

Canadian-Caribbean Union



Messenger

Volume 5, Number 3

March 1998



URIAH SMITH



Is a Sinless Life Possible?

Many professed Christians and churches believe that a sinless life is not possible for a human being. They take Romans 7:19 as an inevitable fact. "For the good that I would do I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." Christ's righteousness message is accepted to mean that Christ alone is righteous, and His righteousness is counted in our favour while we continue to do sin.

To many, sin has become part of their lives that it has lost its sinfulness to them. They practise religion while they love sin. The Pharisees considered themselves holy people by keeping the minutest points of the law strictly. Yet at the same time they hated Jesus and His disciples and planned to kill them.

It was Satan's claim that the law of God could not be kept. Therefore, many professed Christians also believe that God will save them in sin. But, the Spirit of Prophecy tells us differently. "But the love of God does not lead Him to excuse sin. He did not excuse it in Satan; He did not excuse it in Adam or in Cain; nor will He excuse it in any other of the children of men. He will not connive at our sins or overlook our defects of character. He expects us to overcome in His name." COL 316.

"God requires perfection of His children. His law is a transcript of His own character, and it is the standard of all character. The infinite standard is presented to all that there may be no mistake in regard to the kind of people whom God will have to compose His kingdom." COL 315.

It is a great deception of Satan that sin cannot be overcome. Many who believe so will one day have a terrible disappointment. To teach so to others is even more terrible. Satan has his agents in the churches, spreading these false soul-destroying teachings to the believers.

The Bible bears a record of the parents of John the Baptist: "And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." Luke 1:6.

God said of Job that he was "a perfect and an upright man, one that feared God and escheweth evil". Job 1:19.

Jesus said: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48.

To the paralysed man whom Jesus healed, He said, "Behold, thou art made whole; sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." John 5:14. Did Jesus really think it possible that this man could now live a life without sin? From the following testimonies we learn that it is possible and even necessary for our salvation to overcome sin.

"Christ has made every provision for the sanctification of his church. He has made abundant provision for every soul to have such grace that he will be more than a conqueror in the warfare against sin. The Saviour is wounded afresh and put to open

shame when his people pay no heed to his word. He came to this world and lived a sinless life, that in his power his people might also lead lives of sinlessness." Atlantic Union Gleaner, Jan 17, 1906.

"God says to His people today, "It is My desire that you shall exemplify before the world sunken in sin and selfishness the sinlessness of the Redeemer's character." Advent Review, Dec. 3, 1901.

"Every one who by faith obey's God's commandments, will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression." The Signs of the Times, July 23, 1902.

"Christ imputes His perfection and righteousness to the believing sinner when he does not continue in sin, but turns from transgression to obedience of the commandments." R & H, May 23, 1899.

"The Lord requires no less of the soul now, than He required of Adam in paradise before he fell... God requires of His child perfect obedience." R & H, Nov. 1, 1892.

"To him the overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.' We can overcome. Yes; fully, entirely: Jesus died to make a way of escape for us, that we might overcome every evil temper, every sin, every temptation, and sit down at last with Him." Test. Vol. 1, 144.

"There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God. The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of Man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life." CG 477.

"Those only who through faith in Christ obey all of God's commandments will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression. They testify to their love of Christ by obeying all His precepts." 6 BC 1118.

"All sin must be put away. Every darling indulgence that hinders our religious life must be cut off. The right eye or the right hand must be sacrificed if it causes us to offend." Test. Vol. 5, 222.

From the above quotations we learn the high standard which we must reach before we can stand before God in the judgment. We must not lower the standard but present it to the people as something that can be attained unto with the help of God.

"Those who receive the seal of God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully... I saw that none could share the 'refreshing' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action." EW 71.

Is it possible to live a sinless life? The answer from the word of God is YES. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matt. 17:20.

May God help us to reach this condition before it is too late.

AMEN



INGRATITUDE

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful. . . . " 2 Tim. 3:2

God has been so good to us and He doesn't ask for much in return. He asks for our thankfulness, proven by love. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." One thing leads to another. If we are thankful for what God has done, we will love Him and if we love Him we will keep His commandments. It is one thing to say we are thankful but quite another thing to show our thankfulness. "The world is full of dissatisfied spirits who overlook the happiness and blessings within their reach, and are continually seeking for happiness and satisfaction that they do not realize. They are constantly on the stretch for some expected, far-off good greater than they possess, and are ever in a state of disappointment. They cherish unbelief and ingratitude, in that they overlook the blessings right in their pathway. The common, everyday blessings of life are unwelcome to them, as was the Man to the children of Israel." *Test. for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 640* God provides us with sunshine, with rain, with clothing, with a house to live in. Have we remembered to say "thank-you"? How wonderful to the ears of parents to hear their children thank them for these small favours. The heavenly Father also delights to hear these, "Thank-you's".

One of the greatest sins of the day is ingratitude and it begins with children. They have been lovingly raised and provided for and yet sometimes, when they become teenagers, they start to resent their parents. All that has been provided for in the past has been taken for granted and now they want their freedom. Freedom to do as they please. Have their parents made a mistake in giving them too many restraints? Although their parents are not perfect, they have done what they have felt was the best for their children. Yet, there is rarely a "thank-you" uttered by children to their parents. Rarely do we hear a "Thank-you for the meal", "Thank-you for doing my laundry", or "Thank-you for driving me to piano lessons." "The hearts of your parents have been drawn out in tender sympathy toward you, and can you return their love with cold ingratitude? They love your souls, they want you to be saved; but have you not often despised their counsel and done your own will, your own way? Have you not followed your own independent judgement, when you knew that such a stubborn course would not meet the approval of God? Many fathers and mothers have gone down broken-hearted to the grave because of the ingratitude, the lack of respect, shown them by their children." *Messages to Young People, p. 332*

This ingratitude began in heaven with Lucifer. Had he not been given everything possible for his happiness? Had God not been fair with him? Did he have a reason to be resentful and distrustful of all that God had done for him in the past? Did he show appreciation for even being brought into existence and having his existence maintained by the love of God? Of course we can see how unreasonable he was and this unreasonableness is in society today. We see this ingratitude in families, in the work places, in the school room. It is everywhere. There is very little appreciation for what others have done. Often in the business world when someone is aspiring for greatness, they merely use the kindness of others as stepping stones to attain their ultimate goals. To accommodate this lack of appreciation and to keep their churches full, the mainstream Christian churches have had to let down their standards little by little. Everyone is given the freedom of their will, to do what their conscience tells them is right and as long as they believe in Jesus and give lip-service to their love for Him then they will be saved, they tell their followers.

God has given the greatest gift He possibly could give to mankind and yet very few said thank-you. What is worse they threw it back in His face. They hated this gift. Think for a moment how you would feel if you gave a gift from your heart to someone you loved and they burned it while telling you they hated it. In Ancient times they crucified the Jesus, whom the Father had sent for their salvation. They cried, (concerning Jesus) "Away with him, away with him, crucify him. . . . We have no king but Caesar." John 19:15. Today

many Christians say that they would not have done as the Jews had in the days of Jesus, but yet by their very life-style of sin "they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." Heb. 6:6. The sacrifice of Christ is often spoken of as casually as a business transaction. "Jesus died for me and so therefore I am saved if I believe." That is about the extent of their effort as far as their Christianity goes. "The sin of the world today is the sin that brought destruction upon Israel. Ingratitude to God, the neglect of opportunities and blessings, the selfish appropriation of God's gifts - these were comprised in the sin that brought wrath upon Israel. They are bringing ruin upon the world today." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 302

Over 2,000 times Sister White received a message from Heaven and how few value the messages that God has sent. Her messages have been ridiculed and scorned by those who used to be God's people and therefore He cast them aside. Just like in the case of Jews of old, we see that God's mercy had a limit, because they lost their position as the chosen people of God when they turned away from Him and rejected His gift. So also in modern times the Seventh-day Adventist church scorned the messages from heaven sent by His prophet so He turned His face away from them as an organization.

There is the case of Joseph in Pharaoh's prison house. The chief butler was so thankful for what had been done for him in revealing his dream, but yet as soon as he was released he completely forgot about Joseph. Thankfulness is not merely words, it is shown by our actions. "The butler was guilty of the sin of ingratitude. After he had obtained relief from his anxiety, by the cheering interpretation of Joseph, he thought that he should, if brought again into the king's favour, certainly remember the captive Joseph, and speak in his favour to the king. He had seen the interpretation of the dream exactly fulfilled, yet in his prosperity he forgot Joseph in his affliction and confinement. Ingratitude is regarded by the LORD as among the most aggravating sins. And although abhorred by GOD and man, yet it is of daily occurrence." *Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 3, p. 148*

As I said earlier, our thankfulness is shown, not by our words, but by our deeds. A good barometer for love to Christ is our willingness to bring in our tithes and offerings. "Those who placed a high value upon the blessings which God bestowed upon them brought offerings in accordance with their appreciation of these blessings. Those whose moral powers were stupefied and benumbed by selfishness and idolatrous love of the favours received, rather than inspired by fervent love for their bountiful Benefactor, brought meager offerings. Thus their hearts were revealed." *Test. for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 574* "Especially should those whom He has prospered render to Him the things that are His. . . . But many whom God prospers manifest base ingratitude to Him. If His blessings rest upon them, and He increases their substance, they use these bounties as cords to bind them to the love of their possessions; they allow worldly business to take possession of their affections and of their entire being, and neglect devotion and religious privileges." *Ibid*, p. 599

HOW TO FACE INGRATITUDE

I am sure that we all have met with ingratitude at some point in our lives, whether it be from children, friends, neighbours or workmates - or simply some stranger we were offering our help to. Often it may cause our "blood to boil", but we are given counsels on how we are to meet with this ingratitude. "When we meet with ingratitude and betrayal of sacred trusts, we are roused to show our contempt or indignation. This the guilty expect; they are prepared for it. But kind forbearance takes them by surprise and often awakens their better impulses and arouses a longing for a nobler life." *Ministry of Healing, p. 495*. "Even sinners whose hearts are not utterly closed to God's Spirit, will respond to kindness; while they may give hate for hate, they will also give love for love. But it is only the Spirit of God that gives love for hatred. To be kind to the unthankful and to the evil, to do good hoping for nothing again, is the insignia of the royalty

of heaven, the sure token by which the children of the Highest reveal their high estate." *Mount of Blessing*, p. 75

RESULTS

Ingratitude does not go without results. Eventually parents get tired of doing things for their children if they are constantly repaid with ingratitude.

In the case of Ancient Israel in the days of Samuel, "The very sin of which they were convicted had to be confessed. Their ingratitude oppressed their souls and severed them from God." *Test. for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 641

Satan reproaches Christ with the sin of ingratitude of which he tempted the Christians to commit. "He presents their weakness and folly, their sins of ingratitude, their unlikeness to Christ, which have dishonoured their Redeemer. . . He endeavours to affright their souls with the thought that their case is hopeless, that the stain of their defilement can never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield fully to his temptations, and turn from their allegiance to God." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 168

As far as our offerings are concerned. Often, perhaps we have felt convicted to give a donation and then decided against it - afterwards there was a major disaster and we are relieved that we didn't give the money because we needed it to meet this disaster. If we feel we have too many expenses to give more to the Lord here are some serious words for you to consider. "Those who are selfishly withholding their means need not be surprised if God's hand scatters. That which should have been devoted to the advancement of the work and cause of God, but which has been withheld, may be entrusted to a reckless son, and he may squander it. A fine horse, the pride of a vain heart, may be found dead in the stable. Occasionally a cow may die. Losses of fruit or other crops may come. God can scatter the means He has lent to His stewards, if they refuse to use it to His glory. Some, I saw, may have none of these losses to remind them of their remissness in duty, but their cases may be the more hopeless." *Test. for the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 661 "When all that we have and are is not consecrated to God, selfish interests close our eyes to the importance of the work, and the means that God calls for is withheld. But He who has lent us this means for the advancement of His cause will frequently withdraw His prospering hand and in some way scatter the means thus withheld, and it will be lost to its possessor and lost to the cause of God. It is not preserved in this world or in the world to come. God is robbed, and Satan triumphs." *Ibid*, p. 690

THE REMEDY

The only remedy is found in Jesus. As we study deeply into His great sacrifice for us our hearts will melt. When we realize how sinful we are, how unworthy of His great love for us, we will fall on the Rock and be broken. We cannot change the past but we can make a decision for the future. ". . . when this sin of neglect is brought before them, it is not enough for them to change their course and begin to work from that time upon the right principle. . . Repentance for unfaithful dealing with God, and for base ingratitude, is required." *Test. for the church*, Vol. 3, p. 394 If we have hurt people in the past through our ingratitude, it is our duty to make things right as far as possible. If we have robbed God with our tithes and offerings we must make an effort to pay back as we are able. God will bless our efforts and our money will have more value in the bank of heaven than in a bank on earth. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Psalm 103:1-5

By Wendy Eaton

Talents



What is a talent? A talent is a natural gift, something that one is good at, or can be something like money.

In Christ's Object Lessons, p. 252, talents can also be a gift from the Holy Spirit.

Jesus once told a story about a man going to a far country who calls his servants to give his good to them. To one he gives five talents, to another two talents, and still another, one talent. He gave to each one according to his own ability.

The one that was given five talents, went and traded and gained another five talents. The one that was given two talents went and did the same. But, the one that received one talent went and dug a hole and there he buried it. A few years passed, the master came and settled his account with them.

To the one he gave five talents to, he said to him "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of the Lord." He said the same to the one who was given two talents.

The one that was given one talent said to his master, "Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathered where you have to scattered seed. I was afraid and went and hid the talent in the ground. Look there you have what is yours.

The master answered him saying, "You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed." So, that talent was given to the one that had ten talents.

It is the same with our heavenly Father, he will take our talent if we don't use it and give more if we use it.

In this story we see that not using a talent is a sin. If you don't use it, it will be taken and given to someone else, but if you do use it, you will gain.

A talent may be the power of speech, influence on others, time, health, strength, money, kind impulses, and affection, sight, hearing, walking and many more. It doesn't matter which one or how many you have, but everyone has at least one.

Debbie Conde
12 years old



"The grace and righteousness of Christ will not avail for him who feels whole, for him who thinks he is reasonably good, and is contented with his condition. There is no room for Christ in the heart of such a person for he does not realize his need of divine light and aid." Ellen G. White, August 6, 1889.



THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

John S. Theodorou, DDS
Athens, Greece

"And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save Thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when Thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:39-43

Our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified between two thieves. The record indicates that one was an unbeliever and the other became a believer. One trusted the Lord, the other didn't.

The thief that trusted the Lord is a very misunderstood person. I suppose some people purposely want to misunderstand him.

So for a few moments let's think about the thief on the cross and try to clear up three misunderstandings about him.

Misunderstanding No. 1. We have an idea that this man was a greater sinner than we are. According to the Jewish Law in those days, any one who was crucified was considered cursed. Remember the day they came up to Jesus and asked him what do you think about those people Pilate killed in the temple? Pilate was getting angry with the Jews at one thing or another and swooped down one day in the temple and killed them. Jesus said, "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:2,3.

Jesus spoke further, "Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3,4.

I think I know why we think the thief was a greater sinner than we are. First, it is a natural tendency in our hearts to make everyone else look worse than we are. We look at one criminal's name in the papers, and say Oh! I could not do something like that, a murder or violent act. Oh! I could never do that! How do we know?

We think his sins were greater than ours because there he was nailed to the a cross and surely if God permitted him to die, such a horrible death publicly, he must have been a terrible sinner. If we have the idea that this man was a greater sinner than anyone else, then we better face the fact that we are all sinners regardless of the degree. God looks down and doesn't make a distinction between the righteous sinner and the unrighteous sinner. No, there is none righteous...all are sinners.

There is a difference between the man on the cross and us. He was caught. We have not been caught yet. Oh! But you say I am not a thief. Are you not? What is a thief? A thief is someone who takes something that belongs to someone else. They take the glory that belongs to God to themselves.

What are people doing day after day? They are getting things that belong to God and instead of using them for the good of others and the glory of God, they use it for themselves. The only difference between us and

the thief on the cross is that he was a dying thief and we are living thieves. You say, wait a minute! I have read the ten commandments and I have not broken any of them.

If you read what Jesus Christ said, you'd crawl under the nearest carpet. Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment..." Matt. 5:21,22. Have you ever hated anyone in your heart? Jesus said, "...Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. Matt. 5:27,28.. So, it is not necessary for me to have a dagger in my hand to murder someone. That is why I say we have no right to point to the thief on the cross and say, "my, what a terrible sinner he was." Compared to him I am a saint. No...all have sinned. No...there's not one righteous no not one. In fact, I'll go further and say he may have been a better person than many of us. He admitted that he was a sinner. How many do you find today who admit they are sinners?

I've heard of one pastor who was a great soul winner, say to a friend, "it is so hard to find a sinner". This is true. The thief on the cross was honest enough to admit that he was justly condemned and deserved to die. There may be someone that says "when I stand before God I will be prepared. I'll have all of my arguments prepared. When you stand before God, you will stand speechless as the man who came to the wedding without the wedding garment.

There is a second misunderstanding. Many people believe this man had it easier trusting Christ than we do. I've heard people say, "yes, he was saved, and if I were suffering on a cross and about to die, I'd turn to Jesus too." Would you really? Where did you ever get the idea that suffering makes a person want to repent? I talked about this to a certain pastor who talked to people in jails, hospitals, penitentiaries, etc., who were facing death and suffering but instead of repenting, do you know what they did? They were cursing God.

Do not cherish the idea that suffering always brings a person to the Lord. Suffering can make people curse God. This same pastor told me he spoke to suffering and dying people in intensive care wards and they said, "don't talk to me about God. I lived all these years without Him, I don't need Him now."

When this pastor pleaded with them saying, "don't you want to give your heart to Christ?" They answered, "if there's a God, why does He do this to me? I don't know anywhere in the Bible where it says that physical suffering produces spiritual results. You say..."he had an easier time getting saved because he was dying." No, sometimes it makes it harder. You say..."he had an easier time getting saved because Christ was right there next to him." Did you ever stop to think how difficult it was for this man to believe that a man crucified to the cross was the Messiah, the Son of God?

The conversion of this thief on the cross was one of the most unusual conversions in the Bible. Let's look at it this way. He turned to Jesus and what did he see? A weak, bleeding, suffering Jewish carpenter with a mocking crowd down below and you want to believe in Him? Suppose you are dying on a cross and you turn to someone else who's dying on a cross also and you say to him...save me! It is like being in the sea and you are drowning and your friend is drowning and you say to him...save me! You see, today when I ask you to trust in Jesus Christ, I am asking you to trust in one whom we know is the Son of God.

We have no problem trusting in a king or a high priest. Jesus died, arose, ascended to heaven and when I say put your faith in Jesus Christ I am not asking you to look to a weak, emaciated, suffering, lonely man hanging on a cross; although we should remember His death. I'm asking you to look at a glorified Saviour. It's much easier to do that. You say...is that the only obstacle? No, this crowd below the cross, also. There were three crosses. One thief, another thief and Jesus Christ in between. It's wonderful how the Lord arranged for His Son to die

between them. They both had access to Him, the Lord Jesus Christ.

There wasn't just a rabble rousing crowd, not just a bunch of drunks with nothing else to do. There were priests and scribes there, and what were they doing? Mocking! Would you put your faith in someone whom your leaders rejected? "He saved others but He can't save Himself."..."Let Him come down from the cross if He is Christ, the Son of God." (Matthew 27:42) The crowd did not encourage him to be saved. The condition of the Lord did not encourage him to be saved. His companion was reviling the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't doubt these two men had been partners in crime. They had robbed together, killed together, now dying together.

Now this thief had to turn his back on his own companion. What keeps people from trusting in Jesus Christ very often is fear of people. Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of man bringeth a snare." How many people are there today who if it were not for an unbelieving husband or wife or brother or friend would have trusted Jesus Christ?

It was difficult for the thief on the cross to believe in Jesus because of the mockery of the crowd and the attitude of his friend. What I am saying is that it's much easier for you to trust Christ than it was for the thief. You're with a crowd that praises Him. If there's someone today who has never believed in Christ there is no easier time for it than today, because all around us today are people praying to Him. If you put your faith in Jesus Christ today, many people would rejoice. The angels and the entire heavenly host would rejoice. This man didn't have that kind of encouragement. Everything was against him to discourage him from believing in Christ. Yet this man was saved the same way as everyone else will get saved. He was saved by grace through faith.

When the two thieves were hanging beside the Lord, the one was no better than the other. Mark 15:32 says, "They that were crucified with him reviled him." It is only the grace of God that can instantly transform a reviling sinner into a repenting and believing child of God. It was the love and the grace of God that brought Jesus there. It was the grace of God that made Pilate make the first gospel tract. He wrote on a board, "THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH...KING OF THE JEWS" John 19:19. How did the thief on the cross know that Jesus Christ had a kingdom? Pilate told him by that sign above the cross. If Jesus had been on the far left perhaps this man would not have seen it, but because Jesus was in the middle, he saw that little sign. This man is Jesus and Jesus means Saviour. He is the Saviour from Nazareth... the King of the Jews. With that meagre knowledge of the Lord Jesus plus someone in the crowd saying, "He saved others"; that is the good news. This man begins to put two and two together. He is the Saviour...He has saved others...He can save me. He has a kingdom. I don't know where it is, but He has one.

God was speaking to this condemned thief by the Holy Spirit. He was saved by grace through faith while having the meagerest knowledge. On the other hand, we have the whole Bible. He was changed from a thief to a believer. Some one asked me once. "Do you think the heathen are lost?" "Well, what do you mean by the heathen?" "Do you think there are heathens in Athens?" There are heathens in Africa. Yes, they are lost. But, what are you doing about it?

It will be easier for the heathen in Africa on judgement day than the people of Athens, because the people of Athens have heard the gospel over and over through radio, TV, Bibles since the days when Apostle Paul was here. If Jesus Christ would come today the people would be lost because they have sinned against a great flood of light. You might be one of them. It's much easier for us to believe because we have the whole Bible. We have a risen, exalted and glorified Christ who can save us.

Misunderstanding No. 3. He was saved at the last opportunity.

Mary have told me, "I don't want to accept or get saved right now. I want to put it off until later. I'm not

ready." You don't dare put it off until later. "Well, the thief on the cross did. He was saved at the eleventh hour." "Who told you that? Where do we read in the Bible that the thief was saved at the last opportunity?"

My friend, he was saved at the first opportunity. The famous or well-known exchange of words between Jesus and the thief is unique with Luke. Here is the first opportunity God gave him. He realized that this is what he had been looking for all his life, and he believed the Saviour. Turning to his fellow criminal he said, "Dost thou fear God...?" (This is the first angel's message) Seeing thou art in the same condemnation? (Second angel's message). Babylon (fallen), v.41 --And we, indeed, justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds. (Third angel's message).

Do we know why people put their salvation off? For the same reason as they put off surgery, or going to the doctor and when it is too late they say, "If you would have only come sooner". We have it in the back of our heads that somehow the sickness is going to go away, or that it's going to get better or that we will have more opportunities later when we have more time.

The idea that we have plenty of time is killing people right now. There are people in the hospitals in Athens, if only they had gone six months earlier, they would have been like that thief on the cross. When you say to yourself, "I'll wait for the eleventh hour", do you know when your eleventh hour is going to come? Does your astrological chart tell you when, or your fortune teller or your coffee or tea cup readings? You don't know your eleventh hour.

"It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgement" Hebrews 9:27. And that is one appointment you don't know when it will be.

Shortly after that dialogue, remember what happened. The darkness came down over the cross and he couldn't see Jesus Christ anymore. This man started to become dozy and dull. I don't doubt that they gave him narcotics to deaden the pain. Crucifixion is a horrible thing, a horrible way to die. There is pain, thirst, torture of insects, exposure to brutal spectators, the horror of rigid fixation, being naked, and above all the supreme humiliation; it is the most agonizing death.

Both thieves then had their legs broken to hasten death, but not those of Jesus Christ. In Psalms 34:20 says, "Not a bone shall be broken". Then death came upon them.

Today we rejoice in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. He can take a thief to paradise-- remarkable. Who were the first sinners in the Bible? Adam and Eve, and they were thieves. They went to the tree and took what didn't belong to them, and therefore they were cast out of paradise. This thief turned to Jesus on the cross who said to him, "you will be with me in paradise."

Everything that sin has caused, Jesus Christ has changed on the cross. He died for you and for me. The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain of life in his last day. So also He can wash all my sins away who am as vile as the thief on the cross.

He is calling us to come to Him today. We are sinners and the judgement hour is coming closer. Jesus is the only one who can save us. He is the sin pardoner. Be as the thief on the cross and use the first opportunity to cast your soul upon Him. You do not know that it may also be the last opportunity.

AMEN.





United We Stand

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1 Cor. 1:10.

In the Greek Kat-ar-tid-zo is translated as "to be fit together". This same word is used in three other important New Testament passages.

- 1) Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. Heb 11:3.
- 2) Wherefore when he cometh into the world he saith, sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me. Heb. 10:5.
- 3) And going on from thence, he saw... James... and John his brother in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. Matt. 4:21.

The point of all these illustrations is simply this. God is desirous that church believers be joined together:

As perfectly as the sun, moon and stars fit together. Heb 11:3.

As perfectly as God formed the body of Jesus. Heb. 10:5.

As perfectly as a mended net is. Matt. 4:21.

In his address to the constituency, Elder G.A. Irwin, president of the Board of Trustees, referred to the launching of the medical college as "one of the most important moves made by this denomination since the removal of our General Conference headquarters from Battle Creek, Michigan to Washington, D.C. He spoke of three things as being "positively necessary in order that the school may be successful and meet the mind of the Lord in its establishment:

- 1) Money with which to erect and properly equip the necessary buildings;
- 2) The hearty cooperation of the entire denomination through its recognized leaders;
- 3) Steadfast adherence upon the part of the directors and medical faculty to the principles contained in the instruction upon which the institution was founded..."

Here I would like to replace school for church, also erect and properly equip the necessary for church budget and etc...

"The work of evangelizing the world has been greatly hindered by personal selfishness. Some, even among professing Christians, are unable to see that the work of the gospel is to be supported by the means that Christ has given them. **Money** is needed in order that the work done all over the world may be carried forward. Thousands upon thousands are perishing in sin, and a lack of means is hindering the proclamation of the truth that is to be carried to all nations and kindred and tongues and people. There are men ready to go forth as the Lord's messengers, but because of a lack of means in the treasury they cannot be sent to the places where the people are begging for someone to come and teach them the truth." 9T, 52.

In 1 Chronicles 22:7-14 we have a beautiful description of how David wanted so much to give to the Lord and be a part of the building of the temple. He had a longing to do something for the Lord his God. Do we have such a longing? Any longing to give? If not, at least return to Him that which He had put in our trust. Do we need to depend on the heathen to love and build our churches in the same way that the centurion did for the Jews in Luke 7:2-5?

"The Word declares, 'Ye are God's husbandry'. But can he work upon our hearts unless we are willing to be worked? 'Ye are God's building.' He is willing to build up in each one of us a symmetrical character--a character after the divine similitude. But He must have our cooperation. Judges 13:8 is a very good example of a servant of God who wants to cooperate with heaven. We learned this in our Sabbath School lesson how Manoah sought God's instructions. Do we care about His instruction? Are we cooperating with Him and His church leaders? Only when we care enough to do our very best will the work of God go forward. In Acts 9:6 we have an encouraging servant of God who in his very beginning was willing to cooperate. Are we doing our part." GCB, 1903/04/02

"The days in which we live are days of peril. Carelessness, levity, love of pleasure and selfish gratification, are seen in the lives of very many professed Christians. Is this the time for Seventh-Day Adventists to lose their faith and grow cold and formal? God forbid! Shall we turn traitor at the very moment when God would be most glorified by our steadfast adherence to principle? Shall we turn from the heavenly attractions now, when we can almost see the glories on the other shore? We are living in the most important period of earth's history. By maintaining our allegiance to God, we may bear the noblest testimony for Christ and the truth." RH, 1881/11/29

United we stand when we as Christians hold to the same convictions as did Nehemiah and those building the walls with him in Neh. 4:6. They persevered until the end, and in the same manner we are asked to do; "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end." Heb. 3:14.

Let the Spirit of Christ be the one to unite us so that those who are eagerly watching can say "these people are truly God's remnant because of the Love they have one for another and the unity that binds them together." Amen!

"For let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"; Phil. 2:5, is my wish and prayer for all of us. MARANATHA. Amen.

Your brother in Christ
Tony Cabral
Montreal



"Come into harmony with your brethren. Speak well of them. Throw out no unfavourable hints, no suggestions that will awaken distrust in the minds of others... Some pride themselves on being outspoken, blunt, and rough, and they call this frankness; but it is not rightly named, it is selfishness of the deepest dye." Ellen G. White, April 29, 1884.



SAVED BY AN ANGEL

By Thomas Ramirez, California USA

For my family and I, it is a 90 minute ride to church every week. Usually we spend most of the Sabbath day with believers before coming home late in the evening. One particular Sabbath I was driving home quite late at night. My family was fast asleep in the back and I thought I was able to make it home. Here in Lancaster, California the exits from the freeway follow the alphabet. I have to exit at Avenue I to get to my house. As I was driving I remember seeing Avenue J and I knew that the next exit was the one for home. I must have drifted off to sleep because all of a sudden I woke up with a start and looked around me. I didn't recognize the countryside at first. Then it dawned on me that I had passed my exit. When I started to become familiar with my surroundings I realized that I had gone well past Avenue I. In fact I had gone for more than two miles while asleep, and the freeway is not straight in that section but has some curves. Two miles I had driven while sleeping. I believe that the angels took control of my vehicle and then woke me up.

Many years ago, before I was a Christian, (I was actually a devout Catholic - teaching the Catechism regularly), I made an experience that I realized (many years later) that God had preserved my life for some purpose. In the town that I was living in, in Mexico, there was a cross on a hill above the village. Often my eyes were drawn to it. One day when I had to go to work, I decided to hike up to the cross and across to my work place. This was a much shorter way to go to work. From the cross I could view the village below. Often I had gone this way, but on this particular day there was a house being built on the public land right in the way of my short cut. As I approached the house, trying to find my way around it, the owner came out and asked me what I was doing there. I told him that I was taking a short cut to work. He said, "No, you are trying to steal my tools from the job site." I insisted that I was not, but he refused to believe me. No matter what I said, he wouldn't listen to my reasoning. Finally he pulled out a pistol and shot everyone of his bullets at me. He was only about 10 - 15 feet away from me. As I saw the dust fly from the impact of the bullets around me, I didn't know what to think or what to do - I just froze. When the gun was empty, I just looked him right in the eye and smiled. Then I turned and kept on walking as if nothing had happened. His work-mate fled in terror when he saw what happened. I just kept on walking and went to work. Many times afterwards I saw this man since he lived near my work place. He made no apology, which I thought was strange, and this showed me how hard his heart was. Years later, looking back on the incident I realized that God had been good to me and had sent his angel to protect me.

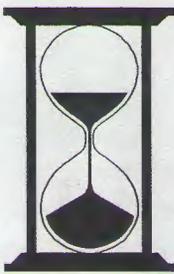
On another occasion we were attending a wedding in our Sacramento church (about 5 hours drive north). When we arrived in Sacramento, before the wedding, I decided to wash my truck so it would look more presentable for the wedding. While I was washing the motor, something happened that caused the motor to really smoke a lot when I started it. I thought the problem could be taken care of if I got some oil additive, but the motor kept smoking. Finally I decided to turn off the engine and go get some new oil, a new filter and new additive in order to remedy the problem. I had parked in a dead-end street with no way to get out but one. I came out of the store and was really pondering over the situation. I was about to change the oil when an old fellow that I had never seen before came up from behind and

simply said, "Try adding something to the radiator." Without looking at him again I thought in my mind, "This guy must be crazy. He doesn't know what is going on with my vehicle." Just then I turned to him to ask him why he had said that but he was gone. It had been less than a minute since he had said what he did before I came out with my response. There was no where for him to disappear that quickly. I decided to add the new oil, the filter and the additive anyway since I had them. And you can probably guess that the engine still smoked. Well, I decided at this point to try what the old man had suggested. I really didn't know what else to do and I guess it wouldn't hurt, so I tried the radiator additive. Sure enough, when I added the additive, the truck stopped smoking and worked fine. It was only much later that I found out that the head was completely broken. That vehicle still worked fine for another seven months. Praise the Lord that He sends His angels to keep charge over us to keep us in all our ways. Yes, He is interested in more than our spiritual welfare - He is interested in every aspect of our lives. I believe that it was an angel who came to give me that very timely advice.

The final occasion I want to mention is the time my family and I went on a camping trip to King's Canyon in Central California. My wife was in the back of the truck at the time with my son. Suddenly she felt the truck do a strange lurch and came to ask me what had happened. We had been travelling on a two lane highway - one lane in either direction. As many of you may know this can be a very patience trying situation when there are slow moving vehicles in front of you. These are drivers who are not as familiar with the roads and are not comfortable at driving the speeds that those of us who know the roads usually travel. Of course there are times when you are able to pass these vehicles in safety by going into the other lane of the on-coming traffic. On this particular occasion there were 3 cars in front of me. Finally after much patience there came a good opportunity for me to pass all three cars. There was a long stretch of road that I could see ahead of me and there were no cars coming. As I was approaching the front vehicle the driver suddenly - without looking back - decided to make a left hand turn. I had to think really fast. I couldn't brake and let the cars pass and simply return to the right-hand lane in behind them for I was going too fast. I could return quickly to the right and force one of the other cars off the road but there was a cliff and I couldn't do that in good conscience. I decided to go onto the left hand shoulder. There was a high wall but there was a shoulder also. That was the only way for me to go to avoid a collision. Suddenly as I was on this shoulder a huge rock appeared in front of me. My first thought was, "That's the end of my life." In the blink of an eye, the rock was behind us and everyone was fine. Praise the Lord. He had sent His angel to move that rock.

I could cite many more experiences in my life where the Lord had sent His angels to protect me and my family. I only wanted to share a few here. I am sure if we all look back on our lives and reflect - we will see where the Lord has been good to us and saved us in many difficult instances.

IMS Publishing
54 Newcastle St.
Toronto, Ontario, M8Y 1A3
CANADA
Tel: (416) 252-1197
E-mail: tmartin@netcom.ca
Fax: (416) 252-6625



The Time

What is the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning? Please notice, “wake up”, and not “get up”. You check what time it is, right? That is when it is very early in the morning, like 4 or 5 am. We start the day with time and we end the day with it also. Everything we do revolves around time. The earth spins 365 times on its axle a year, but only once around the sun.

What definition do you have for time? In the Oxford Dictionary, I found the following:

- 1) Indefinite continued progress of existence, event and future regarded as a whole.
- 2) Progress of this as affecting persons or things.

Someone shared from their study Bible, the definition, “a period between two eternity’s”.

In our lives everything has to do with time. I visited my country where I stayed for 17 days. Before I knew it, I was back in Canada. Time is totally irreversible. If we take a look in the Book of Ecclesiastes we find the types of things that normally take place in time.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. Eccl. 3:1-8

You might believe that we are living in the last days of man’s history, but how aware of this are we really? Jesus said, “O ye hypocrites”, (in reference to the Pharisees, for they didn’t recognize Jesus as the Son of God as the lived in a formalistic way) “ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”

On another occasion Jesus was asked by his disciples, “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1:6. Jesus replied, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” Acts 1:7. If the disciples would have understood Daniel chapter 7 and 8, they wouldn’t have asked Jesus about the restoring of the kingdom. About 600 years earlier, an angel said to Daniel, “But thou O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Daniel 12:4. “As the disciples were mistaken in regard to the kingdom to be set up at the end of the seventy weeks, so Adventists were mistaken in regard to the event to take place at the expiration of the 2,300 days.” GC, 352.

Is it time for us to judge people, saying, this person is better than the other? As yourself, "Can the judge be under judgment?" "...He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law... Who art thou that judgest another?" James 4:11,12. The time will come as it is written in Revelation 20:4, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them... Therefore judge nothing before the time." 1 Cor 4:5. "Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD." Jer 8:7. How often are you reminded that we are in the time of judgment?

We are in the time to bring others to the knowledge of God. Dear brother and sister, let it be your most burning desire to testify to people about the love of God through the divine gift of Jesus Christ as our personal Redeemer and Saviour.

It is time for us to make earnest efforts to manifest our Father to others. "Every man is required to do the work assigned him of God. We should be willing to render small services, doing the things that are to be done, which someone must do, improving the little opportunities. If these are the only opportunities we should still work faithfully. He who wastes hours, days and weeks, because he is unwilling to do the work that offers, humble though it may be, will be led to render an account to God for his misspent time... He is not to waste his time. Let him think, 'I will spend that time doing, and I will give all I earn to advance the work of God. I will not be counted a do-nothing.'" 2SM, 181. "Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel. GC88, 481. Let us not allow time to pass and reach the devastating state of Jeremiah 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved".

There is a poem that was read during a service held on Sabbath January 17, which captures the theme of time, it is called "Twas the Night Before Jesus Came".

*Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
in hopes that Jesus would not come there.*

*The children were dressing to crawl into bed.
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.*

*When out of the East there arose such a clatter.
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!*

*When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here*

**With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!**

**The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.**

**In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name:
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.**

**The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.**

**I fell to my knees, but it was too late:
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight:
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.**

**In the words of this poem the meaning is clear:
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all.**

Author: Lou Pinter

Revelation 19:11-16

"It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people." GC88, 636.

What a moving poem. Let us awake and look at the time in which we are living today. "...beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee; behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salavation)." 2 Cor. 6:1,2.

What was that again? NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION. The time is now, Today. Today God will forgive you for your past sins. Today Christ says, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.

Let us redeem the time; for the Lord will come very soon. AMEN!

Br. Richard Lapensee
Montreal

"If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him. If you believe the Word of God, submit your ways to its guidance in all things, even though your own inclinations are crossed. Do not stand as many of you have done, apparently wavering between dependence upon the righteousness of Christ, and dependence upon your own righteousness." Ellen G. White, May 27, 1890.



THE MIND

Did you know that human beings don't even use one tenth of their brain? Can you believe that? Unfortunately it is true, but that does not mean it has to stay that way. You can improve the mind and learn how to use more of it.

In science there is a theory that says that, "What goes in, must come out." This is very true. The way our mind works depends on what we feed it. What we see, hear, and eat has a huge impact on our brain and the way in which it functions. If we see and hear evil, our mind will become corrupt. What we eat also affects us. If we eat unhealthy food our mind will be unhealthy and will not be able to function properly. Eating unhealthy foods affects our mind both physically and spiritually. We will have low concentration skills and a dull and sluggish mind. We will not be able to understand much or retain anything.

On the other hand if we eat according to the health laws that God gave Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and see and hear what is good our mind will be different. We are changed by beholding and if we take in only what is good we will be amazed at what our brain can do. Our mind will be clear, bright and alert. We will be able to learn things easily and to retain much. By treating our mind well we will be able to discern between truth and evil.

"The Lord has given man capacity for continual improvement, and has granted him all possible aid in the work. Through the provisions of divine grace we may attain almost to the excellence of angels." MCP

Another point that improves our mind is "Bible Study." By reading God's word we strengthen it. A thing that should be done by all is to memorize portions of the Bible like verses, Psalms or whole chapters. By doing this we train our memory, connect ourselves with heaven and put a barrier between ourselves and Satan. "The minds of all who make the word of God their study will enlarge." MCP

In the Bible we have the example of Jesus and we know that he knew the scriptures well. He always answered others with "it is written..." He amazed the rabbi's of His time with His extensive knowledge of the Bible at the age of 12. He drove Satan away and comforted others with God's word. Let us never forget to look to our Supreme example all the time and to learn of Him daily.

During the time of the martyrs we know that even little children knew big portions of the Bible by heart. Sister Ellen G. White counsels us to memorize the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah so that we will be ready to meet Satan's insinuations by presenting to him the Word of God.

"The brain is the organ and instrument of the mind, and controls the whole body. In order for the other parts of the system to be healthy, the brain must be healthy. And, in order for

the brain to be healthy the blood must be pure. If by correct habits of eating and drinking the blood is kept pure, the brain will be properly nourished." MCP

Let us strive for perfection and let us try to use our mind to the utmost with the help and power of God.

Comment: Lecithin (derived from the soya bean), brewer's yeast, wheat germ, lemons (limes), and oranges are excellent for the brain. Lecithin specifically aids your memory. Limes and oranges help to purify the blood and if the blood is purified this cleanses and strengthens the mind. Grapes are very good for the blood and have a lot of iron.

Reina Conde Guerrero



Visiting Brother Cholich in
California

Current Scene



Pope Welcomes 1998, Appeals for World Peace

Vatican City (Reuters) - "Pope John Paul II marked the New Year and the Catholic Church's World Day of Peace Thursday with an appeal to strive harder for justice and reconciliation.

" 'The Church sees in the start of the new year under the sign of prayer for peace,' the 77-year-old pontiff, looking tired and at times speaking with a weak voice, told the congregation during a solemn New Year's Day mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

"Greeting the diplomatic corps in the largest church in Christendom, the pope said: 'I hope that the whole of humanity may walk more decisively and in harmony along the road of justice and reconciliation.'

"Shortly after the 90-minute mass, the Pope used an Angelus address to pilgrims in a packed St. Peter's Square to hammer home his World Day of Peace message--that globalization of the world's economy had to go hand-in-hand with solidarity.

" 'The process of globalization under way in the world needs to be orientated in the direction of equity and solidarity to avoid marginalization...of people and groups,' he said.

" 'Will the year 2000 mark a significant step forward in the construction of peace?' he said, appearing at times breathless.

" 'That is everyone's wish, but in order for that to happen, it is indispensable for everyone to strive for justice in the respect of human rights,' the pope added.

"The Vatican last month released the text of the pope's 15-page message for the World Day of Peace.

"It was the first time the Pope included the globalization issue in his yearly peace message, this year entitled 'From the Justice of Each Comes Peace for All,' which is sent to all heads of state and major international organizations.

" 'Justice and peace are not abstract concepts or far-off ideals, they are values instilled, as common heritage, in the heart of everyone,' he said in his message. 'No one can get out of this responsibility.'

" 'Will everyone be able to take advantage of a global market? Will everyone at last have a chance to enjoy peace? Will relations between states become more equitable or will economic competition and rivalries between people and nations lead humanity toward even greater instability?' he said.

The Pope has consistently shown in his past treatises and homilies on "human rights" that this means the "right" to keep Sunday--and even for the governments around the world to support this "right" by passing Sunday laws. Of course, Jesus never forced anybody to respect His "rights," nor did He force anyone to respect the Ten Commandments. In fact, the reason why Jesus died upon the cross of Calvary was to ensure that nothing and no one, not even Satan himself could force us to sin or be anything other than a free moral agent. Genesis 3:15. The Pope is setting up his own agenda for total geo-political domination by the year 2000, as Malachi Martin intimated in his 1990 book, *The Keys of this Blood* and He intends to bring the whole world into his own brand of "peace". Unfortunately, there is no peace unto the wicked who have rejected God's law. Jer. 6:13-16. The Pope's mention of solidarity is an obvious reference to the Polish experience in bringing down a government through catholic political agitation and violence--an experience which has actually destabilized Eastern Europe. (While we are not in agreement with communism, neither are we in agreement with labour unions that will use ungodly practices to get their way.)

The Pope is now openly speaking of globalization and the supposedly unfair competition and rivalry that will keep people and groups from being marginalized. He has called anyone who would take the Bible literally a "minimalist"; and would not allow anyone to marginalize his own marks of authority--Sunday worship and the immortality of the soul. It is sure that he would call the truths of God's word that we have and hold as marginalizing rivalry.

"Satan's policy in this final conflict with God's people is the same that he employed in the opening of the great controversy in heaven. He professed to be seeking to promote the stability of the divine government, while secretly bending every effort to secure its overthrow. And the very work, which he was thus endeavoring to accomplish, he charged upon the loyal angels. The same policy of deception has marked the history of the Roman Church. It has professed to act as the vicegerent of Heaven, while seeking to exalt itself above God and to change His law. Under the rule of Rome, those who suffered death for their fidelity to the gospel were denounced as evildoers; they were declared to be in league with Satan; and every possible means was employed to cover them with reproach, to cause them to appear in the eyes of the people and even to themselves as the vilest of criminals. So it will be now. While Satan seeks to destroy those who honour God's law, he will cause them to be accused as lawbreakers, as men who are dishonouring God and bringing judgments upon the world." GC 591

Pope praises Jews for their gift of Jesus

VATICAN CITY (*Associated Press*) - "In a joyous Christmas message to the world last night, Pope John Paul II hailed the Jews as the people who gave Jesus Christ to all mankind.

"His gesture to the people he calls Christianity's 'elder brothers' during midnight Mass carried a special resonance: It came the day after a Hanukkah candle was lighted at the Vatican for the first time in history.

" 'The birth of the Messiah! It is the central event in the history of humanity,' John Paul said in his homily. 'The whole human race was awaiting it with a vague presentiment; the Chosen People awaited with explicit awareness.'

"The Pope has done much to repair the ancient rifts between Roman Catholics and Jews. Under him, the Vatican and Israel normalized relations in 1993. And this fall, he issued a major statement on anti-Semitism, part of his quest for an accounting of Catholic misdeeds as Christianity's third millennium approaches.

"In that statement, the Pope said wrong interpretations of the New Testament fostered hostility toward Jews and deadened Christians' responses to their persecution. The statement also stressed Christ's Jewish heritage.

" 'Israel, the People of God of the Old Covenant, was chosen to bring to the world...the Messiah, the Savior and Redeemer of all humanity,' the pontiff said during midnight Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. In his midnight homily, John Paul also spoke of the universal joy of Christmas.

" 'On this night the glory of God becomes the inheritance of all creation and, in particular, mankind,' he said, adding that 'every man is included in the mystery of God's love, which is the source of definitive peace.'

"The Pope ended with a blessing for all. 'Peace to humanity!' he said. 'That is my Christmas wish.'

It is interesting that the Pope is only in the past few years finding the way to apologize for what was done by the Roman Catholic Church to Protestants and Jews in her former persecutions. Now he is taking more of a placating position to bring all the opponents onto his side and quiet their fears. History teaches us though, that Rome will make any treaty, offer any apology necessary that will give it the vantage ground. It will then strike and religious freedom will be the first to go for those who would conscientiously obey God's Word. It is even more interesting to look at recent history in Israel. Ever since the Pope has "recognized" Israel and taken a more placating position toward them, Israel's Prime Minister has been assassinated, Netanyahu has come to power and the whole region is much more unstable than it was before. In fact, nearly every region on the earth where Papal power is in the ascendancy has become quite unstable. Examples are Rwanda and the rest of Africa, Croatia and Eastern Europe, France, Central America, South America and Mexico.

Just as Christmas is a Roman Catholic institution so is Sunday, a tradition passed down from paganism through Catholicism. But then what is the truth about Christmas to one who could set aside the law of God in favor of a pagan tradition? By Jerry Eaton

COLDS



According to the National Institute of Health, at any second of any hour of any day, one out of every three Americans is down with the inflamed respiratory tract, the low-level fever, and the general fatigue symptomatic of what is commonly known as the common cold.

Which means, statistically speaking, that there's a 33 1/3 percent chance that you're suffering from a cold right this minute.

Are colds seasonal? To some extent yes. Studies indicate that we get more colds in the winter. This isn't because of the cold weather, though - at least not directly. Colds aren't caused by cold weather. Cold weather, however, does tend to keep us indoors. And in the close confinement of warm (thus virus-encouraging) rooms, we breathe in the same air as many other people, thereby increasing our exposure to the various cold viruses. But, even though we tend to get more colds in the winter, we can just as readily catch one in the spring and summer. When it comes to climatic conditions, the common cold is a disease for all seasons.

Here are a few ideas to help. First: from the writings of Ellen G. White from the book, *Healthful Living*, pp. 208

- 210

CAUSES OF COLDS

"Many labor under the mistaken idea that if they have taken cold, they must carefully exclude the outside air, and increase the temperature of their room until it is excessively hot. The system may be deranged, the pores closed by waste matter, and the internal organs suffering more or less inflammation, because the blood has been chilled back from the surface and thrown upon them."

"The effects produced by living in close, ill-ventilated rooms are these: . . . The body becomes relaxed; the skin becomes sallow; digestion is retarded, and the system is peculiarly sensitive to serious diseases. Great care should be exercised not to sit in a draught or in a cold room when weary, or when in a perspiration."

"If the child has taken cold, it is generally due to the wrong management of the mother. If its head is covered as well as its body while sleeping, in a short time it will be in a perspiration, caused by laboured breathing, because of the lack of pure, vital air. When it is taken from beneath the covering, it is almost sure to take cold. The arms' being naked exposes the infant to constant cold, and congestion of the lungs or brain. These exposures prepare the way for the infant to become sickly and dwarfed."

CLOTHING

"When the extremities, which are remote from the vital organs, are not properly clad, the blood is driven to the head, causing headache or nosebleed; or there is a sense of fulness about the chest, producing cough or palpitation of the heart, on account of too much blood in that locality."

"An abundance of clothing about the chest, where is the great wheel of life, induces the blood to the lungs and brain, and produces congestion."

"A dress thus long gathers dew from the grass, . . . and in its bedraggled condition it comes in contact with the sensitive ankles, which are not sufficiently protected, quickly chilling them, and is one of the greatest causes of catarrh and of scrofulous swelling, and endangers health and life."

"Drug takers are never well. They are always taking cold, which causes extreme suffering, because of the poison all through their system."

HELPFUL HINTS CONCERNING COLDS

"At this time, of all others, the lungs should not be deprived of pure, fresh air. If pure air is ever necessary, it is when any part of the system, as the lungs or stomach, is diseased. Judicious exercise would induce the blood to the surface, and thus relieve the internal organs. Brisk, yet not violent exercise in the open air, with cheerfulness of spirits, will promote the circulation, giving a healthy glow to the skin, and send the blood, vitalized by the pure air, to the extremities.

"Bring to your aid the power of the will, which will resist cold, and will give energy to the nervous system."

"Instead of increasing the liability to cold, a bath, properly taken, fortifies against cold, because the circulation is improved, . . . for the blood is brought to the surface, and a more easy and regular flow of blood through all the blood-vessels is obtained.

"Morning exercise, in walking in the free invigorating air of heaven, . . . is the surest safe-guard against colds, coughs, congestions of the brain and lungs, . . . and a hundred other diseases."

"Twice a week she should take a general bath as cool as will be agreeable, a little cooler every time, until the skin is toned up."

The following information is taken from *How to Get Well*, by Paavo Airola, Ph.d., N.D., pp 60, 61

COLDS (*acute or chronic infections: flu, grippe, tonsillitis, sinusitis, bronchial catarrh, chronic colds, virus-type infections*)

DIETARY CONSIDERATIONS

In acute stage of disease, when fever is present in above-mentioned conditions, the patient should abstain from all solid foods and only drink fresh fruit and vegetable juices, diluted with water, 50-50, plus herb teas. . . After fever subsides, a low calorie raw fruit and vegetable diet with plenty of raw juices and herb teas, sweetened with honey, some raw seeds, nuts and sprouted seeds and grains. After the acute condition is over continue with a healthy, balanced diet.

BIOLOGICAL TREATMENTS

Take hot, epsom salt baths, give yourself a dry brush massage, have plenty of rest, have some mild exercise such as walking in the fresh air. Barefoot walking on sand, gravel, and/or wet grass is strengthening in chronic conditions. Once a week take a sauna bath, or an over-heating bath. In mouth and throat infections, keep a clove of garlic or vitamin C tablet in the mouth (not at the same time, but one at a time).

VITAMINS & SUPPLEMENTS

1) Take Vitamin C in massive doses. It is impossible to over-dose on vitamin C. As an adult you may take as much as 5,000 mg at one time. Take 1,000 mg every second hour (vitamin C has an antibiotic action).

2) Garlic also is a natural antibiotic. Take raw garlic in your mouth and suck it like a hard candy for awhile. Take also garlic oil capsules.

3) Take a good multi-vitamin with your meal.

HERBS

Good herbs to take, either in capsule form or as tea are: Rose hips, golden seal, camomile, peppermint, lemon grass, slippery elm, ginger, chinchona bark, sage, desert tea.

From the book, *Back to Eden*, By Jethro Kloss, pp. 504, 505

Influenza or La Grippe

Causes: - Exposure to cold and dampness when the system is not in good condition and is full of waste matter, and toxins.

Symptoms: - The first symptom, usually a distinct chill, or chilly feeling all the time, backache, head stopped up, no appetite, ringing in the ears, dizziness, incessant sneezing, sometimes sore throat, hoarseness and irritable cough. Coughing usually causes a splitting headache. Fever rises in the evening. Small children sink into a stupor. The real danger of influenza is, if it is not checked by proper treatment, complications may set in and the patient will have pneumonia. When not properly attended to, many times it causes other troubles which are difficult to overcome, such as, weakness of the heart and lungs, as influenza tears down the system greatly. After an attack, the system should be built up with good, nourishing foods.

Treatment. - Stop eating.

Use the following internally: one tablespoonful yarrow, one teaspoonful pleurisy root, a small pinch of cayenne. Steep in a pint of boiling water for twenty minutes, and take a cupful every hour.

Go to bed between cotton blankets. The blankets, and drinking of the tea will cause profuse perspiration; when the blankets become damp, change. If there is fever, bathe the entire body with tepid water thoroughly. Have a towel, very wet, then expose only one part of the body at a time, the part that is to be bathed. Massage with the wet towel and dry before going to the next part of the body. Alternate the herbs with fruit juices, orange and grapefruit preferably. Lemon juice is excellent to reduce fever. Do not use sugar in any of the juices. Orange juice is very strengthening. If you follow the treatment outlined, being sure you thoroughly cleanse the colon, and follow with some laxative herbs, you will find your influenza practically gone the next day.

If the case has advanced, take the herbs given above and also orange juice and other fruit juices. Take sweat baths, also some tonic herbs, such as wild cherry bark, scullcap, valerian, lady's slipper, feverfew. Plenty of fresh air in the patient's room is essential. . . .

Herbs for influenza: Peppermint, white pine, poplar, butternut bark, lungwort, nettle, pleurisy root, saffron, sweet balm, tansy, ginger, golden seal, raw palmetto berries, wild cherry bark, . . . use singly or take in combinations.

COMPANY MANNERS



One evening we had a group of young people at our house and this is how a part of the conversation went:

"Well," said Carol, "I think that Robert Smith is the best boy there is, anyhow."

"Why do think that?" I asked.

"I know why," interrupted George, "Carol likes Robert because he is so polite."

"I don't care if you laugh," said Carol, "but, yes, that *is* the reason - at least, one of them. He's nice; he is polite; he doesn't laugh when I fall on the ice, or call me bad names."

"Carol wants company manners all the time," said William. And Judy added: "We must all act grown up, if Carol had it her way."

Dauntless, Carol made haste to say, "Well, if growing up would make some folks more pleasant, it is too bad that they can't hurry up about it."

As I sat listening to all this I decided to ask a question. "William, what are company manners?"

"Why - why - they're - It's *behaving*, you know, when folks are here or we go visiting."

"Company manners are good manners," added Herbert.

I thought about this before answering. "Oh I see, manners that are *too* good for mother but are just right for Mrs. Jones."

"That's it," cried Carol.

"But let us talk it over a bit. Seriously, why should you be more polite to Mrs. Jones than to mother? You don't love her any more do you?"

"Oh my! no indeed," chorused all the voice.

"Well, then, I don't see why Mrs. Jones should have all the good manners; why the hats should come off, and the tones of the voices soften, and the 'please,' and 'thank you,' and 'excuse me,' are used freely around her house but not in mother's house.

"Oh! that's very different."

"And mother knows we mean all right. Besides, you are not fair, cousin; we were talking about boys and girls - not grown up people."

With these arguments that they brought I was forced to try a different approach.

"Well, about boys and girls, then. Can't a boy be just as happy, if, like our friend Robert, he is gentle to the little girls, doesn't pitch his little brother in the snow, and respects the rights of his cousins and close friends? It seems to me that politeness is just as suitable to the play-ground as to the living room of Mrs. Jones."

"Oh, of course; if you'd have a fellow give up all the fun," said William.

"My dear boy," said I, "that isn't what I want. Run, jump, and shout as much as you want to; skate, slide and make snow balls; but do it with politeness to other boys and girls, and I'll agree you will find just as much fun in it. You sometimes say that I favour Harold Burton more than the rest of my young child-friends. How can I help it? Even though he is lively and energetic, his manners are always good. You never see him with his chair tipped up at dinner time or his hat on in the house. He never pushes ahead of you to be first all the time. If you are going out, he holds the door open for you; if I am tired, it is Harold that brings me a glass of water, places a chair behind me, and hands me a fan if I am hot. He will spring to pick up my handkerchief if I had dropped it. And he does all this without being asked to do it and it doesn't seem to interfere with his fun in the least.

"This attention isn't only given to me as the guest, or to Mrs. Jones when he visits her, but also to his mother, Aunt June, his little sister, just as carefully; at home, in school, or at play, there is always just as much a guard against rudeness. His courtesy is not merely for state occasions, but as a well-fitting garment worn constantly. His manliness is genuine loving-kindness. In fact, that is exactly what real politeness is; carefulness for others, and watchfulness over ourselves, lest our actions shall interfere with their comfort."

It is impossible for boys and girls to realize, until they have grown too old to easily adopt new ones, how important it is to guard against contracting carelessness and awkward habits of speech and manners. Some very unwisely think it is not necessary to be so very particular about these things except when company is around. But this is a serious mistake, for rudeness will show itself at the wrong times, no matter how carefully you try to have good manners in front of company.

It is impossible to indulge in one form of speech, or have one set of manners at home, and another abroad. In a moment of confusion or bashfulness, such as every young person feels sometimes, especially those that are sensitive and modest, the habits that are usually indulged at home will come out and be expressed.

It is not only, however, because good manners are pleasing to others that our young friends are encouraged to cultivate and practice them, but because these manners react directly on the character and makes it more sweet and gentle and lovable. These are qualities that attract many friends to the person. They also increase self-respect.

When young people realize that their actions please people and make them happy, they automatically have more self-respect for themselves, in the same way as persons who are modestly dressed feel more respectable. You can see by this simple example, how every effort young people make toward perfecting themselves brings some pleasant reward.



Canvassing in Montreal

New Reformation Book



The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of the world's history."

In the minds of many inquiring Adventists, certain thought-provoking questions have arisen:

- Has the predicted reformation already happened, or is it yet to come?
- Are there any specific prophecies that clearly point to the reformation in our time?
- What significant events mark the beginning of the reformation?
- What are the characteristics that define and identify a divinely-born reformation from the false ones?

In my book I will attempt to answer these questions by a careful presentation of relevant Bible texts, Spirit of Prophecy writings, and historical documents.

We will be going back in time to examine some of the historic milestones and developments within the Advent movement. We will trace the beginning of the Reform Movement to a terrible crisis that confronted the church and the world some eighty years ago.

The book is richly illustrated with over 100 photos, which I hope will speak visually to your hearts about a church that emerged during a severe and mighty shaking. This book consists of ninety-nine 8 1/2" x 11" pages, and should be available within a few weeks. The price in the USA is \$9.00 plus \$1.25 for postage. Foreign orders, sent by surface mail, costs \$9.00 plus \$4.00 postage. Send your requests to:

Religious Liberty Publishing Association
2877 East Florence Avenue
Huntington Park, CA 90225-5751
USA

May the Lord bless you and guide you as you seek to become better acquainted with the prophesied 20th century Reformation.

Elder Henry Dering
Cameron Park, CA

Reformation Video

Have you already ordered your 75 minute video on the S.D.A. Reformation of 1914? This video presents more than 200 slides and photos of Advent pioneers and significant events in the 20th century church history and also discusses Laodicea, the shaking, the Christian and war, and incidents preceding and following 1888.

This video should be in every home, and can be ordered from the Religious Liberty Publishing Assoc (see above address). The cost is \$15 in the USA and \$20 in foreign countries. These prices include postage and sales tax.

Thank You's

Thank you, dear Lord, for all You have done.
First and foremost, for the gift of Your Son.
Sacrificed His life for me, for forgiveness, I plea...
Thank you, Father.

Thank you, dear Lord, for all You have done.
Through Jesus, the Christ, the victory was won.
The enemy's defeat, the captives set free,
Lifting voices to sing, "Glory to the Heavenly King!"
Thank you, Jesus.

Thank you, dear Lord, for all You have done.
The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are One.
Descending from above, to us, the Spirit of Love.
A teacher and guide, in us, a power from on high.
Holy Spirit, with us, please abide.

Thank you, dear Lord, for all You have done.
A privilege! Being considered as Daughters and Sons!
Brothers and sisters, on earth, born by blood, not by birth,
Branches of a Holy Tree, bearing fruit, and evergreen,
Now, and throughout eternity!

Thank you, dear Lord, for all You have done.
The praise that we give You has only begun.
For a fleshly heart, for righteousness impart,
for individuality, for fellowship and unity,
for trials and tribulations,
for justification and sanctification,
for protection, unseen, for spiritual realities,
for truth and mercies, for an arm on which to lean,
for faith and longsuffering, for love and humility,
Selah.

For a night of restful sleep,
for the morning sun I see,
for the birds in the trees,
for the flowers, and buzzing bees,
for the breath of air I breathe,
for joy, for peace,
Thank you.

By Chester Cosby