



*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**  
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**WE BELIEVE:** The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He

is the Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all

unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine, the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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# Under His Wings

*He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Psalm 91:4.*

“Every pulsation of the heart is a rebound from the touch of the finger of God. He watches over us by day, and under His wings we find shelter by night. His preserving care is over us, whether we wake or sleep. He is as a sentinel to guard us from Satan's power, or we should be taken captive by him. Jesus is our constant friend. We are to look to Him moment by moment, and by looking to Him we are to live. It will not pay for any one of us to become self-centered, to study our ease, or pleasure, or selfish indulgence in any respect. It is enough for us if our life is hid with Christ in God. If the life of Jesus is in us, we shall seek the glory of God in everything. We shall daily humble our hearts before God, and at the foot of the cross we shall have distinct views of the loveliness of Christ. We shall make Christ first, and last, and best in everything. We cannot glorify God if we place man where God should be. Not a word of praise should be diverted from God to sinful men. But if we walk humbly with God, working the works of Christ, our characters will become like that of our Lord; and when we most nearly reflect the likeness of Christ, we are giving the greatest honor to God.

“Then we shall have cheerfulness of spirit; our words will be hopeful, we shall show that there is a power sustaining, upholding us day by day, and we shall make melody to God in our hearts. Thus we shall show that the way to life is a bright and sunny way. We shall be a light at home, in the church, and before the world. We shall not be talking the theory of the truth so much of the time, but shall do the will of our Heavenly Father, and shall talk of Christ and His love. There will be faithfulness in all the walks of life. We shall have an interest in the souls of all for whom Christ has died. We shall long to see His work become a

praise in the earth. We shall spread the glad tidings of truth, we shall give of our means, we shall send the messengers into the missionary fields. Already the fields are white unto harvest; all heaven is interested in this work, and in working with heaven we are laying up a treasure unto life eternal.” —*The Review and Herald*, December 2, 1890

“In Noah's day there were men who laughed to scorn his words of warning. They said that there were fixed laws in nature, which made a flood impossible; that Noah was crazy on this subject, and if there were any truth in what he said, the men of renown, the wise, the prudent, the great men, would understand the

matter. There was total disbelief in Noah's testimony in regard to the coming judgments; but this unbelief did not prevent or hinder the coming storm. At the appointed time, ‘the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened,’ and the earth was washed of its corruption. Only those who found shelter in the ark were saved.

“Reader, another storm is coming. The earth will again be swept by the desolating wrath of God; and again sin and sinners will be destroyed. Do you feel that it is an event of little importance? Read some of the utterances of the prophets in reference to the day of God: ‘Behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.’ ‘Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.’ ‘The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord. The mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.’

“But though this is a day of trouble and distress to the wicked, the righteous will be able to say, ‘Lo, this is our God;’ ‘we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.’ The truth will be their shield and buckler. God will be their refuge, and under His wings shall they trust. Says the psalmist: ‘Because thou hast made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.’” —*The Signs of the Times*, November 27, 1884

*Ellen G. White*



# What is Truth?

If someone would call you a liar and dishonest, would you get angry and defend yourself and try to prove how honest you are? If we take a closer look at our world, we do not find much honesty. Much of the business world is based on deceit. Merchandise is made to look as good as possible on the outside, while on the inside, the most important part, it may be of poor quality. When buying a car, house, or any other item, we can be deceived.

How many lies are spoken to our friends, excuses that are not valid, while the real reason is not mentioned? Even children soon learn to speak lies because they believe that they gain by it.

All deceptions come from Satan; he is the father of lies. Satan was perfect in wisdom and well doing, but he did not safeguard himself from deception. "Thou art the anointed cherub, that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee." Ezekiel 28:14–15, 17

Satan was deceived by his beauty and his wisdom. Adam and Eve were deceived by him. If they had seen our world as it is today, they would not have disobeyed God. In the time of Noah, people were deceived and would not enter into the ark to save themselves. If they would have seen the flood, they all would have gone into the ark. But they did not believe the truth that Noah spoke to them.

Are we safe from the deceptions in the world that are existing today?

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately

wicked: who can know it." Jeremiah 17:9

Today we have nearly 4,000 Christian churches, and they all teach different doctrines. Yet, God has only one church which is teaching the truth that is in the Bible.

Paul was sure that he was right, and that the Christians were wrong, therefore he persecuted them. Later he called himself the chief of sinners, because he had persecuted the true Christians in the past.

People seek happiness, peace, security, comforts, joy, and a good life, by any means, even by lies and deceit, but how disappointing it is. "Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel." Proverbs 20:17

Judas was deceived by the love of money, but his enjoyment was very short. Many think that all is well, they will be saved in heaven, but they are deceived.

"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:21–23

Many think that they are rich and have need of nothing, but the truth is that they are poor, and in need of everything. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Revelation 3:17

The Jewish people thought themselves to be holy and righteous, and looked down on others outside of their faith. Yet they were so deceived that they crucified the Son of God, and persecuted His followers. Did they understand the reality of what they were doing? No! Did Pilate understand what he was doing? No! Did Judas understand what he was doing? No, he did not. Do we know what we are doing? Anyone who commits sin does not truly know what he is doing.

Would you drink poison if you knew that it was poison? Sin is poison; it kills. Peter had been with Jesus for three and a half years, and learned of Him, yet what do we read of him? "Then Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him, saying, Be it far from Thee, Lord: this shall not be unto Thee. But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind Me, Satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Matthew 16:22–23

Do not trust man. Do not trust even your best friend. Sa-

tan is deceiving the Christians by telling them that there is much time yet to enjoy life, and the fun of the world. "I saw that as the Jews crucified Jesus, so the nominal churches had crucified these messages, and therefore they have no knowledge of the way into the most holy, and they cannot be benefitted by the intercession of Jesus there. Like the Jews, who offered up their useless sacrifices, they offer up their useless prayers to the apartment which Jesus has left; and Satan, pleased with the deception, assumes a religious character, and leads the minds of those professed Christians to himself, working with his power, his signs and lying wonders, to fasten them in his snare. Some he deceives in one way, and some in another. He has different delusions prepared to affect different minds. Some look with horror upon one deception, while they readily receive another. Satan deceives some with Spiritualism. He also comes as an angel of light and spreads his influence over the land by means of false reformations. The churches are elated, and consider that God is working marvelously for them, when it is the work of another spirit. The excitement will die away and leave the world and the church in a worse condition than before." —*Early Writings*, p. 260

Satan is trying to deceive everyone, even professed Christians, and he has been successful. He knows that if he can make us commit even the smallest sin or neglect our duties, we will lose our salvation.

We read in the last chapter of the Bible, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14. The truth is to do all that God has spoken; one thing neglected will make it a falsehood. Ninety-nine percent of true knowledge is not truth; it must be one-hundred percent from the Bible, then it is truth.

Truth and error often look alike because the differences may be very little. Without the power of God, and without the Holy Spirit, our religion will not save us. The truth is where there is Christ's righteousness, humility, and obedience to God's commandments.

If we do not love the truth, it will be removed from us. "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish: because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:10–12. How many brothers and sisters have we seen believing a lie, and leaving the church? What was clear to them once, now is taken away, and they believe a strong delusion.

Where is the only place where we can find the truth clearly taught? It is in the church of God. When King Saul did not receive an answer from God, because of his disobedience, he decided to go to a woman who had a familiar spirit. "And when Saul enquired of the LORD, and the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor." 1 Samuel 28:6–7

This can happen also today, that God will not answer some prayers. "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins had hid His face from you, that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:1–2. We must be willing to give up all our cherished sins, and then God will hear us and answer our prayers.

The truth is not alone, it is united with mercy. "All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies." Psalm 25:10. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalm 85:10. "Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before Thy face." Psalm 89:14

Some people are seeking for mercy and forgiveness and try to separate them from the truth. They will be disappointed, because these cannot be separated. Without obedience to the truth, there is no mercy for the sinner. "He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Psalm 91:4

No evil can happen to us as long as we abide in the truth. The Spirit of God will lead us into all the truth, which is Jesus Christ.

Pilate asked, "what is truth"? The truth of God stood before him, but he was blinded, and could not see what the disciples saw. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Can we see in Him, His glory, full of grace and truth? We need to walk in truth; when we walk in Christ, then we know what is truth.

The disciples understood the truth finally, after the crucifixion of Jesus. Then also the power of the Holy Spirit was given to them. We must learn to know the truth and obey it before it is too late; then the truth (Jesus) will save us and make us free. Amen.

*Timo Martin*

# The Theory of Salvation



Is religion a theory?

What is a theory? There are several definitions. The one we may be most familiar with is that a theory is a speculative idea as opposed to a factual one. Going one step further, a theory is a proposed explanation which needs to be proved by experimentation; and thus, by this method, it can be proven as to whether it can be regarded as a fact, such as scientific theories.

However, there is a third definition, one which we will focus on in this article. It is: a particular conception or view of something to be done or of the method of doing it. Basically, it can be described as *a system of rules or principles*.

Ellen White wrote about two theories of life. Only two. And this includes the entire world. She used two very familiar people in the Bible to describe these two theories.

“Paul and Nero face to face!--the youthful monarch bearing upon his sin-stamped countenance the shameful record of the passions that reigned within; the aged prisoner’s calm and benignant face telling of a heart at peace with God and man. The results of opposite systems of training and education stood that day contrasted,--the life of unbounded self-indulgence and the life of utter self-sacrifice. *Here were the representatives of two religions,--Christianity and paganism; the representatives of two theories of life,--the simplicity of self-denying endurance, ready to give up life itself, if need be, for the good of others, and the luxury of all-absorbing selfishness, that counts nothing too valuable to sacrifice for a momentary gratification; the representatives of two spiritual powers,--the ambassador of Christ and the slave of Satan.* Their relative position showed to what extent the course of this world was under the rule of the prince of darkness. The wretch whose soul was stained with incest and matricide, was robed in purple, and seated upon the throne,

while the purest and noblest of men stood before the judgment-seat, despised, hated, and fettered.” *—Sketches From the Life of Paul, p. 312–313*

There is a powerful contrast in this quote. Each person is either an ambassador for Christ or a slave of Satan. Although Satan claims to have a better system of government, we are shown the depths of depravity that people end up in when they choose to become his slave.

The word, “theories,” used in this quote, clearly are not speculative theories. They are factual theories; two opposite systems of principles and rules, which is consistent with the third definition mentioned needing scientific experimentation to prove them to be true.

Last Sabbath, in the divine service, Brother Evald Pederesen made mention of Alexander the Great and what he accomplished in life and what a miserable end he had after the short life that he lived. He compared Alexander to another Man who also lived nearly the same amount of years on this earth, but had a completely different theory on life. This man was Jesus.

The two theories on life resulted from two different up-bringsings. Alexander was raised surrounded by wealth as was Nero, but they were also surrounded by corruption. Their lives were filled with pride, anger, and hatred. Alexander had gained the world, but none of his children benefitted from his wealth. Wherever he went, he was feared. He conquered the world through force, evil, and fear.

Jesus was born in poverty. He worked hard every day during his childhood in the carpenter’s shop. His life was quite different. It was filled with joy, love, and peace. He did not seem to gain the whole world politically, but He was able to win the heart of man and set up His kingdom there by using only love. He conquered

through love.

However, it has been proven over and over again that a person can change and not remain as a product of their upbringing (whether evil to good, or good to evil). There are two great powers working behind the scenes a person can decide to move from following one leader to the other any time, although the change may not be easy as Satan does not give up his prey without a fight.

The two theories of life mentioned in the above quote are described as “Christianity and paganism.”

In the Old Testament the two theories were Jew or Gentile. In the New Testament, nearly the same, but called Christianity and Paganism. What about today? Is there only two?

When Ellen White wrote the statement there were multiple Christian churches existing with a variety of standards and there still are today. But, there is still only two theories in life—genuine Christianity, and all else is pagan, regardless what name they call themselves.

The dictionary describes a Pagan as: “relating to the worship or worshipers of any religion that is neither Christian, Jewish, nor Muslim.” <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/pagan>

Interesting. So how do we reconcile this definition with what Ellen White said that there are only two—Christianity and Paganism? Are Jews or Muslims not pagan? These three religious groups claim to be worshippers of God. However, not all adherents are understanding the true theory of salvation.

In Romans 2:28–29, the apostle Paul gives a definition of a true Jew. “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.” Also, “they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.” Romans 9:6. Being a true Jewish person has nothing to do with bloodlines. It has everything to do with Christ living within. “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27

Although the Muslim religion has many things wrong that they have extracted from the Koran, the basic principle of their faith is absolute submission to a unique and personal god, Allah, who to them is the supreme being; God.

Anyone who serves God, sincerely and wholeheartedly, according to Biblical principles, is not Pagan. We could add to the dictionary definition and state that a pagan is

a worshiper of any religion that is neither *true* Christian, Jewish, nor Muslim. Any sincere follower of God will be led into the full truth. They will not be left in darkness in a fallen religious body. When convicted of the truth they will leave their fallen religion and will be led into contact with God’s church. Thus, anyone who does not put God first in their lives is Pagan, regardless what religion they belong to even if in God’s church.

Here is a clarification about the two theories of Life: “There are only two classes in the world today, and only two classes will be recognized in the judgment—those who violate God’s law and those who obey it. Christ gives the test by which to prove our loyalty or disloyalty. ‘If ye love Me,’ He says, ‘keep My commandments. . . . He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me. And he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him. . . .’ John 14:15, 21.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 283

Simply said, the one class obey the law of God through a genuine motive of love. The other class do not keep the commandments. Those who outwardly obey, grudgingly, are being disobedient. “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.” 1 John 5:3

You can go on the Internet and find a multitude of Christian theories regarding salvation. They each teach different theories, and have different standards, but all claim to lead you to heaven. They all use the same Bible to develop their theories. Many misinterpret the scriptures. However, any theory that is not 100% Biblical based, we can state is pagan, as it is false religion.

Other religions do not have so many variants (Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist etc.) as does Christianity—from one Bible. Satan leaves them alone in their darkness and has sought to create confusion in any religion that claims to be based on Christ—Christianity.

Here are two common false theories in the Christian world:

“Satan deceives many with the plausible theory that since God’s love for His people is so great, He will excuse sin in them; that while the threatenings of God’s Word are to serve a certain purpose in His moral government, they are never to be literally fulfilled.” But the truth is, “In His dealings with His creatures, God has maintained the principles of righteousness by revealing sin in its true character—by demonstrating that its sure result is misery and death. The unconditional pardon of sin never has been

and never will be. Such pardon would show the abandonment of the principles of righteousness that are the very foundation of the government of God.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 139. While we understand this is incorrect, have we ever thought this way? God understands my weakness and will forgive even if I sin over and over again? Be careful to search your own heart before you condemn others.

One of the strongest false theories circulating in false Christian circles is that the law of God has been done away with, or has been altered. Some have added multiple man-made rules to the law, while others state it is no longer binding. “Satan has been persevering and untiring in his efforts to prosecute the work he began in heaven, to change the law of God. He has succeeded in making the world believe the theory he presented in heaven before his fall, *that the law of God was faulty and*



*needed revising.* A large part of the professed Christian church, by their attitude, if not by their words, show that they have accepted the same error.” But the truth is, “if in one jot or tittle the law of God has been changed, Satan has gained on earth that which he could not gain in heaven. He has prepared his delusive snare, hoping to take captive the church and the world.”

Thankfully, “not all will be taken in the snare. A line of distinction is being drawn between the children of obedience and the children of disobedience, the loyal and true and the disloyal and untrue. Two great parties are developed, the worshipers of the beast and his image, and the worshipers of the true and living God.” —*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 17, p. 8–9. Again, only two parties exist on this earth, the worshipers of the beast and the worshipers of God.

I ask you to consider your thoughts. Do you think that there are teachings in your local church that you believe are faulty and need revising? Do you feel they are too strict and old fashioned in their interpretation of the law, and need to be updated to keep up with the times in which we live? We are not exempt from attempting to create different theories in God’s church either. It is in God’s church that Satan is making his greatest attacks, trying to create the greatest confusion. And, although we may outwardly agree with, and comply with, the standards of the church, what is it we do in secret? What is the thought process in our hearts and minds?

### TRUE THEORY OF SALVATION

We need to understand the true theory (system of rules

or principles) of salvation. Although, as was mentioned, in the world there are only two theories of life—Christian and Pagan—in Christianity, and even in the church of God, you will find two theories of servitude.

#### They are:

- 1) What do I have to give up if I follow Jesus? (The burden of service)
- 2) What will I gain if I follow Jesus? (The joy of service)

In the first, the main focus of their faith is on all the things that they have to give up, to deny themselves in their religious walk. Little talk is mentioned about the love of Jesus, and they view the standards as a necessary burden for salvation. Some have little joy and are always moaning and groaning about their hard lot in life, while others are boasting about their goodness and the denials they made in order to live up to the standards (as did the Pharisee in the temple in Luke 18:10). In the second, the focus is on what we gain. We gain much and the standards are a joy to keep as we can see how the standards are meant as a blessing. From the false theory (#1) man has created many more theories resulting in many different Christian organizations to suit any lifestyle a person chooses to live.

What question did you ask yourself on your baptism day? What thought predominates your life now? I am a Christian, so I do not do this, or that. I do not drink, smoke, eat meat, dress immodestly, break the Sabbath, etc. Or do we think of, and talk a lot about, what I gain—peace, happiness, health, salvation? The joy of salvation is understanding that the things we are asked to give up are really not good for us anyway, and thus are given up with joy.

Both groups give to Jesus and serve Jesus. The first one gives and serves grudgingly, doing as little as possible, as little as they think will suffice for them to gain salvation. The second one gives and serves joyfully, doing as much as possible and they give all, and still do not think they have given enough.

The first group gets anxious and blames God when things go wrong. The second group can be like Job, and praise God at all times, even when things go wrong. “The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” Job 1:21. We ought to pray for the Lord to help us in every trial because He may not remove the trial. The trial may be for our benefit.

When the apostle Paul asked the Lord to remove the thorn in his flesh, the Lord answered, “No”; and then



went on to say, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9. Then Paul added, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." *-Ibid.*

"If we love Jesus, we shall love to live for Him, to present our thank offerings to Him, to labor for Him. The very labor will be light. For His sake we shall covet pain and toil and sacrifice. We shall sympathize with His longing for the salvation of men. We shall feel the same tender craving for souls that He has felt.

"This is the religion of Christ. Anything short of it is a deception." *-Christ's Object Lessons, p. 49-50*

### THEORY AND PRACTICE

Correct theory is important; however, theory without practice is useless. The correct theory (Joy of service), will always lead to correct practice. The incorrect theory (Burden of service), may be profession only or outward compliance with no inward heart change. "No mere theory of truth or profession of discipleship will save any soul. We do not belong to Christ unless we are His wholly. It is by halfheartedness in the Christian life that men become feeble in purpose and changeable in desire." *-Christ's Object Lessons, p. 49-50*

"If parents desire their children to be right and do right, they must be right themselves in theory and in practice." *-Child Guidance, p. 218.* Children often will notice more your actions than your words. They will copy you. Do not do anything that you do not want them to copy. Do not say anything you do not want them to say.

The correct theory will improve practice. If there is no improvement in the life, the true theory is not understood. Examine your own heart. "As long as individuals are content with a mere theory of truth, and are yet lacking in the daily operation of the Spirit of God upon the heart, which is manifested in outward transformation of character, they are cutting themselves off from the qualification that would fit them for greater efficiency in the Master's work." *-Christ Triumphant, p. 371*

"Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. *The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart.* One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed." *-Christ's Object Lessons, p. 408.* Outward compliance to rules is possible without an inward heart change. Man can serve through selfish motives. "Then shall two be in the field;

the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Matthew 24:40-41. Outwardly these people looked the same; however, one will be saved and one lost.



"It is not enough for us to believe that Jesus is not an impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man may be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our personal Saviour. *It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll. . . .* Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness." *-Christ's Object Lessons, p. 312-313*

In the letter to the church in Ephesus which John wrote, describing the condition of the church shortly after Jesus' ascension (Revelation 2:1-11) the church is described as being on fire for the truth. Yet, they did not remain that way. Unfortunately, they lost their first love. Initially, they were following the correct theory of salvation, but after some time, they began to adhere to an incorrect theory. How did that happen?

"After the descent of the Holy Spirit, when the disciples went forth to proclaim a living Saviour, their one desire was the salvation of souls. They rejoiced in the sweetness of communion with saints. They were tender, thoughtful, self-denying, willing to make any sacrifice for the truth's sake. In their daily association with one another, they revealed the love that Christ had enjoined upon them. By unselfish words and deeds they strove to kindle this love in other hearts.

"Such a love the believers were ever to cherish. They were to go forward in willing obedience to the new commandment. So closely were they to be united with Christ that they would be enabled to fulfill all His requirements. Their lives were to magnify the power of a Saviour who could justify them by His righteousness.

"But gradually a change came. The believers began to look for defects in others. Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the Saviour and His love. They became more strict in regard to outward ceremonies, *more particular about the theory than the practice of the faith.* In their zeal to condemn others,

they overlooked their own errors. They lost the brotherly love that Christ had enjoined, and, saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss. They did not realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives and that, having shut the love of God out of their hearts, they would soon walk in darkness." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 547–548. What is it that resulted in their decline? They "began to look for defects in others. . . . Dwelling upon mistakes. . . ."

While believing the correct theory is extremely important, a religion that focuses only on theory, without Christ, is not a happy life. They found that the "joy and happiness were going out of their lives, . . . and would soon walk in darkness." Remember, it is not your profession, but your heart and your motives for action.

"Many people have been getting the idea that if they get out of the Methodist Church, or the Presbyterian Church, or the Catholic Church, and get into the Seventh-day Adventist church, then they are out of Babylon. No; that is not enough, unless you are converted; unless you are separated from this world; you are not out of Babylon, even though you are in the Seventh-day Adventist church . . . 'Having a form of godliness; without the power,' is simply another expression which describes Babylon and her condition in the last days. That being so, if I, a Seventh-day Adventist, have the 'form of godliness without the power,' I belong to Babylon; no difference what I call myself, I am a Babylonian; I have on the Babylonish garment; I bring Babylon into the church wherever I go." E.J. Waggoner. —*The General Conference Bulletin*, February 13, 1895. You could substitute "Seventh-day Adventist Church," with "Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement" in the above quote.

"There have ever been two classes among those who profess to be followers of Christ. While one class study the Saviour's life and earnestly seek to correct their defects and conform to the Pattern, the other class shun the plain, practical truths that expose their errors." —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 321. The examples of Judas Iscariot and Ananias and Sapphira were given in this quote.

Ezekiel was given a vision of dry bones in a valley (Ezekiel 37:1–12). These bones represent those that are out of harmony with God, those following the pagan theory of life; and they may include those in God's church.

"But not only does this simile of the dry bones apply to the world, but also to those who have been blessed with

great light; for they also are like the skeletons of the valley. They have the form of men, the framework of the body; but they have not spiritual life. . . . Many who are without spiritual life have their names on the church records, but they are not written in the Lamb's book of life. They may be joined to the church, but they are not united to the Lord. They may be diligent in the performance of a certain set of duties, and may be regarded as living men; but many are among those who have 'a name that thou livest, and art dead.'" —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1165–1166. Examine your life and compare it to the life of Jesus and to His law. Are you dry bones?



The apostle Paul discovered and obeyed the true theory of life—of salvation. (as mentioned in the beginning). He had a living connection with Jesus and stated, "'I know whom I have believed.' He [Paul] does not live under a cloud of doubt, groping his way in the mist and darkness of uncertainty, complaining of hardship and trials. A voice of gladness, strong with hope and courage, sounds all along the line down to our time. *Paul had a healthful religious experience.* The love of Christ was his grand theme, and the constraining power that governed him." —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 917

Dear Reader, what theory of life have you chosen? The same as Nero? Or the same as Paul? In the end it was Paul who was stated to have had a healthful religious experience, and a life filled with peace, happiness and joy. It is my prayer that each one of you also have a healthy religious experience, that is based on correct theory, that is put into practice with the correct motives. Amen.

**Wendy Eaton**

*(emphases in all quotes added by author)*





# In His Hand

Some time ago we were given several German magazines to read. Among them was one which had the title, "In Seiner Hand" (In His Hand). I found this magazine very interesting because it was about Brother Otto Welker's experiences during the Second World War. I knew Brother Welker personally because he was my teacher at the missionary school in Jagsthausen, Germany in 1965 and 1966. This magazine also gives us the reason why we, as a church, are in existence and why we believe that we should not be involved in military service of any kind.

Brother Otto Welker's parents, Heinrich and Anna, learned about the Seventh-day Adventist message and became Adventists. When Otto was young, he also decided to follow the Lord and was baptized. The verse that was given him at his baptism was Isaiah 43:1, ". . . . Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine." Then verses 2, 3, and 5 in the same chapter, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; nor shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, The Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west." These verses were so dear to him throughout his life.

Brother Welker's father saw the danger that Germany, with Hitler as leader, may end up in another war. He could not imagine that his sons would go and kill other people, which is what the military is all about. Therefore, his father Heinrich suggested that his son, Otto,

should get involved with the Red Cross and hope that, in the case of war, he would be able to serve as a medic and avoid being a soldier, being forced to take the lives of others. So, as a teenager, Otto Welker became part of the local Red Cross organization where he was trained to help injured individuals; he often volunteered at the bicycle races in Ludwigshafen.

In 1937 he was called to serve in the military. He asked to serve as a medic and that was accepted; so from 1937 until 1939 he was in training as a medic. Otto Welker and his fiancée Martha were married on March 30, 1939. The Bible text given them at their wedding was Romans 12:12, "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer." This text was like a prophecy of what would happen. After their wedding, they opened a health food store. This was the fourth health food store in their family. Their parents had one and there were two more stores, which belonged to the Welker's relatives. In August 1939 Otto Welker was called to active service. First, his division was fighting against France. After France was conquered, the army stayed there just to keep an eye on things. In 1941 his division went to Austria. The plan was for them to go to Yugoslavia, but the war in the Balkans was already over. The whole army waited for their next mission. The soldiers had tours in the mountains. They helped the farmers with their harvest and, as there was not much for a medic to do, he was mainly doing paperwork in the office. In June the soldiers were transported by train, close to the border of Russia, about 240 km east of Warsaw which is the capital of Poland. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1941 at 3:15 in the morning, the good time was over. With an army of 3,050,000 soldiers and 2,000,000 horses, Germa-



**1935: Otto Welker second from right. His sister Elsa on right. On left Otto's brother, Karl with Karl's wife Anna.**

ny attacked Russia without any warning and now they began the march towards Kiev, an industrial city which the Germans wanted to occupy in order to destroy the industry in Russia. As they were getting close to the city, the doctor in charge of the medics said to Brother Otto Welker, "You have not had a vacation yet; it is your turn to have some time off." So, Brother Welker went home for his vacation. In the meantime, while he was off duty, there was a terrible fight for five weeks before the Germans conquered the city Kiev.

When Otto Welker came back from his vacation, the division that he had belonged to did not exist anymore; there were maybe two or three men left. 260,000 soldiers died in this battle. 665,000 Russian soldiers were taken captive and starved to death. If Brother Welker had not been on vacation at that time, it would have been very unlikely that he would have survived.

After joining the troops in Russia again, he was there until the spring of 1942, when the Doctor in charge gave him another vacation. The trip by railroad from Russia to Ludwigshafen, Germany was long and difficult. At that time, Brother Welker was able to hold his ten-month-old daughter Heidi in his arms for the first time. While he was away from the army, the Russian troops attacked the Germans in Charkow and the Germans retaliated. From May 12<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>, 1942 there was a terrible battle. 200,000 young men lost their lives and 240,000 were captured by the Germans as prisoners of war; hardly any of them survived.

When Brother Welker came back to the troops, he realized that his division had been wiped out; he could count the survivors on one hand. He survived the battle at Charkow because he again was on vacation at that time.

After he returned to the army from his vacation, the terrible things that he witnessed were hard to imagine, and he would hardly ever talk about it; dead and wounded people every day, including children and women. The soldiers became more and more heartless and cruel as time went on. Dying people everywhere; it was just part of the day. As a medic he had to deal with those that were wounded. Once he was attending to someone who had been shot in the stomach; the patient asked, "What chance do I have?" Brother Welker was honest and said, "Not much." Together they said the Lord's Prayer and as they said, "Amen," the man died. In those days, he was happy if he could have a prayer together with someone, regardless of which denomination they belonged to.

At a certain time when there was no fighting going on for a short time, Brother Welker was asked to take a Russian prisoner to another place behind the front. On the way he met a brother from the church where he grew up. They were so happy to see each other and the prisoner saw the opportunity to run away. As an accompaniment to a prisoner of war, Brother Welker was forced to be armed. He knew that if the prisoner would escape, he would be condemned to death, but he could not get himself to shoot, so he let the prisoner escape. Brother Welker had to stand trial and was condemned to death. The Doctor in charge of the medics said to him, "Try to appeal and see if you can get the death sentence postponed to the end of the war," and so he did, and he won the appeal. Of course, at the end of the war, nobody thought about that anymore.

The war in Russia went from bad to worse. Stalingrad was the city where Russia was producing its tanks and cannons, and it was the next main target for the German army. It was an impossible goal. They were 2,000 km away from Germany where supplies had to come from and the railroads were constantly being bombed by the Russians. The winter in Russia was unbearable; temperatures were down to -30C. The soldiers had to survive in snowdrifts. They were cold and they were hungry and did not have enough ammunition to defend themselves; however, they did not give in and the battles were relentless. Not only the soldiers suffered, but people living in the area died by the thousands; they got in the crossfire, starved, or froze to death. Out of the 284,000 German soldiers in the sixth army, 226,000 died, not counting those that were wounded. Here Brother Welker was serving as a medic.

Brother Welker's wife Martha was looking after their health food store in Ludwigshafen in Germany. One evening there was a clear sky; she was looking up at the stars in the sky and she read the Bible text from Genesis

18:23, "And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt Thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" In Stalingrad one night Brother Welker was looking up into the stars and saw Orion and read Psalm 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Later they found out that it must have been on the same evening that they were looking at the stars and read these Bible verses.

Terrible were the conditions in Stalingrad for the German soldiers. The food rations got less and less. It went down to one slice of bread per man and finally down to a half slice of bread for each man. Brother Welker concluded, "Either I will freeze to death, I will starve to death or I will get killed by a bullet." But, he could not give up hope when he read Psalm 23. In the meantime there was an outbreak of yellow fever in the area and Brother Welker got infected by this disease. The doctor in command of the medics released him from his duties and said, "Try to see if you can make it to the airport and get a flight back to Germany." That was easy to say, but not so easy to accomplish. There were seven airports in the Stalingrad area which the Germans occupied, but as the Russian troops were winning, only one was still available for the German army. The German army in Stalingrad was surrounded by the Russian troops and the only way out of there was by plane. Half the planes that tried to fly into the occupied area did not make it to their destination. They were either shot down or got lost in bad weather. They only dared to fly at night; otherwise the risk for being shot down was too great. Brother Welker made it to Pitomnik airport by December 25<sup>th</sup> 1942, but he had to wait until January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1943 to get a flight out of the area, surrounded by the Russians, because no plane arrived on account of a heavy snowstorm. It was just too cold and there was too much snow for the plane to land. Finally, the weather changed and the plane arrived. Thousands of wounded and sick soldiers were waiting. The only reason Brother Welker was able to get on that plane was that the army was afraid that he would contaminate others and therefore he was put on one of the first planes. The flight went well and they made it out of the danger zone. He then boarded another plane and flew to Krakow, Poland. From there he was transported to Austria, where there was a reserve hospital for sick and wounded soldiers. Here Brother Welker got the medication that he needed, a warm bed to sleep in, and friendly people to take care of him.

As mentioned before, while he had his first and second vacation, almost all the others in his division lost their lives. This time, only because he contracted the dreaded

disease, yellow fever, did he get out of Stalingrad on one of the last flights; almost all the others died there.

In 1943 Martha Welker had a visit from the Pastor who was in charge of that area, Richard Lange from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After a short greeting he came to the reason for his visit. He mentioned that the German people at the present time were in a very difficult situation and everyone had to sacrifice. It was not good that she closed her health food store on Sabbath, so please keep it open. Also, she should try to persuade her husband, who was a medic in the German army, to be a real soldier and help the German army win the war. He should take up weapons and fight like a real soldier. Later Pastor Richard Lange was bragging about how his visit to members in the area had convinced many S.D.A. medics to join the fighting troops and take part in the war with weapons.

Although Martha was asked by the Pastor and threatened by the Police to keep the store open on Sabbath, she faithfully closed every Friday evening and never opened on Sabbath. The store was located in Ludwigshafen, a city where there was a lot of industry, so this city became a target for British bombers. The British wanted to demolish the industry because the Germans manufactured the engines for their airplanes here. Martha's father suggested that she sell the store and move to a small city where he lived. She sold the store and packed all the furniture. She and her daughter Heidi travelled to the little town Muhlack where her parents lived. All they had with them was one suitcase. All the rest of their belongings and their furniture had been loaded on a truck and was to arrive later. The truck was parked by the freight train at the railroad station overnight. The British bombers attacked that night and hit the truck and everything burned. A little later, back in Ludwigshafen where the store that Martha had sold was located, the whole street was demolished by the British bombers, but Martha and Heidi were safe in Muhlack.

In April 1943 when Brother Welker was healthy enough to serve, he was sent back to the German army in Southern Russia (the area of Caucasus). At that time the German army was in bad shape; they were



**Heidi**

basically trying to salvage as much as possible, as they had to give in to the Russian troops. It was a matter of

going back and at the same time fighting the Russians so that they would not take everything.

One day in the fall of 1943, Brother Welker, together with some others from the German army suddenly were in front of a Russian tank. All they could do was run for their lives. When they were completely exhausted, they hid behind some sheaves of grain, but the tank was still pursuing them and the only thing left for them to do was to lay flat on the ground. All Brother Welker could say was, "Dear Lord, my wife and my child." Then the tank rolled over him and two others. The one on the right and the one on the left were crushed by the tank's chains and died instantly. Brother Welker was lying right under the centre and did not get hurt. When the danger was over, he opened his Bible: the text in front of his eyes was Psalm 91:7. "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." This was exactly what he had experienced, and he continued to read from verse 8 to 16, "Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him My salvation." God's protection at this time made a deep impression upon Brother Welker and he decided right there and then: "If I survive this war, I will serve the Lord as long as I live."

The Russian troops were pushing hard, and for a certain time, Brother Welker was not able to keep up with the troops. Constantly there was not enough food, and not enough sleep. His body could not take it anymore. So, he was left in a shed, close to a small Russian farm. It was in the southern area of Russia, not too far from the Black Sea. Here he was left all by himself, without any food or water, as the others had very little for themselves. Here he fell asleep, and an elderly lady from the farm found him. She was Russian and he was German. Considering what the Germans had done to the Russians, taken their land, and killed millions of their people, both soldiers and others including women and children, if she would

have told the authorities, it would have been either prison or death. Instead, she acted like the Good Samaritan and shared the little she had with him. For several days she fed him, until he was strong enough to continue with the next group of German soldiers. Brother Welker could never forget how well she treated him and sometimes he asked himself, "Was this merciful lady really a Russian farmer?"

The Germans were still losing territory in the spring of 1944. The German troops were pushed back to Odessa by the Black Sea. Here Brother Welker got sick again, this time from malaria. He was put on a train to Germany together with other wounded and sick soldiers. The train ride took a long time. Everything was more important than getting the sick and wounded home. When the train stopped, those that had died were simply pushed off the train onto the ground before the train continued. Finally on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1944 the train arrived in a town—Schreiberhau (today in Poland)—where there was a military hospital. The train stopped and the sick and wounded had to walk the last distance. When they got off the train, Brother Welker asked someone, "How far is it to this place?" The man answered, "It is about one kilometre." After a while, Brother Welker asked again, "How far is it?" and the answer was, "Just a little further." This continued many times and always the same answer, "Just a little more, we are soon there." When they finally got to the place, Brother Welker said, "How come you were not honest with me and told me how far it was?" and the man answered, "When I saw the condition you were in when you came off the train, if I would have told you it is 20 km, you would have sat down and died."

Shortly after this train left Odessa, the German army was totally destroyed. If Brother Welker had not gotten sick and left at that time, he would have died with the other 135,000 German soldiers who lost their lives in that place—in three days.

Brother Welker's wife Martha found out that he was at the military hospital in Ober-Schreiberhau in Poland, and she and her daughter Heidi came to visit him. Now they saw each other for the first time after twenty months. His health improved very slowly and the news about the loss of their livelihood did not contribute to his recovery. Brother Welker stayed there all summer, until October 1944 when he was moved to another military hospital at Bad Kreuznach, 700 km away, for subsequent treatment. On the way, just before Dresden, the train suddenly stopped and people were asking why it had stopped. The conductor said that he did not know why,

but he was not allowed to go any further. The next day when they were allowed to continue, they went through Dresden where they saw that the railway station had been bombed and the ruins were still burning. Now Brother Welker knew why the train had stopped.

Before the end of World War II, Brother Welker again had to go back to the troops, this time to North-West Germany. This was in the spring of 1945. The morale among the soldiers was very low. Everyone knew that Germany had no chance of winning the war; it was only a question of time. Brother Welker was, like many others at that time, taken captive by the British as a prisoner of war, three days before the end of the war. But, three months later he was released and travelled back through Germany and could look at all the devastation the war had caused. He finally arrived back home with his family and they could now all again enjoy each other's company.

"But now, thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; nor shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, The Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west." Isaiah 43:1-3, 5

These words written by the Prophet Isaiah were truly experienced by Brother Welker during the Second World War:

If Brother Welker would not have had his first vacation when the battle was happening about the city of Kiev, he would most likely have died when his whole division perished.

If Brother Welker would not have had his second vacation when the battle was happening about the city of Chrakow he would most likely have died when his whole regiment perished.

If he would not have contracted yellow fever in Stalingrad, he would not have gotten out on one of the last flights that left the city where the rest of the troops lost their lives.

It was a miracle that he did not get hurt when the Russian tank ran over him.

If the farmer's wife would not have acted like a Good

Samaritan and instead would have called the authorities, he would have ended up in prison or lost his life.

If he would not have gotten sick with malaria in Odessa, by the Black Sea, he would not have been able to get onto one of the last trains which left that area with sick and wounded soldiers.

Brother Welker lived up to his promise that he would serve the Lord. Not long after he came home and had seen all the terrible devastation that the war brought with it, he joined the Reform Movement. Shortly after that, he became the church leader of Muhlacker. In 1948 he was ordained as an elder and four years later he was ordained as a minister in our church. For many years he worked as a teacher in our missionary school in Germany. As a student in his class 1965 and 1966, I can testify that he was a very talented man and very organized. He taught us music, knew how to conduct a choir, most of all, he had a strong faith in God and what God can do in our lives.

Until a ripe old age the Lord always brought him safely home from his worldwide mission trips. The work for his Lord and Saviour, who so often saved him, was his greatest passion. Brother Welker fell asleep October 12, 2007, at the age of 93.

This is a condensed translation from the German Publication called "In Seiner Hand" (In His Hand), written by Brother Otto Welker's son, Br. Helmut Welker.

On the back cover of the magazine is the German Hymn "In Seiner Hand" which in English is "Under His Wings," Hymn #108, in the International Hymnal. (See Inside Back Page)

*Condensed and translated with a few comments by Ewald Pedersen.*



**1986 Left to right—Reinaldo Porrás, Columbia, Otto Welker, Kurt Barath, Argentina and Austria.**

# Law and



# Grace

*In the Bible we read of two laws, or systems of law:*

- 1) The Moral Law or Decalogue and the principles of moral duty. This law is the Ten Commandments and it was written on two tables of stone by God, Himself, and given to Moses. These tables of stone were placed within the Ark of Covenant (Deuteronomy 10:2).
- 2) The Ceremonial Law, embracing the typical remedial system pointing forward to Christ, and the civil laws existing until the cross. These laws were given to Moses on the mountain and Moses wrote them out in a book and placed them in the Most Holy Place beside the Ark of Covenant (Deuteronomy 31:26).

## DEFINITION AND TYPES OF LAWS

What is law? There are many different types of laws. Here is a list of the various different laws that exist.

“LAW, n. L. *lex* from the root of *lay*. See *lay*. A law is that which is laid, set or fixed, like statute, constitution, from L. *statuo*.

1. A rule, particularly an established or permanent rule, prescribed by the supreme power of a state to its subjects, for regulating their actions, particularly their social actions. Laws are imperative or mandatory, commanding what shall be done prohibitory, restraining from what is to be forborn or permissive, declaring what may be done without incurring a penalty. The laws which enjoin the duties of piety and morality, are prescribed by God and found in the Scriptures.

2.. Municipal law is a rule of civil conduct prescribed by the supreme power of a state, commanding what its subjects are to do, and prohibiting what they are to forbear; a statute.

3. Law of nature, is a rule of conduct arising out of the natural relations of human beings established by the Creator, and existing prior to any positive precept. Thus, it is a law of nature, that one man should not injure another; murder and fraud would be crimes, independent of any prohibition from a supreme power.

4. Laws of animal nature, the inherent principles by which the economy and functions of animal bodies are performed, such as respiration, the circulation of the blood, digestion, nutrition, various secretions, etc.

5. Laws of vegetation, the principles by which plants are produced, and their growth carried on until they arrive to perfection.

6. Physical laws, or laws of nature. The invariable tendency or determination of any species of matter to a particular form with definite properties, and the determination of a body to certain motions, changes, and relations, which uniformly take place in the same circumstances, is called a physical law.

7. Laws of nations, the rules that regulate the mutual intercourse of nations or states.

8. Moral law, a law which prescribes to men their religious and social duties, in other words, their duties to God and to each other.

9. Ecclesiastical law, a rule of action prescribed for the



government of a church; otherwise called canon law.

10. Written law, a law or rule of action prescribed or enacted by a sovereign, and promulgated and recorded in writing; a written statute, ordinance, edict or decree.

11. Unwritten or common law, a rule of action which derives its authority from long usage, or established custom, which has been immemorially received and recognized by judicial tribunals. As this law can be traced to no positive statutes, its rules or principles are to be found only in the records of courts, and in the reports of judicial decisions.

12. By-law, a law of a city, town or private corporation.

13. Mosaic law, the institutions of Moses, or the code of laws prescribed to the Jews, as distinguished from the gospel.

14. Ceremonial law, the Mosaic institutions which prescribe the external rites and ceremonies to be observed by the Jews, as distinct from the moral precepts, which are of perpetual obligation.

15. A rule of direction; a directory; as reason and natural conscience. "These, having not the law, are a law unto themselves." Romans 2:14

16. That which governs or has a tendency to rule; that which has the power of controlling.

17. The word of God; the doctrines and precepts of God, or His revealed will.

18. The Old Testament. "Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?" John 10:34

19. The institutions of Moses, as distinct from the other parts of the Old Testament; as the law and the prophets.

20. A rule or axiom of science or art; settled principle; as the laws of versification or poetry.

21. Law martial, or martial law, the rules ordained for the government of an army or military force.

22. Marine laws, rules for the regulation of navigation, and the commercial intercourse of nations.

23. Commercial law, law-merchant, the system of rules by which trade and commercial intercourse are regulated between merchants.

24. Judicial process; prosecution of right in courts of law; to go to law, to prosecute; to seek redress in a legal tribunal.

25. Jurisprudence; as in the title, Doctor of Laws.

26. In general, law is a rule of action prescribed for the government of rational beings or moral agents, to which rule they are bound to yield obedience, in default of which they are exposed to punishment."

(This section taken from: <https://www.studydrive.net/dictionaries/eng/kjd/llaw.html>)

### MEANING OF GRACE

So what is grace? It can be described in many ways. Here are some definitions:

"GRACE, L. gratia, which is formed from the Celtic; Eng. agree, congruous, and ready. The primary sense of gratus, is free, ready, quick, willing, prompt, from advancing.

1. Favour; good will; kindness; disposition to oblige another; as a grant made as an act of grace.

2. Appropriately, the free unmerited love and favour of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from Him. "And if by grace, then is it no more of works." Romans 11:6

3. Favourable influence of God; divine influence or the influence of the Spirit, in renewing the heart and restraining from sin. "My grace is sufficient for thee." 2 Corinthians 12:9

4. The application of Christ's righteousness to the sinner. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans 5:20

5. A state of reconciliation to God (Romans 5:2).

6. Virtuous or religious affection or disposition, as a liberal disposition, faith, meekness, humility, patience, etc. proceeding from divine influence.

7. Spiritual instruction, improvement and edification (Ephesians 4:29).

8. Apostleship, or the qualifications of an apostle (Ephesians 3:8).

9. Eternal life; final salvation (1 Peter 1:13).

10. Favour; mercy; pardon. Bow and sue for grace. With suppliant knee.

11. Favour conferred. I should therefore esteem it a great favour and grace. Privilege.

13. That in manner, deportment or language which renders it appropriate and agreeable; suitability; elegance with appropriate dignity. We say, a speaker delivers his address with grace; a man performs his part with grace.

14. Natural or acquired excellence; any endowment that recommends the possessor to others; as the graces of wit and learning.

15. Beauty; embellishment; in general, whatever adorns and recommends to favour; sometimes, a single beauty.

16. A short prayer before or after meat; a blessing asked, or thanks rendered.

17. In music, graces signifies turns, trills and shakes introduced for embellishment.

Day in grace, in theology, time of probation, when an offer is made to sinners.

Days in grace, in commerce, the days immediately following the day when a bill or note becomes due, which days are allowed to the debtor or payor to make payment in. In Great Britain and the United States the days of grace are three, but in other countries more; the usages of merchants being different."

*(This section was taken from: <https://www.studydrive.org/dictionaries/eng/kjd/g/grace.html>)*

#### THE LAW AND GRACE ARE INSEPARABLE

"Throughout the Bible, God's law and His grace are interwoven. They are not at odds, as some think. What does the Bible really say about law and grace?"



"The Bible reveals the will of God. It contains laws that God gave 'for our benefit' (Deuteronomy 10:13; Romans 7:12). They are beneficial family rules that show us how to love God the way He wants to be loved and how to love our fellow human beings in the way that promotes the greatest peace and happiness. God's laws are not a burden but a blessing (1 John 5:3).

"However, the truth is that no human being, except Je-

sus Christ, has perfectly obeyed God's laws. Going against God's perfect and holy laws creates a rift between us and our Holy Creator. His perfect righteousness cannot coexist with the vile corruption of sin. The horrible stain of sin must be removed if we are ever to have the close family relationship that God so greatly desires. While the law defines sin, clearly showing us what actions are right and wrong, keeping the law, even keeping it perfectly cannot remove the penalties for our previous sins and reconcile us to God. We are saved 'for' good works, not 'by' good works (Ephesians 2:10).

"God's grace, His love and mercy and all of His generous gifts, makes reconciliation possible. Grace does not remove the beneficial laws but, through Christ's sacrifice, pays the penalty of sin.

"It is not a case of law vs. grace. God's revelation is that law and grace work together.

"So why do so many today believe grace abolishes God's law or that they are at odds?" -<https://lifehopeandtruth.com/bible/law-and-grace/>

#### THE TWO DISPENSATIONS

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17

#### "THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

"'I and My Father are one.' John 10:30

"The Father and the Son were one in man's creation, and in his redemption. Said the Father to the Son, "Let us make man in Our image." And the triumphant song in which the redeemed take part, is unto "Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever."

"Jesus prayed that His disciples might be one as He was one with his Father. This prayer did not contemplate one disciple with twelve heads, but twelve disciples, made one in object and effort in the cause of their Master. Neither are the Father and the Son parts of one being. They are two distinct beings, yet one in the design and accomplishment of redemption. The redeemed, from the first who shares in the great redemption, to the last, all ascribe the honour, and glory, and praise, of their salvation, to both God and the Lamb.

"But if it be true that the law of the Father and the gospel of the Son are opposed to each other, that one is to take the place of the other, then it follows that those saved in the former dispensation are saved by the Father and the law, while those of the present dispensation are saved by Christ and the gospel. And in this

case, when the redeemed shall reach heaven at last, and their redemption shall be sung, two songs will be heard, one ascribing praise to the Father and the law, the other singing the praises of Christ and the gospel.

“This will not be. There will be harmony in that song of redemption. All the redeemed will sing the facts as they have existed during the period of man’s probation. All will ascribe the praise of their salvation to God and the Lamb. Adam, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses will join with the disciples of Jesus in singing of the redeeming power of the blood of the Son, while those who have lived since the crucifixion of Christ, saved by His blood, will join the patriarchs and prophets in the song of praise to the Father, the Creator, and Lawgiver. Therefore, the law and the gospel or grace run parallel throughout the entire period of man’s probation. The gospel is not confined to some eighteen centuries. The dispensation of the gospel is not less than about six thousand years old.

“The word ‘gospel’ signifies good news. The gospel of the Son of God is the good news of salvation through Christ. When man fell, angels wept. Heaven was bathed in tears. The Father and the Son took counsel, and Jesus offered to undertake the cause of fallen man. He offered to die that man might have life. The Father consented to give His only beloved, and the good news resounded through heaven, and on earth, that a way was opened for man’s redemption. In the first promise made to man that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent’s head, was the gospel of Jesus Christ as verily as in the song the angels sung over the plains of Bethlehem, to the shepherds as they watched their flocks by night, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.’

“Immediately after the fall, hope of a future life hung upon Christ as verily as our hopes can hang on Christ. And when the first sons of Adam brought their offerings to the Lord, Cain in his unbelief brought the first-fruits of the ground, which were not acceptable. Abel brought a firstling of the flock in faith of Christ, the great sacrifice for sin. God accepted his offering. Through the blood of that firstling, Abel saw the blood of Jesus Christ. He looked forward to Christ, and made his offering in the faith and hope of the gospel, and through it saw the great sacrifice for sin, as truly as we see the bleeding Lamb as we look back to Calvary, through the broken bread and the fruit of the vine. Through these emblems we see Christ crucified. Abel saw the same through the dying lamb which he offered. Do we hang our hopes in faith upon Christ? So did

Abel. Are we Christians by virtue of living faith in Christ? So was Abel. . . .

“The dispensation of the law of God is longer than that of the gospel. It commenced before the fall, or there could not have been in the justice of God any such thing as the fall. It existed as early as there were created intelligences subject to the government of the Creator. It covers all time, and extends to the future, running parallel with the eternity of God’s moral government. Angels fell, therefore were on probation. They, being on probation, were consequently amenable to law. In the absence of law they could not be on probation, therefore could not fall. The same may be said of Adam and Eve in Eden.

“The reign of sin runs parallel with the reign of death, from Adam until sin and sinners shall cease to be. And parallel with these, stretching through all dispensations, there has been the knowledge of the principles of the ten commandments, consequently a knowledge of sin.

“The means of this knowledge has been the law of God. ‘By the law,’ says the apostle, ‘is the knowledge of sin.’ Romans 3:20. ‘I had not known sin but by the law.’ Romans 7:7. As proof that this knowledge did exist immediately after the fall, see Genesis 4:7, 23, 24; 6:5, 11, 12. . .

“God’s law is a copy of His mind and will. The sins forbidden there could never find a place in heaven. It was love that prompted God to express His will in the ten precepts of the decalogue. Afterward He showed His love for man by sending prophets and teachers to explain and illustrate His holy law. God has given man a complete rule of life in His law.

“Obeyed, man shall live by it, through the merits of Christ. Transgressed, it has power to condemn. The law sends men to Christ, and Christ points them back to the law.” –*The Law and the Gospel*, p. 1–3, 5, 23, by James White. Amen.

*Daniel Kimeu*



# Wheat:

# Why the Controversy?

There are many varieties of wheat grain available under many different names. In this first article about wheat, we will provide an introduction to wheat, discuss the controversial topic of crop breeding, and what this has done to our current wheat crops. In the next article we will learn about the various forms and varieties of wheat including farro, semolina, farina, bulgur, wheat berries, couscous, bran, durum, and kamut.

Hulled wheats were the first wheat crops that were domesticated; they were grown in the Fertile Crescent area of the world. This area of the world is where the Old and New Testament nations were situated. These crops were used by the ancient Egyptians and Babylonians, as well as by the Romans later on. They were also used by the Israelites as we find many references to these grains in the Bible, with them first being mentioned in Isaiah. In Isaiah 28:27 we read, "For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, . . . but the fitches are beaten out with a staff." In Ezekiel 4:9, the famous Ezekiel Bread recipe also refers to fitches. The other name for fitches is spelt, which is an ancient wheat grain that is still used today. We will learn more about hulled wheats next month.

Wheat is a grass which is cultivated for its seed. It is in the family of cereal grains and is the most well-known grain worldwide. Wheat is also grown more widely than any other food crop in the world. All wheat species are classed as different varieties of *triticum*. It is the leading source of vegetable protein in food worldwide, with a protein content of 13%. Wheat became popular because all wheat species contain a large amount of protein known as gluten; this allows for wheat flour to be

used in making risen breads. The variety of wheat which is used for breadmaking, known as common wheat (*triticum aestivum*) contains 75–85% of its protein in the form of gluten. Glutens have viscoelastic and adhesive properties; these characteristics give the dough elasticity, allowing it to rise, to return to its original shape after stretching, and leaves the final product chewy. When wheat dough is leavened with yeast, the fermentation process creates bubbles of carbon dioxide, causing the dough to rise. The kneading of the dough which contains gluten produces foods which are chewier and less crumbly; the more kneading, the more chewier the final product. When the leavened dough is baked, the gluten coagulates, stabilizing the shape of the final product. These properties of gluten are necessary to produce risen breads and other baked products. Other whole grains which do not contain gluten do not rise, and thus cannot produce risen breads. Often the gluten from wheat is also used as the basis for imitation meats. Thus, the use of gluten is a popular way of adding supplemental protein to vegetarian diets.

## WHEAT SENSITIVITIES

No article on wheat is complete without addressing the increasing incidence of people who cannot tolerate consuming wheat. Up to 15% of the population are either sensitive or allergic or have an autoimmune response to the gluten in wheat, and cannot consume wheat products. As we have learned throughout this series of articles, there are many non-gluten food sources of whole grains for those who are unable to tolerate gluten-containing foods and still want to benefit from having whole grains as part of a healthy diet. Since 2017, the

number of people with gluten-related disorders have been increasing in frequency in some areas of the world. The reason for this might have many explanations, but one of the current explanations is that more people are using wheat products than ever before, the popular Mediterranean diet promotes wheat-based foods, wheat is replacing rice in many countries, and new types of wheat that have been grown in recent years appear to have higher levels of gluten. Because of the increase in gluten sensitivity, many people with allergies or sensitivities must remove gluten from their diets to prevent negative symptoms. They need to be able to choose gluten-free products at the grocery store. Food products which are labeled “gluten-free” may contain very small amounts of gluten but they must be below the level which would harm someone who has celiac disease. Each country has its own rules regarding gluten labeling. Many countries must identify the presence of gluten if the level is greater than 20 parts per million.

Wheat and gluten are labelled separately on food products even though wheat contains gluten. Gluten is not considered an allergen; however, in many countries, wheat is considered one of the recognized allergens, and must be listed on the ingredient label as such. A wheat allergy causes your immune system to have an allergic reaction to any of the four proteins contained in wheat—albumin, globulin, gliadin, or gluten. Signs of an allergic reaction range anywhere from swelling, hives, rash, nausea, diarrhea, and can also lead to a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. However, people who have celiac disease are not allergic to gluten but have a specific autoimmune reaction to gluten where the body attacks itself and destroys the lining of the small intestines and prevents it from absorbing most nutrients. This damage causes diarrhea, fatigue, bloating, weight loss and anemia, and can lead to serious health complications. Those with gluten sensitivities and intolerances can develop problems with the digestive system, but it will not cause permanent damage in your stomach, intestines or other organs. However, you can get similar symptoms such as stomach bloating and pain, diarrhea, constipation, vomiting, fatigue, bone or joint pain, headaches, numbness, depression, and itchy skin. A gluten intolerance or sensitivity can show up at any time; some young children already have it and other times adults develop it later in life.

## WHEAT BREEDING

Plants naturally evolve over time to produce hardier varieties in order to survive extremes in weather, pests, and diseases. Also, over time, crop plants can naturally

and spontaneously mutate and produce new either positive or negative traits, such as allergens, toxins or other antinutritional substances. As an extension to nature’s selective breeding, natural methods to create new genetic varieties have been used to improve food crops. Classical breeding selects the plants with the desirable traits and eliminates those with less desirable traits. Then those plants with the desirable traits are used in replanting crops. But, this process is very slow in creating new varieties, as the possibility of producing an improved crop are random.

Certain wheat varieties have also been crossbred to produce new hybrids to improve certain characteristics of the grain, such as to increased yields, and pest resistance. Agricultural scientists argue that hybrids are necessary in order to produce enough wheat to feed an ever-expanding world population. Thus, wheat needs to be able to thrive in many difficult conditions, such as during long periods of drought, to increase the yield without needing more land for growing crops.

This crossbreeding of wheat varieties, especially if the focus is on increasing crop yields, may have unintended effects, such as changing the nutritional content of wheat or introducing substances into the wheat crop which may decrease its tolerability for human consumption. These changes (hybrids) may also contribute to people’s intolerance of current wheat species. However, not enough research has been done to determine the effects on human health when wheat is hybridized. Some argue that since wheat is only crossbred with other wheat species, this will not introduce substances that would reduce its tolerability as a food crop. Conventional crossbreeding is a slow process that can take up to five years to eliminate the unwanted characteristics and develop the sought-after traits. As previously mentioned, most plants can also naturally develop unwanted traits or natural mutations. These need to be identified and eliminated before being sold as food. As an example, potato breeders monitor for levels of the toxin, solanine, in their potatoes. If the levels begin to rise, that specific line of potatoes is eliminated. Canola breeders monitor levels of glucosinolates. Elevations of this compounds can occur naturally, so crops are continually monitored for levels that go beyond what is safe to eat. Therefore, even non-genetic engineering breeding methods can have unintended effects and generate potentially hazardous new products.

A quicker process in developing new varieties of crops is to artificially induce changes in plants, using either physical or chemical agents. Since the 1920s, scientists

have exposed seeds to either ionized radiation or chemicals such as ethyl methane sulfonate, in order to generate multiple random mutations of the original plant. Once these mutations have taken place, the next step is to see whether any of these mutations have produced the desired traits that they had been looking for. Since the 1920s, thousands of these mutations have been planted and used for human food, including new varieties of lettuce, beans, oats, rice, wheat, barley, peas, sunflowers, peanuts, and grapefruit. As we can see from the list, wheat is included in the foods that have produced mutated varieties from this method. This form of creating new varieties of plants is considered a “conventional” breeding method, as no DNA from another species of plant are introduced into the plant. However, the changes in the plants due to exposure to radiation or chemicals change the DNA of the plant. Even though these new plant varieties have been tested for productivity, reactions to disease and pests, they are not routinely assessed for unintended effects at the molecular level, to the DNA of the plant, and how it has been altered.

There are no laws requiring identification of these new varieties in any way; therefore, many of us have been eating these mutated foods, unaware of their origins. Even organic organizations accept these foods from mutated breeding to be grown, sold, and labelled as organic. When producing these mutations, the results are unpredictable and uncontrolled. The concern is whether this method could also introduce unintended and perhaps harmful effects in the new varieties. In the United States, it is left up to the breeders and food regulation agencies to determine if a new variety should not be grown because of some type of hazard to humans or the environment. In Canada, these new varieties must first be grown in government-administered fields. Data from these trials, looking at food quality, disease resistance, and agronomic (applying plant science for crop production) factors. These crops are grown in different areas over a period of multiple years. The data is then evaluated by a team of experts before being allowed into the market. The breeder must also convince these experts that the new variety will be competitive and worthy related to already commercially available varieties of that crop, based on the data. Only when the team of experts decides that the new variety performs as the breeder anticipates, does it obtain approval for commercial use.

### **GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS**

Genetically modified foods (GMOs) are created when

genes (DNA) from one species, either another plant, or bacteria, are introduced into a plant from another species to change its DNA, to produce a new and desired trait into the plant. This is known as genetic engineering, as the introduction of new genes into a plant would never occur naturally. This method is considered more precise because only known genes are transferred from one species to another; this also allows for a desired trait to be identified quickly. However, the risk of unintended effects is higher when plants who have thousands of genes interact with a completely different species with their set of thousands of genes. Contrary to widely spread rumours, no animal species have yet been used to create GMO plants.

Many of the GM crops were created to resist being killed by the herbicide, RoundUp, when applied to the crop fields. RoundUp is designed to kill all plants exposed to it, but will not damage the crop that has been modified to be “RoundUp Ready”. The challenge with using herbicides such as RoundUp is that it kills many of the wild plants that grow in the area of the GM crops, it depletes the soil of nutrients, destroys helpful microorganisms, it goes into the water system and harms aquatic plant and animal life. And, with weeds growing resistant to the currently used herbicides, there is a need for stronger, more toxic herbicides to combat weeds. As of 2016, 56% of the use of RoundUp and other glyphosate-containing herbicides are in GM crops, which are increasingly being grown to increase crop yields. If a field is not sprayed with an herbicide, up to 30% of the crop can be lost. There is a lot of controversy surrounding GM foods. The concerns arise from the impact that GMOs have on the human digestive system, antibiotic resistant genes being used, and the potential for introducing allergens into foods when using genes from a potentially allergenic plant. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that every GM crop be tested individually to determine their safety for human consumption and the environment.

Because GM foods are so highly regulated, it is considered more likely that traits with potentially hazardous traits would not pass the early developmental phases. However, because genetic changes result in protein changes, differences in food nutrition due to differing levels of proteins can be expected. This is an unintended change, but it is a product of the gene transfer process.

Although wheat has never been grown as a genetically modified organism (GMO), there is another culprit in the development of sensitivity to wheat. When wheat is ready to be harvested, farmers use glyphosate, the same

herbicide used on GMO crops, to dry down the wheat to bring it to low moisture levels so that it can be harvested sooner. Glyphosate has been shown to be a human carcinogen (cancer causing). Many wheat sensitivities may actually be a reaction to glyphosate, not only from wheat but from other GMO crops which use glyphosate as an herbicide. One Saskatchewan farmer stated, "We are told these (glyphosate residues) are too small to matter but can we believe that? I think everyone, even farmers that use and love glyphosate, would rather not eat a loaf of bread with glyphosate in it." A recent study determined that the most important cause for the increase in celiac disease and gluten intolerance worldwide is the use of glyphosate in food crops. Glyphosate causes an imbalance in the gut bacteria, by decreasing the levels of good bacteria, which allows disease-causing germs to flourish. This process damages the gut lining, similar to what happens in celiac disease. Once the lining is damaged, toxins, microbes, undigested food particles, and antibodies can escape through the intestines and travel through the body. Their conclusion was that the culprit for increased gluten intolerance is not wheat, but glyphosate. Most wheat products in North America contain glyphosate. Some organic companies make an effort to avoid glyphosate in their products; you will have to research which ones they are.

The reason why there are no GM wheat crops grown anywhere in the world, nor have been sold on the market is in part due to the refusal of many countries, especially in Europe, to purchase GM foods. Therefore, farmers in large wheat-producing countries which export much of their wheat to other countries have chosen not to genetically modify wheat for financial reasons.

In 2012, a UK scientist worked to introduce a GM wheat, which would be resistant to aphids. The lab results showed that it would work; however, when the GM wheat was planted outdoors, there was no change in its resistance to aphids. Therefore, the project was cancelled. There had been no further attempts to create GM wheat until in 2020, when the government of Argentina approved a drought-resistant and herbicide-resistant GM wheat. Many farm groups in Argentina objected to the government's approval of the product, over concerns it could prove a stigma for exporters. No other countries have yet approved the importation of GM wheat, leaving Argentine farmers with little incentive to plant it. Environmental groups have warned that not enough is yet known about GM crops, treated with weed killers like glufosinate sodium and glyphosate, for them to be safely consumed by humans. The majority of

Canadian farmers rejected the introduction of Roundup Ready GM wheat, which would be resistant to Roundup, the glyphosate-containing herbicide. In all, in the year 2009, 233 farmer and consumer groups in 26 countries rejected GM wheat. However, the financial benefit of using glyphosate on wheat (which is typically only used with GM crops) to speed up the drying process has contributed to the increasing intolerance of wheat products.

All crop foods, whether they remain in their original natural state, have been crossbred, mutated or genetically engineered, can possibly produce potentially hazardous substances that can negatively impact human or environmental health. Thus, regular assessment of all crops are carried out to determine their safety. In the case of wheat, many changes have taken place since wheat was first introduced as a crop in the Fertile Crescent area of the world. Despite this, many people are able to eat wheat and other gluten-containing whole grains without having a negative reaction. Everyone will have to make a decision for themselves as to whether they are able to consume wheat products.

We need to eat as natural a diet as possible, to ensure lifelong good health. We also need to be educated on the foods that are most beneficial to us, and avoid those foods which can harm our health. With all the information that we have readily accessible to us, there is no excuse for ignorance concerning our responsibility to maintain the health of our bodies. "There are but few as yet who are aroused sufficiently to understand how much their habits of diet have to do with their health, their characters, their usefulness in this world, and their eternal destiny. I saw that it is the duty of those who have received the light from Heaven, and have realized the benefit of walking in it, to manifest a greater interest for those who are still suffering for want of knowledge."  
—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 488

#### **NEXT MONTH: EXPLORING WHEAT VARIETIES**





# You Were Not Born to Be a Failure

Young Ben was only eight years old when his parents divorced. Ben was crushed because he loved his father very much, but his father had left the family. Ben now lived with his mother and his brother. Life was not easy as Ben's mother now had to work long hours to support the family. Her husband gave her very little child support, although he was supposed to.

It was around this time that Ben had decided he wanted to be a doctor. However, the divorce had affected Ben's grades at school. He was not doing so well, and he found himself labelled as the "class dummy." And the other children ridiculed him all the time. He was ready to give up his dream, but his mother told him, "Ben you were not born to be a failure, you can do it."

Not long after, his mother met a nice missionary couple who invited her to church. She took her boys and began to keep the Sabbath with them. She had found hope and strength in serving the Lord. Ben was baptized not long after.

Ben became discouraged at the thought that he would never reach his dream of becoming a doctor. He studied hard and managed to pass his classes. He got a D in his math class and was proud of himself. However, his mother stated that she believed he could do better. "You can do it. You just have to put your mind to it."

Mother made sure to encourage the boys in their spiritual life also, and to ask help from Jesus for all their studies. "If you ask the Lord for something and believe He will do it, then it will happen," stated Mother. She sought many ways to help and encourage her boys to do the best that they could.

Even though his grades were improving, one day moth-

er came home from work and the boys were watching TV. Mother came over and turned the TV off, and stated she would limit their TV watching. She took them to the library and told them they had to take out two non-fiction books a week and read them and give her a report at the end of the week.

Although Ben now was nearly at the top of his class, he still faced challenges. As he entered Junior High School, he found himself to be one of the few black students in a predominantly white area of town. There was much prejudice against him and the other black students. Ben still tried to focus on his studies, but it was not easy. One day as he took a short cut to school, he met a group of young white boys and they surrounded him and beat him. As Ben managed to flee, they called out after him. "Kids like you are not supposed to be in Wilson Junior High. If we catch you again, we will kill you." Ben ran the rest of the way to school. He just prayed and thankfully he never met those young boys again.

At the end of each school year, the teachers handed out certificates for the best students in each grade. Ben won the award in grade seven. And then again in grade eight. The teacher was not too happy at giving Ben the award in grade eight. After handing him the award, she turned to the assembly full of mostly white students, and reprimanded them for not trying hard enough and allowing Ben to be the number one student. She did not feel it right for the black student to be number one in a classroom of white students.

Even with all this opposition and prejudice, Ben did not give up. When he was discouraged, his mother encouraged him to find his help in Jesus.



As a teenager, in high school, Ben really wanted to fit in and be a part of the in-crowd. He was not very kind to his mother, who was struggling to work and pay their bills, and he relentlessly hounded her to buy him the best clothing possible so he could fit in with his peers.

Through peer pressure also, he began to go to parties with his friends and stay out late. He ignored his mother's pleadings for him to remain faithful. When he would stay out late, his mother was very disappointed. "Ben can't you see what you are doing to yourself?" She sighed. "It's more than just disappointing me. You've worked hard. Don't lose all of that now."

Ben's grades dropped. He went from the top of the class to being a C student. But he did not care because he was one of the boys. He was having more fun than he ever had in his life. Yet, somehow, he was not very happy. Getting into the in-group only made him more anxious about staying in the in-group. He was so crazy about being accepted that he was straying from everything that was important in his life—his mother and Jesus.

Although the peer pressure turned him down the wrong path, it was his terrible temper that nearly finished him off. He was calm for the most part, and it took a lot to make him angry, but once he reached the boiling point, he lost all control.

One time he was embarrassed by a wrong answer he gave in class and as he walked down the hall one of his friends came up to him and made a little fun of him. "That was a dumb thing to say," taunted his friend.

Ben just shrugged and said, "I guess so." He felt bad enough without having to be reminded.

Ben tried to ignore his friend, but his friend's taunts and laughter became louder and louder. They began to argue, and finally Ben turned to his locker, ignoring him and hoping he would go away. As he was opening the lock, his friend pushed him and he stumbled. Ben then exploded. Forgetting that he had his lock in his hand, he swung at his friend. The lock hit his friend in the forehead. Seeing the blood flying cooled his anger immediately. Ben did profusely apologize in the principal's office. He sincerely wanted to do better.

When in ninth grade, Ben was with a friend and they were listening to the radio. His friend did not like the music that was playing and reached over to change the channel. "You call that music?" he scoffed.

"It's better than what you like!" Ben yelled grabbing for the dial.

"Oh, come on, Ben, You always—"

At that instant, blind anger seized Ben. He snapped open his camping knife that he carried in his pocket and he lunged at his friend. With all the strength he could muster, he thrust the knife towards his belly. The blade struck his big heavy belt buckle with such force that it snapped and dropped to the ground.

Ben stared at the broken blade and felt his stomach collapse. "I almost killed him," he thought, "I almost killed my friend." If that buckle had not protected him, his friend would be bleeding, wounded on the floor and dying. Ben could not say anything. He just muttered in disbelief, "I am sorry." And he ran home.

He ran into the bathroom and prayed and cried to the Lord. He remained there for two hours praying. He hated himself. That moment he gave himself to the Lord and decided he was going to change his ways. He could not handle his anger. He asked the Lord for help. He took out his Bible and began to read. The Lord was speaking to him at that moment. He realized he had to take charge of his own life.

God heard Ben's deep cries of anguish and he walked out of the bathroom a changed young man. He was free. From that point in time, at the age of 14, his faith in God was the most important part of who he was.

Ben Carson did end up going to university and fulfilling his dream of becoming a doctor. He became a neurosurgeon, but his faith never wavered. With every success, he never took honour and glory to himself, but gave glory to God.

If you have dreams for the future, never give up. Do not let anything hold you back. As Ben's mother said, "You were not born to be a failure." God can help you fulfill your dreams. If you seek Him daily, He will direct your paths and show you which way to go, and He will bless your efforts.



# East Congo

In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is a worldwide issue today, we were happy to testify of God's mercy in increasing His army in the East Congo Field. In the end of last year, 16 souls were added to the flock on December 16, 2020. This was in Bukavu city. Even with all the illness, death and lock-downs, the 16 souls were happy to be added to the flock. This great joy we share with you.

We praise the Lord since there are now 86 baptized members and more than 132 interested souls attending church activities regularly. The greatest challenge is that many members are not employed and thus poverty is one of the hindrances they face. Although few in number the members are very strong and well united. Regarding the standard of the Reform they are a good example to the other fields. This field is in great need your prayers and support.

The East Congo Field members always repeat: "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history. We are now a strong people, if we will put our trust in the Lord; for we are handling the mighty truths of the word of God. We have everything to be thankful for. If we walk in the light as it shines upon us from the living oracles of God, we shall have large responsibilities, corresponding to the great light given us of God. We have many duties to perform, because we have been made the depositaries of sacred truth to be given to the world in all its beauty and glory. We are debtors to God to use every advantage He has entrusted to us to beautify the truth of holiness of character, and to send the message of warning and of comfort, of hope and of love, to those who are in the darkness of error and sin."—*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, February 20, 1899





## UNDER HIS WINGS

**Under His wings I am safely abiding;  
Tho' the night deepens and tempests are wild,  
Still I can trust Him; I know He will keep me;  
He has redeemed me, and I am His child.**

**Under His wings, what a refuge in sorrow!  
How the heart yearningly turns to its rest!  
Often when earth has no balm for my healing,  
There I find comfort, and there I am blest**

**Under His wings, O what precious enjoyment!  
There will I hide till life's trials are o'er;  
Sheltered, protected, no evil can harm me;  
Resting in Jesus I'm safe evermore.**

***Chorus:* Under His wings, under His wings,  
Who from His love can sever?  
Under His wings my soul shall abide,  
Safely abide forever.**



**William O. Cushing**

## Believers in Vancouver, Canada



**“And each worker, as he goes forth to this labor, should realize that he is as surely sent of God as were the first disciples. God's eye follows them; His Spirit goes with them. To those who accept His great commission He gives the assurance, ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ ‘He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.’ The psalmist declares, ‘I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under**

**His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.’ Servants of God, you have great advantages, which you should appreciate.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, p. 266**

