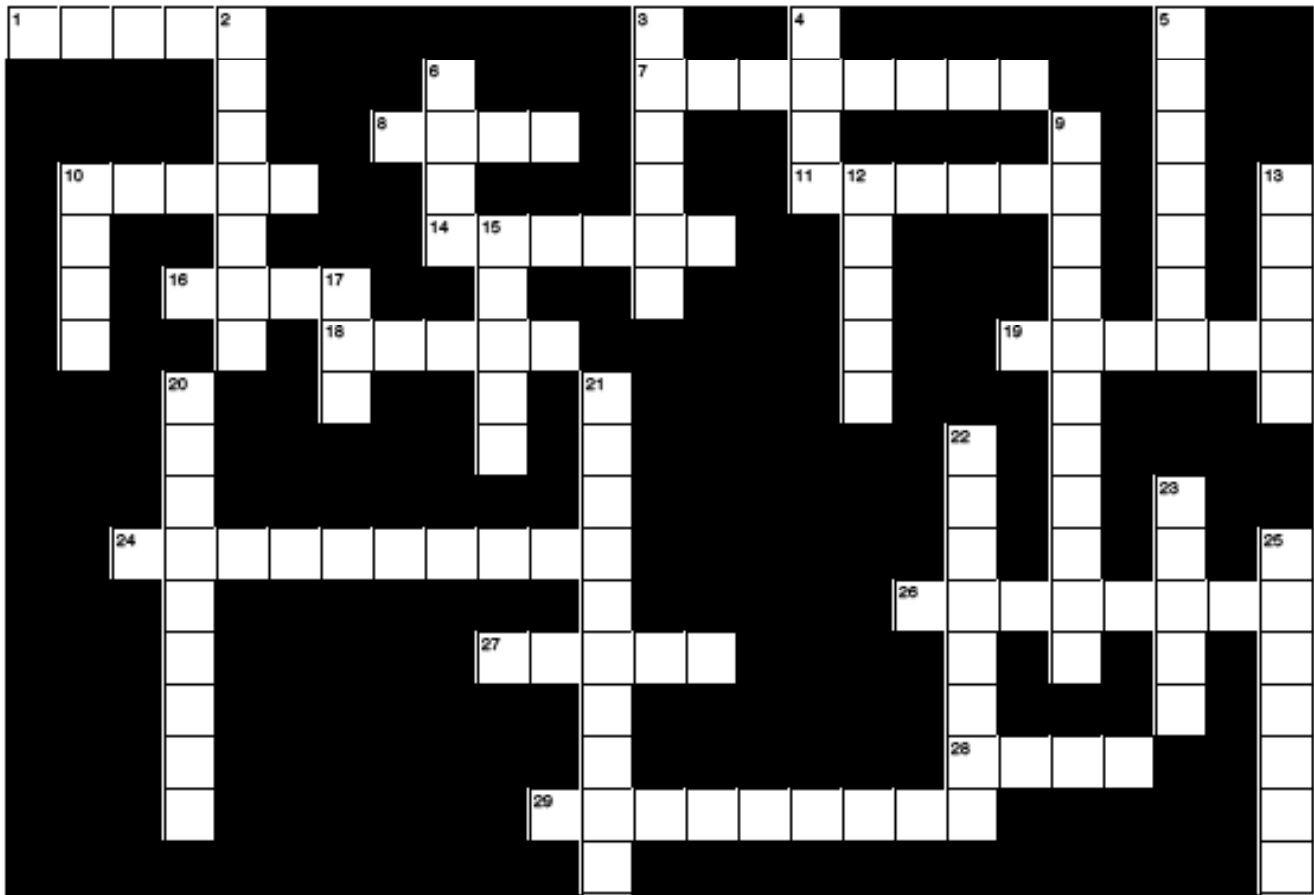
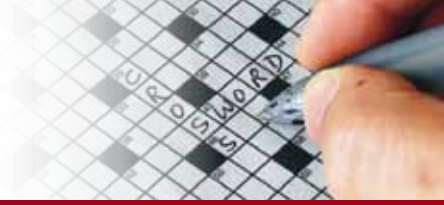
After the dark, drear midnight,
Glimmers a golden morn.
After despair and trial,
Hope, blessed hope is born.

After the pain and anguish,
Health with its rosy glow.
After the swell of the freshet,
Brooklets and rivers flow.

After the grave and mourning
Cometh a time of rest,
After the grief and sorrow,
Joy, O redeemed and blest.

After this life of trial,
Sweet tho' at times it be,
Cometh a day of gladness,--
Day of eternity.

Christian Crossword



ACROSS

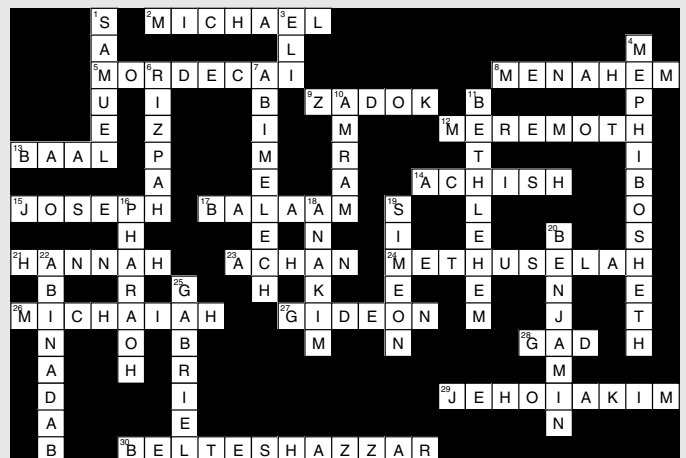
1. The first bird sent from the ark
7. Who in the Old Testament said that the just would live by faith?
8. The father of Nimrod
10. Enoch was the son of ____
11. Noah's father
14. Which book of the Old Testament has many messianic prophecies?
16. The third son of Adam
18. The first High Priest of the Israelites
19. Who was David's wife that was returned to him?
24. Enoch was the father of ____
26. Who wrote of the potter and the clay?
27. The rain of the flood lasted how many days?
28. A prophet who was a shepherd from Tekoa
29. Micah's home town

DOWN

2. The town where Jonah preached
3. What was the river by which Ezekiel had visions?
4. Who said, "I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me"?
5. The Hebrew name of this prophet means "Worshiper of Yahweh"
6. Ezekiel was the son of ____
9. Which people killed King Saul's sons?
10. Who killed Abner without King David's approval?
12. Who made Saul's son, Ishbosheth, king over Israel?

13. Jeremiah bought a ____ from Hanamel, his cousin
15. What weapon was used to kill King Saul?
17. The father of Canaan
20. What was affected by the 5th plague of Egypt?
21. The wood used in building the ark
22. Who is thought to be the author of Lamentations?
23. What was the result of the 6th plague of Egypt?
25. What is the greatest gift, over prophecy, faith and tongues?

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



Flesh as Food



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.

The diet appointed man in the beginning did not include animal food. Not till after the Flood, when every green thing on the earth had been destroyed, did man receive permission to eat flesh.

In choosing man's food in Eden, the Lord showed what was the best diet; in the choice made for Israel He taught the same lesson. He brought the Israelites out of Egypt and undertook their training, that they might be a people for His own possession. Through them He desired to bless and teach the world. He provided them with the food best adapted for this purpose, not flesh, but manna, "the bread of heaven". It was only because of their discontent and their murmuring for the fleshpots of Egypt that animal food was granted them, and this only for a short time. Its use brought disease and death

to thousands. Yet the restriction to a nonflesh diet was never heartily accepted. It continued to be the cause of discontent and murmuring, open or secret, and it was not made permanent.

Careful restrictions were placed on the use of flesh foods

Upon their settlement in Canaan, the Israelites were permitted the use of animal food, but under careful restrictions which tended to lessen the evil results. The use of swine's flesh was prohibited, as also of other animals and of birds and fish whose flesh was pronounced unclean. Of the meats permitted, the eating of the fat and the blood was strictly forbidden.

Only such animals could be used for food as were in good condition. No creature that was torn, that had died

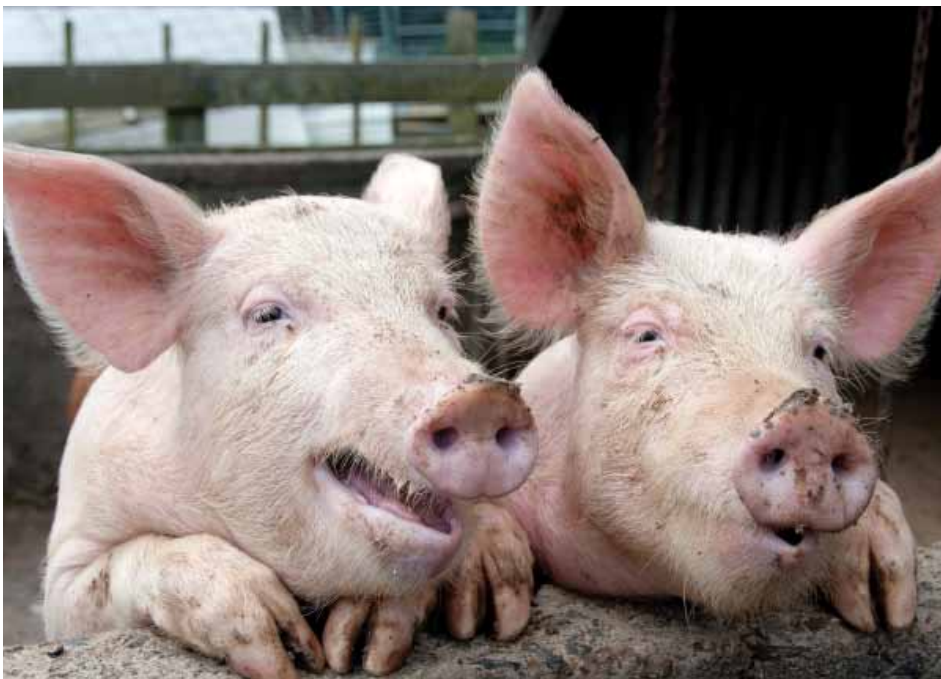
of itself, or from which the blood had not been carefully drained, could be used as food.

By departing from the plan divinely appointed for their diet, the Israelites suffered great loss. They desired a flesh diet, and they reaped its results. They did not reach God's ideal of character or fulfill His purpose. The Lord "gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul." Psalm 106:15. They valued the earthly above the spiritual, and the sacred pre-eminence which was His purpose for them they did not attain.

Reasons for Discarding Flesh Foods

Those who eat flesh are but eating grains and vegetables at second hand; for the animal receives from these things the nutrition that produces growth. The life that was in the grains and vegetables passes into the eater. We receive it by eating the flesh of the animal. How much better to get it direct, by eating the food that God provided for our use!

Flesh was never the best food; but its use is now doubly objectionable, since disease in animals is so rapidly increasing. Those who use flesh foods little know what they are eating. Often if they could see the animals when living and know the quality of the meat they eat, they would turn from it with loathing. People are continually eating flesh that is filled with tuberculous and cancerous germs. Tuberculosis, cancer, and other fatal diseases are thus communicated.



Swine's flesh is unfit for food

The tissues of the swine swarm with parasites. Of the swine God said, "It is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcass." Deuteronomy 14:8.

This command was given because swine's flesh is unfit for food. Swine are scavengers, and this is the only use they were intended to serve. Never, under any circumstances, was their flesh to be eaten by human beings. It is impossible for the flesh of any living creature to be wholesome when filth is its natural element and when it feeds upon every detestable thing. Often animals are taken to market and sold for food when they are so diseased that their owners fear to keep them longer. And some of the processes of fattening them for market produce disease. Shut away from the light and pure air, breathing the atmosphere of filthy stables, perhaps fattening on decaying food, the entire body soon becomes contaminated with foul matter.

Disease and death can result from consuming flesh foods

Animals are often transported long distances and subjected to great suffering in reaching a market. Taken from the green pastures, and traveling for weary miles over the hot, dusty roads, or crowded into filthy cars, feverish and exhausted, often for many hours deprived of food and water, the poor creatures are driven to their death, that human beings may feast on the carcasses.

In many places fish become so contaminated by the filth on which they feed as to be a cause of disease. This is especially the case where the fish come in contact with the sewage of large cities. The fish that are fed on the contents of the drains may pass into distant waters and may be caught where the water is pure and fresh.



Thus when used as food they bring disease and death on those who do not suspect the danger.

Many die of disease wholly due to meat eating

The effects of a flesh diet may not be immediately realized; but this is no evidence that it is not harmful. Few can be made to believe that it is the meat they have eaten which has poisoned their blood and caused their suffering. Many die of diseases wholly due to meat eating, while the real cause is not suspected by themselves or by others.

The moral evils of a flesh diet are not less marked than are the physical ills. Flesh food is injurious to health, and whatever affects the body has a corresponding effect on the mind and the soul. Think of the cruelty to animals that meat eating involves, and its effect on those who inflict and those who behold it. How it destroys the tenderness with which we should regard these creatures of God!

Animals see and hear and love and fear and suffer

The intelligence displayed by many dumb animals approaches so closely to human intelligence that it is a mystery. The animals see and hear and love and fear and suffer. They use their organs far more faithfully than many human beings use theirs. They manifest sympathy and tenderness toward their companions in suffering. Many animals show an affection for those who have charge of them, far superior to the affection shown by some of the human race. They form attachments for man which are not broken without great suffering to them.

What man with a human heart, who has ever cared for domestic animals, could look into their eyes, so full of confidence and affection, and willingly give them over to the butcher's knife? How could he devour their flesh as a sweet morsel?

Flesh foods fever the blood and excite the nerves

It is a mistake to suppose that muscular strength depends on the use of animal food. The needs of the system can be better supplied, and more vigorous health can be enjoyed,



without its use. The grains, with fruits, nuts, and vegetables, contain all the nutritive properties necessary to make good blood. These elements are not so well or so fully supplied by a flesh diet. Had the use of flesh been essential to health and strength, animal food would have been included in the diet appointed man in the beginning.

When the use of flesh food is discontinued, there is often a sense of weakness, a lack of vigor. Many urge this as evidence that flesh food is essential; but it is because foods of this class are stimulating, because they fever the blood and excite the nerves, that they are so missed. Some will find it as difficult to leave off flesh eating as it is for the drunkard to give up his dram; but they will be the better for the change.

None should be urged to make the change from a flesh diet abruptly

When flesh food is discarded, its place should be supplied with a variety of grains, nuts, vegetables, and fruits that will be both nourishing and appetizing. This is especially necessary in the case of those who are weak or who are taxed with continuous labor. In some countries where poverty abounds, flesh is the cheapest food. Under these circumstances the change will be made with greater difficulty; but it can be effected. We should, however, consider the situation of the people and the power of lifelong habit, and should be careful not to urge even right ideas unduly. None should be urged to make the change abruptly. The place of meat should be supplied with wholesome foods that are inexpensive. In this matter very much depends on the cook. With care and skill, dishes may be prepared that will be both nutritious and appetizing, and will, to a great degree, take the

place of flesh food.

In all cases educate the conscience, enlist the will, supply good, wholesome food, and the change will be readily made, and the demand for flesh will soon cease.

Is it not time that all should aim to dispense with flesh foods?

How can those who are seeking to become pure, refined, and holy, that they may have the companionship of heavenly angels, continue to use as food anything that has so harmful an effect on soul and body? How can they take the life of God's creatures that they may consume the flesh as a luxury? Let them, rather, return to the wholesome and delicious food given to man in the beginning, and themselves practice, and teach their children to practice, mercy toward the dumb

creatures that God has made and has placed under our dominion.
Compiled from MH 311 - 317

Editor's note: I felt it would be appropriate to remind our people again in regard to the negative effects of eating flesh food. We also have much counsel against the use of wine, other alcoholic products, and coffees and teas. I have been noticing that in some of the worldly health articles people are being encouraged to drink a little wine, or to have coffee and tea. We are being told that these items are healthy for us. Please go to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and notice the prohibitions, and choose to listen to inspired counsel. May the Lord continue to be the guide for each one of us in these last days!



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Fruitilicious

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The pigments that give berries their beautiful blue and red hues are also good for your health! Berries contain a giant portion of phytochemicals and flavonoids that have proven to help prevent many health conditions!

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- Pomegranates: Super antioxidant, pomegranates support heart, circulatory, brain, prostate and breast health. They also aid weight loss!
- Strawberries - Contain a plethora of nutrients, including vitamin C, phytonutrients, and antioxidants.
- Watermelon - Packed with some of the most important antioxidants in nature, it is a great source of vitamins A, B6, B1 and C.
- Bilberries - Contain strong antioxidants and are very helpful for the eyes.
- Lutein - Necessary for healthy eyes and eyesight.
- Grapeseed Extract - Fights the effects of aging, improves eye and heart health.
- Astaxanthin - Increases strength and endurance. Protects cells, boosts the immune system and prevents unhealthy cell growth.
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- Flax Seeds - Relieve constipation, clear up skin problems, improve brain health, reduce inflammation, and can help improve mood.
- Lecithin - Necessary to every cell and organ, lecithin aids in balancing overall health by helping repair and maintain the health of all cells and organs, supporting liver function and detoxification and improving the look and tone of skin!

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



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FACT:

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- Calcium - Helps growth and maintenance of bones and teeth.
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- Iodine (from Kelp) - Helps to increase energy levels. Improves liver function and boosts the immune system.
- Magnesium - Aids the body's absorption of calcium.
- Zinc - Helps strengthen the immune system and improves your white blood cell count.
- Lecithin (fine powder) - Helps boost energy, physical performance, and cardiovascular health. Also aides in the improvement of diabetes.
- Spirulina (Hawaiian organic) - Helps rebuild healthy intestinal flora.
- Alfalfa Juice - Helps relieve fluid retention, swelling, and arthritis. Also cleanses and purifies the blood.
- Wheat Grass Powder (organic) - Purifies the liver, improves blood sugar levels in the body, and keeps hair from turning gray.
- Plant Based Enzymes - Helps build cells, tissues, and organs.
- Alpha Lipoic Acid - Helps to slow the aging of the brain. Very powerful antioxidant.
- Barley Grass Powder (organic) - Contains enzymes that provide potent antioxidant effects and energy for cells.
- Carrot Powder - Helps maintain healthy skin, teeth, bones, and eyes. Improves liver and immune function.
- Barley Malt Powder - Contains enzymes which help provide natural, sustainable energy for the body.
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- Grapeseed Extract - Helps prevent the formation of plaque in the arteries.
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- Coenzyme Q-10 - Helps to fight heart disease and increase energy level.
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*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



awful sins that are now so common; we would not read of the murders, the wickedness, and the tyranny daily chronicled in the newspapers. Like the antediluvians, the inhabitants of the world have almost entirely forgotten God and His law.”—Manuscript 155, 1902. As it was in the days of Noah!

first might be evident!

“Since the beginning of the year, we’ve provided insight, news and analysis regarding the intense battle over religious liberty—the freedom to practice our faith in accordance with the teachings of the Church. But many in the secular media—and, unfortunately, too many Catholics—have criticized those who are in opposition to the HHS mandate.

“For Christians, however, the central purpose of political activism in a free society is to create a safe environment for people to love and serve God and one another. Freedom is worth having; therefore it is worth defending. The National Catholic Register supports the same freedom of this basic Christian concept—to create a safe environment for people to love God and to be able to practice their religion as they see fit.”

1. Time Magazine, August 6, 2012, page 33—Preventing Mass Murder, Can We Identify Dangerous Men Before They Kill? by John Cloud.

“James Holmes was Meticulous in His Preparation. He shopped at different gun stores and hid his online purchases from colleagues and neighbors. It may well be that no gun ban or background check could prevent such a determined man—one with no criminal record and with uncommon student achievement in neuroscience—from acquiring assault weapons.” (The Secret Service studied 41 attackers in 37 School massacres and found it would have been difficult to identify them before the attacks occurred.)

This article was in regard to the 12 who were killed in the movie theatre in Aurora, Colorado.

END TIME PERSPECTIVE:

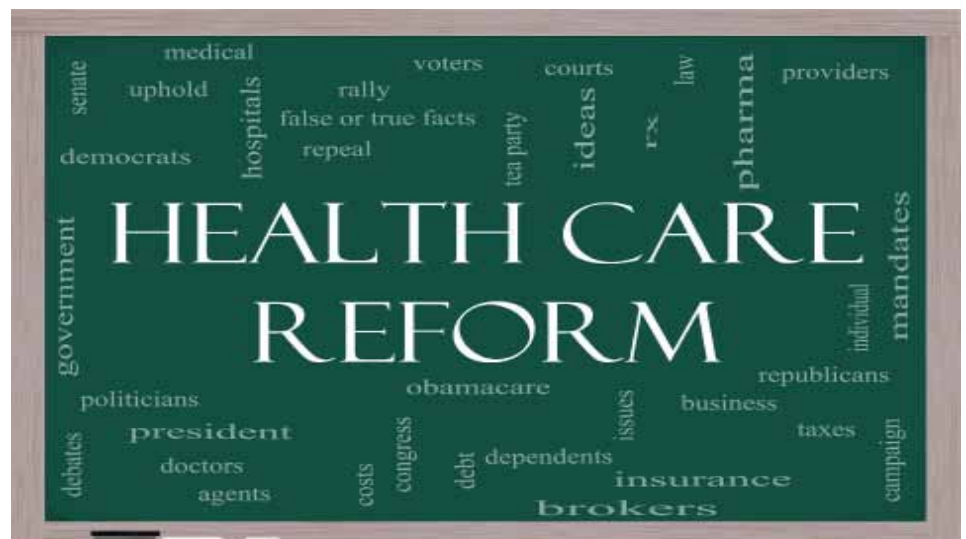
“If the world should recognize the claims of God upon them, we would not see and hear of the

2. This Shall Not Stand

Editor’s Note: The following quotation is from a personal letter to me as a subscriber of the National Catholic Register—subtitle—America’s most complete Catholic news source.

“The U.S. Supreme Court recently provided a ruling to uphold the Affordable Care Act (other wise known as Obamacare), failing to stop the Health and Human Services contraception mandate. This act greatly affects American health care—with implications that go beyond what

Editor’s 2nd Note: The underlining directly above was emphasized in the letter itself. Please keep this notation in your own files for future reference. The letter was dated July 6, 2012. Will the National Catholic Register continue to think this way when Sunday laws come?



Ellen White's *Vision*

Spiritualism

The rapping delusion was presented before me, and I saw that Satan has power to bring before us the appearance of forms purporting to be our relatives or friends who sleep in Jesus. It will be made to appear as if these friends were actually present, the words they uttered while here, with which we were familiar, will be spoken, and the same tone of voice that they had while living will fall upon the ear. All this is to deceive the world and ensnare them into the belief of this delusion.

We must be able to recognize the spirits of devils

I saw that the saints must have a thorough understanding of present truth, which they will be obliged to maintain from the Scriptures. They must understand the state of the dead; for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved relatives or friends, who will declare to them unscriptural doctrines. They will do all in their power to excite sympathy and will work miracles before them to confirm what they declare. The people of God must be

prepared to withstand these spirits with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils.

Unless we are prepared, we shall be ensnared and overcome

We must examine well the foundation of our hope; for we shall have to give a reason for it from the Scriptures. This delusion will spread, and we shall have to contend with it face to face; and unless we are prepared for it, we shall be ensnared and overcome. But if we do what we can on our part to be ready for the conflict that is just before us, God will do His part, and His all-powerful arm will protect us. He would sooner send every angel out of glory to make a hedge about faithful souls, than have them deceived and led away by the lying wonders of Satan.

Satan has taken the world captive

I saw the rapidity with which this delusion was spreading. A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the

train. It seemed that the whole world was on board. Then he showed me the conductor, a fair, stately person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed and asked my attending angel who it was. He said, "It is Satan. He is the conductor, in the form of an angel of light. He has taken the world captive. They are given over to strong delusions, to believe a lie that they may be damned. His agent, the highest in order next to him, is the engineer, and others of his agents are employed in different offices as he may need them, and they are all going with lightning speed to perdition."

I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in the opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united by the truth. This little company looked careworn, as if they had passed through severe trials and conflicts. And it appeared as if the sun had just arisen from behind a cloud and shone upon their countenances, causing them to look triumphant as if their victories were nearly won.

Thomas Paine despised God and His law

I saw that the Lord has given the world opportunity to discover the snare. This one thing is evidence enough for the Christian if there were no other; there is no difference made between the precious and the vile. Thomas Paine, whose body has now moldered to dust and who is to be called forth at the end of the one thousand years, at the second resurrection, to receive his



reward, and suffer the second death, is represented by Satan as being in heaven, and highly exalted there. Satan used him on earth as long as he could, and now he is carrying on the same work through pretensions of having Thomas Paine so much exalted and honored in heaven; and as he taught here, Satan would make it appear that he is teaching there. And some who have looked with horror at his life and death, and his corrupt teachings while living, now submit to be taught by him--one of the vilest and most corrupt of men, one who despised God and His law.

The Holy Bible thwarts the plans of Satan

He who is the father of lies, blinds and deceives the world by sending forth his angels to speak for the apostles, and to make it appear that they contradict what they wrote by the dictation of the Holy Ghost when on earth. These lying angels make the apostles to corrupt their own teachings and to declare them to be adulterated. By so doing, Satan delights to throw professed Christians and all the world into uncertainty about the Word of God. That holy Book cuts directly across his track and thwarts his plans; therefore he leads men to doubt the divine origin of the Bible. Then he sets up the infidel Thomas Paine, as if when he died he were ushered into heaven, and now, united with the holy apostles whom he hated on earth, were engaged in teaching the world.

Satan dictated much of Paine's writings

Satan assigns to each of his angels a part to act. He enjoins upon them all to be sly, artful, cunning. He instructs some of them to act the part of the apostles and to speak for them, while

others are to act the part of infidels and wicked men who died cursing God, but now appear to be very religious. There is no difference made between the most holy apostles and the vilest infidels. They are both made to teach the same thing. It matters not whom Satan makes to speak, if his object is only accomplished. He was intimately connected with Paine upon earth, aiding him in his work, and it is an easy thing for him to know the very words and the handwriting of one who served him so faithfully and accomplished his purposes so well. Satan dictated much of Paine's writings, and it is an easy thing for him to dictate sentiments through his angels now, and make it appear that they come through Thomas Paine. This is the masterpiece of Satan. All this teaching, purporting to be from apostles and saints and wicked men who have died, comes directly from his satanic majesty.

The evil one makes the world believe the Bible is uninspired

The fact that Satan claims that one whom he loved so well, and who hated God so perfectly, is now with the holy apostles and angels in glory, should be enough to remove the veil from all minds and discover to them the dark, mysterious works of Satan. He virtually says to the world and to infidels, "No matter how wicked you are, no matter whether you believe or disbelieve in God or the Bible, live as you please, heaven is your home; for all know that if Thomas Paine is in heaven, and so exalted, they will surely get there." This is so glaring that all may see if they will. Satan is now doing, through individuals like Thomas Paine, what he has been trying to do since his fall. He is, through his power and lying wonders, tearing

away the foundation of the Christian's hope and putting out the sun that is to light the narrow way to heaven. He is making the world believe that the Bible is uninspired, no better than a storybook, while he holds out something to take its place; namely, spiritual manifestations.

Satan laughs as he deceives the world

Here is a channel wholly devoted to himself, under his control, and he can make the world believe what he will. The book that is to judge him and his followers, he puts back into the shade, just where he wants it. The Saviour of the world he makes to be no more than a common man; and as the Roman guard that watched the tomb of Jesus spread the lying report that the chief priests and elders put into their mouths, so will the poor, deluded followers of these pretended spiritual manifestations repeat and try to make it appear that there is nothing miraculous about our Saviour's birth, death, and resurrection. After putting Jesus in the background, they attract the attention of the world to themselves and to their miracles and lying wonders, which, they declare, far exceed the works of Christ. Thus the world is taken in the snare and lulled to a feeling of security, not to find out their awful deception until the seven last plagues shall be poured out. Satan laughs as he sees his plan succeed so well and the whole world taken in the snare.

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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.

"As I write upon my book I feel intensely moved. I want to get it out as soon as possible, for our people need it so much. I shall complete it next month if the Lord gives me health as He has done. I have been unable to sleep nights, for thinking of the important things to take place. Three hours and sometimes five is the most of sleep I get. My mind is stirred so deeply I cannot rest. Write, write, write, I feel I must and not delay." Ellen G. White



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This quote shows how motivated Ellen White was to provide us with the Inspiration she was given, so as she felt compelled to write, write, write, we should read, read, read! If you need books please visit our Hope International Bookstore at our website: www.hopeint.org - many books are on Clearance!