

The Reformation 

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ARMAGEDDON

Many wars have been fought in our world since the beginning. Nation has been against nation; bloodshed and destruction have continued, but the greatest battle of all is still before us, the battle of Armageddon.

Men have never learned how to live in peace with one another. Small children fight over toys, later they learn to fight for their rights and even for things that do not belong to them. Fighting is in the nature of man. When Cain killed his brother, Abel, it showed how quickly man could learn this satanic characteristic.

The battle of Armageddon is called the battle of that great day of God Almighty. While the armies are fighting the great war, the Lord enters into it and finally puts a stop to all evil. Man has proven himself incapable of ruling and maintaining the world. The world does not know how to provide peaceful living to its inhabitants.

During the sixth plague, the armies of the nations are gathering to the place called Armageddon. What is the interest in that area that the kings of the earth would fight over it? One reason could be the oil that is so important to all nations.

Turkey has been called the bridge to the east. Its location along the River Euphrates divides the east from the west. One time it was a great nation. Its territory included also the Balkan states. Since then it has been shrinking or drying up as prophecy has foretold. Eventually it will dry up completely to prepare the way for the kings of the east to come to the battle. The Prophet Daniel saw the king of the north “come to his end, and none shall help him.” Dan. 11:45.

As so often before, again it is false religions which influence the kings of the earth to come to the battle. The unclean spirits of the devils came from the beast, the papacy, from the false prophet, Protestantism, the dragon, and the pagan religions, and went forth to the kings of the earth to gather them to the battle.

“Destroying angels are taking up the work of vengeance; for the spirit of God is gradually withdrawing from the world. Satan is also mustering his forces of evil, ‘going forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world,’ to gather them under his banner, to be trained for the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” 7 BC, p. 983.

Satan would begin the war now but the angels are holding back until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.

“Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict, but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels with their living cargo will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies, but they are kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.” 7 BC, p. 967.

“Angels are now restraining the winds of strife that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom. But a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth, and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.” ED, 179, 180,

Where are God’s people at that time?

“As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government, and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many

will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains... But many of all nations and of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, black and white, will be cast into the most unjust and cruel bondage. The beloved of God pass weary days bound in chains, shut in by prison bars, sentenced to be slain, some apparently left to die of starvation in dark, loathsome dungeons.” GC 626.

“It is not safe to ask for unconditional healing... He knows whether or not those for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon our world.” CH 375.

“The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be laid away before the time of trouble. We shall see our children again. We shall meet them and know them in the heavenly courts.” 2 SM 259.

It is not only the kings of the earth and their armies fighting the war, but also the Lord of Heaven will enter the battlefield.

“But Providence has a part to act in the battle of Armageddon. When the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel of Revelation Eighteen, the religious elements, good and evil, will awake from slumber, and the armies of the living God will take the field.” 7BC, p. 983.

While the battle is raging on the earth suddenly the Lord will appear and the war stops. “The derisive jests have ceased. Lying lips are hushed into silence. The clash of arms, the tumult of battle, ‘with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood,’ (Isa. 9:5) is stilled.” GC 642.

“Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.” Joel 3:11-12.

“And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God,” Rev, 19:14-15.

“And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs (about 200 miles). Rev. 14:20.

“And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.” Jer. 25:33.

The great earthquake destroyed the cities and towns. Hail that weighed about 100 lbs. each stone, caused the earth to be a wilderness and then a silence for 1000 years.

Today we must decide on which side we will belong. All who have not made a firm decision on the Lord’s side will be deceived by Satan.

May the Lord help each one of us to wake up from the sleep before it is too late, and make the necessary preparations for the coming time of trouble.

AMEN.

Timo Martin

THE MATHEMATICAL FORMULA

These *things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether **such** an one as thyself; but I will reprove thee, and set **them** in order before thine eyes. Psalm 50:21*

The universe has structure and order because a rational, orderly God created it. In a mathematics course, one aspect of the order of the real world is studied and indirectly the student begins to know more about the God who has given them the world to live in. This was God's original will, unfortunately modern public educational institutions have elected to leave God completely out of the educational process. In the mathematical processes, students are not creating truth but learning truth; they should be, in a sense, thinking God's thoughts after Him. The students will find exactness, preciseness, and completeness in the subject matter of mathematics, just as would be expected in God's world.

Only from a Christian perspective can the study of mathematics be seen and appreciated in its true rationale. A study of mathematics will not succeed unless it is taught with the conviction that something more than arbitrary principles are at issue. C.T. Studd, missionary to Africa, understood the importance of the exactness of mathematics while educating some people who had just risen from the depths of cannibalism. "Every pole had to be exactly the right length, placed at the right angle, etc. and he had a purpose in it, for the natives must be taught that good Christianity and lazy or bad workmanship are an utter contradiction. He believed that one of the best ways to teach a native that righteousness is the foundation of God's Throne was by making him see that absolute straightness and accuracy is the only law of success in material things." *C.T. Studd*, By Norman Gnibb,

Mathematics is a very exact truth. There is only one correct answer to a mathematical formula and by thinking logically, the answer can be easily obtained. $2+2=4$. This will never change.

THE MATHEMATICAL PROCESS IN SALVATION

How does the mathematical process fit into our Spiritual life? Is there a formula for salvation? The mathematical process teaches us the exactness of God; the order that God has set up in the universe. It teaches us that we serve a perfect God who is looking for perfection in His followers. Some have become lazy in their Christian experience. If we compare this spiritual laziness with the math process we can ask the lazy ones what $2+2$ equals and they will tell you it doesn't really matter. While 4 may be the correct answer, 3 and 5 are close enough to be acceptable answers also. It is not important to know the exact truth.

"Experience is knowledge derived from experiment.

Experimental religion is what is needed now. "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Some - yes, a large number - have theoretical knowledge of religious truth, but have never felt the renewing power of divine grace upon their own hearts. These persons are slow to heed the testimonies of warning, reproof, and instruction indited by the Holy Spirit. They believe in the wrath of God, but put forth no earnest efforts to escape it. They believe in heaven, but make no sacrifice to obtain it. They believe in the value of the soul and that ere long its redemption ceaseth forever. Yet they neglect the most precious opportunities to make their peace with God." T5, p. 221

"They may read the Bible, but its threatenings do not alarm or its promises win them. They approve things that are excellent, yet they follow the way in which God has forbidden them to go. They know a refuge, but do not avail themselves of it. They know a remedy for sin, but do not use it. They know the right, but have no relish for it. All their knowledge will but increase their condemnation. They have never tasted and learned by experience that the Lord is good." Ibid, p. 221,222.

THE MATHEMATICAL FORMULA

There is another aspect to consider in this spiritual mathematical process. It is the mathematical formula. While math is exact and God is exact in His requirements, there is no set formula for salvation, although some have tried to make one.

There is a difference between the mathematical process and the mathematical formula. The word process itself signifies a sequence of events over time. Understanding mathematical processes means you understand how math works. A formula on the other hand is a quick shortcut to finding a simplified solution. Spiritual life is a process called sanctification. It takes time. It can never be a formula - a quick shortcut to heaven in the simplest manner possible.

Children are often taught the difference between acceptable behaviour and unacceptable behaviour in the Christian life. This is taught from infancy upwards. The Bible counsels us to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov.22:6 This method has proven successful and produced many fine Christian young men and women. If we study how the Waldenses trained their children, we can gain valuable lessons on successful education.

However on the other side, there are also those children who have rebelled from this method. I have

heard young people complain that there are simply too many rules - “my parents are too strict, they don’t give me enough freedom to make my own experiences.” Then they go on to say that *because* their parents made too many rules, now they don’t want to keep *any* rules. The blame is all on the parents. Even as sonic youth grow into adults, excuses are sometimes made for their misbehavior today because of a faulty example and training that their parents had provided many years earlier. They refuse to break out of this mold. Those that rebel against the “rules” use the excuse that they were simply stifled as children and therefore have been driven away. Who is at fault here? The children or the parents? We will find a solution to this question further on in the article.

IN THE TIME OF CHRIST

In the time of Christ the Pharisees felt that they had salvation figured out. They had added many extra rules to the Lord’s original commandments making the road to salvation a heavy burden. They had a mathematical formula for salvation all figured out. If you kept the rules explicitly, you would be saved. If you faltered in even one minor point, you were cursed of God. Years ago I studied the Bible with a good friend named Mary. Mary was attending the Pentecostal church but had a desire to obtain more knowledge. One day as we were studying about Christ our Righteousness, she told me that the Pharisees kept the law down to the final letter so well, that God had no choice but to save them and bring them to heaven. I then asked her why had Jesus called them “hypocrites”, and “whited sepulchers, full of dead mens’ bones”, if they were fit for heaven? I went on to explain to her that the spirit of the law, the connection with Jesus Christ, was not there. They had rejected Jesus and crucified Him and therefore they had cut off their connection with Jesus. Yet, we cannot blame the Pharisees alone for the death of Jesus, for each one of us crucified Jesus by our sin. We all are guilty - “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23. There is a difference though. The mathematical formula that the Pharisees had come up with was not enough. Jesus told His followers that, “Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 5:20. What the Scribes and Pharisees had was not enough. They needed something more and that something was Jesus Christ.

SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST ALONE

“There are those who profess to serve God, while they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law, to form a right character, and secure salvation. Their hearts are not moved by any deep sense of the love of Christ, but they seek to perform the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires of them in order to gain heaven. Such religion is worth nothing.

“When Christ dwells in the heart, the soul will be so filled with His love, with the joy of communion with Him, that it will cleave to Him; and in the contemplation of Him, self will be forgotten. Love to Christ will be the spring of action. Those who feel the constraining love of God do not ask how little may be given to meet the requirements of God; they do not ask for the lowest standard, but aim at perfect conformity to the will of their Redeemer. With earnest desire they yield all, and manifest an interest proportionate to the value of the object, which they seek. A profession of Christ without this deep love, is mere talk, dry formality, and heavy drudgery.” SC p.44.

I now want to address the question mentioned above, as to whose fault it is when children complain about the rules.

If children are taught this above principle, most will never complain at the rules that are placed upon them. They will find joy in serving the Lord. If the child has only been taught the rules for salvation, a mathematical formula, - and not the necessity of a relationship with Jesus Christ - then the fault lies with the parents. When the rules become a burden, Christ has been left out. Unless the parents have Christ in their hearts, they will not be able to impart this precious gift to their children. If the parents are living a legal religion, it will be more than likely that this is what they are teaching their children -a math formula for salvation, if we see that our children have failed it is not time to start to coming down harder — with an iron fist — in enforcing the various rules that constitute acceptable Christian behaviour, but rather it is time to start teaching the child about Christ, letting the Holy Spirit guide and direct. When the child has learned of Christ, he/she will be led to ask, “What must I do to be saved?” Then we have succeeded in giving (hem the right education. They will want to do more for Jesus of their own volition. Nothing is forced upon them; it is completely willing service.

“If there is in the family one child who is unconscious of his sinful state, parents should not rest. Let the candle be lighted. Search the word of God, and by its light let everything in the home be diligently examined, to see why this child is lost. Let parents search their own hearts, examine their habits and practices.” COL, p. 195. I find it interesting to see in this paragraph that should a child seem to be straying from what must be done, the parents are to diligently examine the *home* and *their own habits and practices*. It had nothing to say about searching the children’s lives. First the parents are to search the home and their own hearts and see if perhaps they have made some mistake along the way. Should the mistake be found and it be on the part of the parents,

there is no need to despair. We serve a loving Father who is not willing to see anyone perish. He will direct and guide all sincere souls back onto the straight and narrow way. Just that the Lord is that He has shown you where the problem lies - now work with Him in fixing it up.

Even with the best Christian education, there will still be children that stray, as we see exemplified in the story of the Prodigal Son. Yet, when the younger son reached the end of his resources, where did he turn? He knew the only logical and safe place in this world was in his father's house, where he had been taught correct Christian principles. He thinks not of the rules in his father's house but rather he remembers the love that his father had towards him and this draws him back home. His father had taught him about the love of Christ and had shown it to his sons in raising them. The son understands that his father was right after all. The older brother is compared to the Scribes and Pharisees. While he was given the same type of upbringing, we see that he keeps the rules of the household, not through any love for his family, but through his desire for gain. He knows that should he prove faithful, someday all his father's wealth will be his. He puts 2 + 2 together. He acts in a certain correct manner and the final results will be "4" his father's possessions.

This was also Esau's motive in repenting of the fact that he sold his birthright to his brother, Jacob. It was not from a sense of his duty as the spiritual leader of the household; it was not love for his Heavenly Father and those souls who would be entrusted to his care for spiritual guidance after his father passed into the grave. No, he lamented the wealth that he lost. "Esau had no love for devotion, no inclination to a religious life. The requirements that accompanied the spiritual birthright were an unwelcome and even hateful restraint to him. The law of God, which was the condition of the divine covenant with Abraham, was regarded by Esau as a yoke of bondage." PP, p. 178.

This also is a very real motive for some people who worship God today. They don't really love God, but they covet the reward of eternal life, and the riches in the mansions that Jesus has gone to prepare for them. They often find the commandments a heavy burden; the Christian life a galling yoke. Yet they continue in this type of living because they see that they must do so, in order to be saved. They will be found wanting in the end. Their motive was all wrong. Sometimes parents make a serious mistake in telling their children, "You must do this or that, in order to get to heaven." The child then thinks of salvation as a mathematical formula. Obedience - Eternal life. But this is not true at all. Yes, perfection in Christ is our goal, but children need to be taught, "You must do this to please Jesus, because Jesus has done so much for us." The real issue is Jesus Christ in us - Salvation.

Then where is our part, we may ask? God's church is called the bride of Christ, and this is a very fitting comparison. If we look at a marriage on this earth: Two young people love each other very much and decide to get married. What attracted the young man to the young woman? Was it the fact that she is a good cook, she is willing to wash his clothing, iron his shirts, and keep the house relatively clean? Did the woman have to prove herself in all these skills before the man consented to marriage? No, in most cases this does not happen. Yet, when they get married, and the young woman sits on the couch all day watching TV, not doing any of these duties for her husband, but still tells him every evening that she loves him very much, does he believe her? He married her without her doing any of these things, but after marriage if she does not do them he doesn't believe her words when she says she loves him. On the other side, if the woman really does love him as she says she does she will most gladly perform these duties for the one she loves and these duties are not grievous because they are done for that special person with whom she has united her life. This is a fit comparison to the individual Christian as well as to the church. Many Christians today say they love Jesus, but show something completely different in their actions. They don't want to keep the commandments, they don't want to do any missionary work, they don't want to help the poor, sick and needy. They just want to sit at home, on the couch and watch TV and tell Jesus that they love Him. Will Jesus believe them? I don't think so.

I hope this is not true of the members in God's church, however there is always the danger that we will get tired of missionary work, of helping the needy and taking part in church duties and responsibilities. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal. 6:9.

Jesus did not redeem us because of any virtue on our part. In fact. He died for us while we were yet sinners. However after we are justified and if we truly love Jesus as we say we do, it will be seen in our actions. We are not saved because we keep the Ten Commandments, however if we don't keep them and we tell Jesus we love Him, He won't believe us. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

It is possible to put away some bad habits without the help of Christ. A person can give up smoking or drinking without giving any honour and glory to God. A person can come to church, read his Bible, pray and pay his tithe, but that person may be a Stranger to Christ. Jesus will say, "Depart from me, I never knew you." it is also possible to go to church and pray without having Christ in your heart. When probation closes, "The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the Spirit of God is finally withdrawn," GC, p. 615.

1 Corinthians 13 says it better than anywhere else in the Bible. All these wonderful things can be done without the love of Christ in a person's heart. Miracles can be done, the sick can be healed, great sermons can be preached, the person may even have great faith, and die a martyr's death, but in the end they will be seen to be "as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal" because they did not do it from love for Christ. They only

did it from obligation -- a necessity for salvation - a mathematical formula.

“The true, joyous life of the souls is to have Christ formed within, the hope of glory.” *SC 46.*

FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST

While mathematics has a very real place in God’s universe and salvation there is no set formula for the salvation of mankind. Although there is absolute truth in the Bible, and in Jesus Christ, you can’t put a formula on friendships. Jesus wants to be our best friend, and just like in any friendship on earth, you don’t do things for your friends simply because they did something for you. That would be the wrong motive, although some friendships end up on this level and you see it happen in a very real way at Christmas time. I have heard many exasperated shoppers, saying, “I *have* to buy this person something simply because they bought *me* something.” And again it has happened at some birthdays, “I *must* get them something because they got me something on my birthday.” I

spoke with one friend many years ago who had the right idea. She told me that she doesn’t value so much the gifts that are given at Christmas or birthday time as those are often given due to obligation. Gifts given randomly at another time in the year have more meaning because they are given simply for the sake of doing something nice for a friend. That is true friendship. You do it, because the person is your friend. That is the friendship that Jesus wants since He does the same for you. He gives you gifts, not because He is returning a favour, but because He loves you. He would like to have you serve Him simply because you love Him. Then He would really like it if you would tell everyone that you possibly can what a wonderful friend He has been to you. He wants to be their friend too. “None are further from the kingdom of heaven than self-righteous formalists, filled with pride at their own attainments, while they are wholly destitute of the spirit of Christ; while envy, jealousy, or love of praise and popularity controls them. They belong to the same class that John addressed as a generation of vipers, children of the wicked one. Such persons are among us, unseen, unsuspected. They serve the cause of Satan more effectively than the vilest profligate; for the latter does not disguise his true character; he appears what he is.” T5, p. 226.

“There is a wide difference between a pretended union and a real connection with Christ by faith. A profession of the truth places men in the church, but this does not prove that they have a vital connection with the living Vine. A rule is given by which the true disciple may be distinguished from those who claim to follow Christ but have not faith in Him. The one class are fruit bearing, the other fruitless. The one are often subjected to the pruning knife of God that they may bring forth more fruit; the other, as withered branches, are ere long to be severed from the living Vine.” T5, p. 229.

There is no mathematical formula for salvation. It is not simply living a perfect life, as you understand perfection from a human standpoint, and you will automatically be saved. The Pharisees tried this and failed, and you will too if you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. True perfection in the eyes of God goes much further than obedience to a certain set of rules. This is one of the reasons why Jesus came to this earth - He came to set the matter straight. He came to teach the spirit of the law, which went much deeper than the letter of the law.

The ten virgins also knew all the rules and looked like they were outwardly keeping the commandments - and they were according to the eyes of man. Yet, some of them were lacking one thing - the oil of the Holy Spirit. They had the outward forms but they didn’t know Jesus and when they came to the marriage later, the door was shut on them, Jesus said, “I know you not.”

“No outward forms can make tis clean; no ordinance, administered by the satntliest of men, can take the place of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Spirit of God must do its work upon the heart. All who have not experienced its regenerating power are chaff among the wheat. Our Lord has His fan in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor. In the coming day He will discern ‘between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.’” T5, p. 227.

May God help us to make Jesus our best friend today and He will show us the way of salvation. AMliN.
Wendy Eaton

The Wine of Babylon as compared to Jesus’

new wine

Isaiah 5:11-16; Now in these opening verses we see the ways of the world as compared to the ways of God, isn’t it? Human society today, steeped in self-indulgence is rapidly going down the same road that Babylon traveled. This is the road of human pride and wisdom being exalted to take the place of God....The king of Babylon,

Nebuchadnezzar took the honor and glory to himself and I'm sure that wine had something to do with him being full of himself.

You know ungodliness always leads to unrighteousness. You leave God out of the equation, and soon you have materialism, sensualism and man's reach not going beyond what he can grab with his own five senses.

Today, we no longer have physical Babylon, but rather the spiritual or mystical Babylon. Rev, 17:1,2 And who is drinking Babylon's wine? Of course, every false religion has to look for political power when they have lost the power that only comes from God, so they have to look to the kings of the earth to establish their power rather than God. That is what the ecumenical movement is all about. When Christianity is pure, then it has vital power, but start to compromise truth in favor of political power, then we are actually partaking of the wine of Babylon.

In ancient Babylon, Nabopolassar, the father of Nebuchadnezzar had a problem. He was faced with two different people, that were like cousins to one another, the Babylonians and the Assyrians. If he could just get them together then he would have power, but how could he bring them together? He saw that religion was the way to unite the remnants of the Assyrian empire into Babylon. And they only came together because of Nabopolassar appealing to their ancient pagan god - which they had in common.

And today the modern version of Babylon is rapidly unifying all of the churches into one entity under the Pope in the ecumenical movement. So many different kinds of people, but they all have this in common, which appeals to nearly everyone: to be saved by our own works, or to be saved in our sins. Of course, this idea is foreign to Christianity and actually comes out of paganism.

This must be very maddening wine to lead the people to spiritual adultery - in other words to give up the truth and embrace error. Let's read about the physical equivalent now. Prov.20: 1 and 23: 29-35

What does the drinker have happen to him? What is the special danger of wine? Of all the forms of deception - self deception is indeed the worst, isn't it? And the Bible speaks many times about the curse that comes on those in power if they pervert justice, deceive themselves and others by means of wine.

Now Jesus turned the water into wine, didn't He? That's what we always hear from those in the world and in the churches who want to justify alcohol consumption. It's true on the occasion of a wedding he did turn the water into wine - but what kind of wine was it?

During the time of the Passover, the Jews could have nothing in their homes that had leaven or yeast in it, which of course, includes wine, that is formed from a fermentation process with the yeast. And Jesus did turn the water into wine, new wine or what we would call grape juice. Isaiah 65:8 So new wine, or grape juice as we would call it was to be desired for there was a blessing in it.

Jesus also used an illustration about wineskins and wine in His ministry. Luke 5:37-39 Let's take a look at that from DA 278-279 "Christ was not to close up the breach that had been made by the teachings of John. He would make more distinct the separation between the old and the new. Jesus further illustrated this fact, saying, 'No man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.' The skin bottles which were used as vessels to contain the new wine, after a time became dry and brittle, and were then worthless to serve the same purpose again. In this familiar illustration Jesus presented the condition of the Jewish leaders. Priests and scribes and rulers were fixed in a rut of ceremonies and traditions....While they remained satisfied with a legal religion, it was impossible for them to become the depositaries of the living truth of heaven. They thought their own righteousness all-sufficient, and did not desire that a new element should be brought into their religion..... The Pharisees thought themselves too wise to need instruction, too righteous to need salvation, too highly honored to need the honor that comes from Christ. The Saviour turned away from them to find others who would receive the message of heaven. In the untutored fishermen, in the publican at the market place, in the woman of Samaria, in the common people who heard Him gladly, He found His new bottles for new wine. The instrumentalities to be used in the gospel work are those souls who gladly receive the light which God sends them. These are His agencies for imparting the knowledge of truth to the world. If through the grace of Christ His people will become new bottles, he will fill them with new wine."

Do you notice? Works go right along with lukewarmness. Not because the works are wrong in themselves, but because the people come to trust in those works for their salvation.

Do you see what I'm saying? Trusting in things like saying Hail Mary's or Our Fathers, crawling up the church steps saying the rosary or for that matter even something good like coming to church or paying offerings - all of those things in themselves are only deception and don't mean salvation.

Depending on an imposing round of display, ceremonies, numbers and our own power is quick... to go where? Right back to Babylon - having our own human pride and wisdom but throwing a religious cloak over it. This is what the wine of Babylon is all about...

“The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.” 1 Peter 5: 13 Now this was long after physical Babylon had been destroyed, so the Apostle Peter must have been referring to Rome as the new, spiritual Babylon in his time. Of course, that is exactly where all of those Scriptures in Revelation 17 point to - And Constantine, did exactly the same thing that Nabopolasser did in unifying the Roman empire by the means of religion. He did it in the form of passing the first Sunday law in 321 A.D. - thus Christians came together on the same day of the week with pagans and started to have the same spirit. And the truth was blended with paganism. Thus the way of the Roman Catholic Church was set up -which has never been Christianity, but paganism mixed together with the Bible.

If Jesus is not the center of every doctrine that we have, then we better give it up. Even if that doctrine or attitude is correct, we better make sure that Christ is the center or we will end up serving and being a part of Babylon; partaking of the wine of Babylon. Because you can't use the methods and means of Satan to build up the kingdom of God.

The difference between Babylon's wine and Jesus' wine is not only a matter of physical difference, one having alcohol and the other not. But a spiritual difference is noted: One is corrupt and the other is pure. One will use souls to get money, the other uses money to get souls for God's kingdom of righteousness and salvation....

So may the Lord help you and I to discern between Babylon's wine and Jesus' new wine and to partake of that only which is healthful for our bodies, minds and spirits. He is coming again for those who know the blessing of the truth contained in that wine, which itself is a symbol of His blood, shed to cleanse us from sin.

By Jerry Eaton

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

The 2 Covenants

When did it originate?

The plan of redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was the revelation of the mystery, which hath been kept in silence through time eternal. Rom. 16:25. It was an unfolding of the principles of the foundation of God's throne from the beginning. Christ and the Father knew the apostasy of Satan and the fall of man through Satan's deceptive power. God did not ordain that sin should exist but He foresaw its existence and made provisions to meet this terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world that He covenanted to give His only begotten Son "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life". Through these verses we understand that the plan of redemption was in the mind of God since the beginning of His existence.

When did it come into effect?

Like everything, it began, from the throne of God. However, nobody can reveal it to us like it is written in the book Story of Redemption. "Sorrow filled heaven, as it was realized that man was lost and that world which God had created was to be filled with mortals doomed to misery, sickness, and death, and there was no way of escape for the offender. The whole family of Adam must die. The angels cried because of man's fall. The whole of heaven was sorrowful. I saw the lovely Jesus and beheld an expression of sympathy and sorrow upon His countenance" Page 42. Please imagine for a moment the scene in heaven. The Son of God saddened. "Soon I saw Him approach the exceeding bright light which enshrouded the Father. Said my accompanying angel, He is in close converse with His Father. The anxiety of the angels seemed to be intense while Jesus was communing with His Father. Three times He was shut in by the glorious light about the Father, and the third time He came out from the Father, His person could be seen. His countenance was calm, free from all perplexity and doubt, and shone with benevolence and loveliness, such as words cannot express ." page 42. Why three times? Three times He pleaded with his Father to give his life as a ransom. And again at Calvary He prayed three times to His Father, that the burden of this might be taken away. Such

a great gift for man, but still it was not easy. Jesus had to go through immense sorrow and pain. That is why He prayed 3 times to His Father.

It was not easy for His Father to accept the sacrifice, although it was ordained from times ageless. It was difficult for Him to give His beloved Son as a sacrifice. Then, when His sacrifice was accepted, His countenance glowed with a love that no human can portray. Then in the throne it was proclaimed. Christ made known to the angelic host that a way of escape had been made for the lost man. He told the angels that He had been pleading with his Father and offered His life as a ransom; to take the sentence of death upon Himself, that through Him man might find pardon. Through the merits of His blood and obedience to the law of God they could have the favour of God and be brought back to life eternal.

But, what happened in heaven when He revealed the plan of salvation? “The angels prostrated themselves before Him. They offered their lives. Jesus said to them that He would by His death save many, that the life of an angel could not pay the debt”. Page 43. Then it was revealed to man. They heard the voice of the Lord walking in the garden, in the cool of the day. Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord because they were naked. The last verse of the chapter 3 in Genesis tells us this, and also that the Lord made of the skins clothes for them. After pronouncing the judgement, the Lord made the first covenant with Adam. He showed him how the plan was ordained and through faith, man can become a partaker of the heavenly nature.

When Adam, according to God’s direction made an offering for sin it was the most painful ceremony that he had to perform. His hand must be raised to take life which God alone could give and make an offering for sin. It was the first time that he witnessed death. As he looked upon the bleeding victim, withering in the agony of death he was to look forward by faith to the Son of God whom the victim prefigured who was to die as man’s substitute. “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared Me: in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast not pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of Me,) to do Thy will, O God. Above when He said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin Thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law.” Heb. 10:4-8. Here He talks about the first or the new covenant, which was also the Abrahamic covenant, or the Adamic covenant. The death of Christ points to the atonement for sin. When Christ mentions this in His Father’s throne, He makes it clear that in bull’s blood or in the lamb’s blood God didn’t have pleasure. God wanted men to see in the bleeding victim, the great sacrifice of His Son, that the hearts of men would change as they see the awesome sacrifice needed to atone sin and would repent.

Men became blinded. They thought that God loved blood and they missed its true meaning. They became corrupted. In psalms 40:6-9. Christ talks about Himself in these verses. He is the sacrifice for sin. The righteousness of God is embedded in Christ and when we look to Christ, He says, “Thy law is within my heart”. The law of God is immutable as is His throne; it can never be changed. Because Satan made us to sin, now Christ made an atonement for sin. Righteousness is embedded in Christ and also so is the law of God. It proceeds from His heart. It was in His heart where the law originated. It cannot be changed. That is why when ministers and preachers proclaim that Christ abolished the law on the cross, and that we don’t need to obey the 10 commandments, it is a satanic message. The god of this earth has blinded them. We see clearly the author of this false message now. Because of Adam’s sin there need to be an atonement. Christ sacrificed Himself. But His sacrifice doesn’t mean that we have a license to sin. We have His sacrifice to cleanse us from sin and to set us free. The law of God has always existed. The sacrifice of Christ that ratified the new covenant, or the Abrahamic covenant, or the Adam’s covenant, they all had one goal or purpose—the atonement of sin. They lead us to Christ that we would believe in Him. These covenants would have not come into effect if man didn’t sin.

I wish to pose a question. Did Christ’s righteousness message belong only to the 3^r angel, or to Waggoner and Jones who presented it to the church, or did it exist before the 3^r angel? God is a God of justice; He didn’t treat anyone differently. His justice is equal to every soul born on the earth from Adam to the last person who will exist in this world. He opened the door of salvation. If anybody of Adam’s children does accept, he will have a way of escape. That is why the message of Christ’s righteousness is the message of every living church. It is the foundation of every living church of God. Each generation possessed this marvelous message. This is the mystery of the gospel of God.

But many people don't understand it; they are confused.

Let us give some thought to the passage in Patriarchs and Prophets, "This same covenant was renewed to Abraham in the promise. In thy seed shall all the earth be blessed. Gen. 22:18. This promise pointed to Christ and Abraham understood its meaning. Gal 3:16. And he trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin. And this was the faith that was accounted to him for righteousness. So any human that ever existed from Adam to the last person who ever believes in this message will be saved. It is written that without Him there is no salvation".

Now let us check to see who else also believed in this same message that Abraham believed in. I have a copy of the National Geographic, which featured Martin Luther, the greatest Christian reformer. Who was the father of Christian reformation in Europe? Was his belief different from the Christian forefathers? Let us see what is written in the National Geographic, October 1983, vol. 164, No. 4, p. 438. "Beside all this he writes to a friend, there are mine own struggles with the flesh, the world and the devil. See what a lazy man I am. For ten years he had been reading the Bible comparing it to a mighty tree and every word a little branch. I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what He meant to tell us. Still tormented with the feeling of fearing the righteous wrath of God, Father Martin, with painstaking care and study meditated day and night on Paul's epistle's to the Romans 1:17. "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith." The whole scripture revealed a different countenance and avenue to me. Father Martin explains that God's mercy is freely given, but the flesh must die so that the spirit may live. Only when we are lowest, He reaches down and raises His grace, not by payments of alms or performing good works but through faith alone. This passage in Paul opened for me the gates of Paradise. I felt I was born again. Tradition calls this breakthrough the "Tower Experience" which he experienced while alone in the tower of the Augustinian cloister at Wittenberg.

What is the experience that Martin Luther went through? Is it similar to the experience of Adam or Abraham or Paul? Here, in the passage of Paul, it is clearly revealed in what he wrote to the Romans. "The just shall live by faith." Did the Christian ministers who were living at the time of Peter, Paul, John, Andrew etc. have a different message? No, they had the same message—"Christ's Righteousness" message—which clearly pointed out that without this message no man can be saved. This is the living message of every Christian church throughout generations. Why then do some claim this message as belonging only to the 3rd Angel? No, it does not belong only to the 3rd Angel. Every human who will be saved in heaven will be saved only through this message. And it is amazing to see what the churches are presenting and what the Bible is presenting. We can call the Millerites the 1st Angel as revealed in the book of Revelation, chapter 14. What is said about them in revealing this message? They said, they have preached the message of justification by faith that every Christian may be changed. And they said, we are still looking for the dear Saviour, the Son of God from heaven, and for the fulfillment of the promise made to our fathers, and confirmed unto us by him that heard Him. They said, we preach the commandments of God that they may obey the law of God and be saved. So the Millerites did not have a different message than what we have today. They had essentially the same message—Justification by Faith.

Let us look at the 3rd Angel or the Adventist Church. "Several have written to me inquiring if the message of Justification by Faith is the 3rd Angel's message. And I have answered that it is the 3rd Angel's message in verity." In the book of Evangelism, pg!90. Sister White writes about the Adventist Church. "Surely, Justification by Faith is our message." It is true what she writes. It is important that we understand what she states here. She states in 1888 E.G.White Materials, page 211 chapter 24. "Looking back at Minneapolis, Luder E.J.Waggoner had the privilege granted him of speaking plainly and presenting his views upon on Justification by Faith and the Righteousness of Christ. In relation to the law this is no new light but it was old light placed where it should be in the 3rd Angel's message." And she writes here again Ibid., pg. 281. "To my brethren, many may have not received Christ. They have accepted a theory of the truth, and have been in a large degree left to this kind of experience. I have some words to speak to the people assembled before the meeting in regard to the coming light and walking in the light lest the darkness come upon them. But the message is to go forward in power even if some refuse to advance it. There were a large number of

people presented this subject of Justification by Faith, in a plain distinct manner, in such simplicity that none need to be in darkness. Unless he has in himself a decided heart of unbelief to resist the working of the Spirit of God, many were fed and others seemed to be amazed as they did not know what justification by faith really meant. So many didn't understand this message, they were confused and that is why she writes that you should study this message. The foundation of every discourse is the sacrifice of Christ for the atonement for sin. In order to understand and appreciate every truth in the word of God from Genesis to Revelation, it must be studied in the light that extends from the cross of Calvary. I present before you the great grand monument of mercy and regeneration of Salvation and Redemption—the Son of God uplifted on the cross. This is to be the foundation of every discourse given by our ministers.”

Evg. Pg. 119. I don't need further evidence because you yourself will understand. Now, when the early Christians were formed in the time of the first apostles, Paul's message clearly states about salvation, “The just shall live by Faith.” I don't need to bring more proof about this message. The class of people who follow the example of Cain includes by far the greater portion of the world. Nearly every false religion has been based in the same principle, that man can depend upon his own effort for salvation. It is claimed by some that the human race is in need not of redemption, but development. That it can refrain, elevate, and regenerate itself as Cain thought as to secure the divine favor by an offering that lacked the blood sacrifice. So do these expect to exhaust humanity to the divine standard independent of the atonement. The history of Cain shows that the result will be that man will become apart from Christ. Humanity has no power to regenerate itself. It shall not tend toward upward, toward the divine but downward to the satanic. Christ is our only hope. “There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Neither there is salvation in any other.” The very sin of the Adventist church is that they refused to accept this message as it was presented in 1888.

What was the consequence? Because they refused to accept this message there was no salvation. They sinned against the Holy Spirit. If you sin against the Holy Spirit there is no remedy for you. For this reason the Reformation Church came into existence, also known as the Revelation 18th Angel. E.G.White writes dearly in TM, pg.80. “They began this satanic work at Minneapolis. Afterward when they saw and felt the demonstration of the Holy Spirit, testifying that the message was of God, they hated it the more, because it was a testimony against them. They would not humble their hearts to repent, to give God the glory, and vindicate the right. They went on in their own spirit, filled with envy, jealousy, and evil surmising, as did the Jews. They opened their hearts to the enemy of God and man. Yet these men have been holding positions of trust, and have been molding the work after their own similitude, as far as they possibly could.” They started this satanic war and there was no remedy. They could not comprehend this light afterwards.

In Review & Herald, July 24th 1888, she writes. “The facts concerning the professed people of God speak more loudly than their profession and make it evident that some power has cut the cable that anchored them to the eternal Rock and they are drifting away in the sea, without chart, or compass.” So the church started to drift away and eventually they became so lukewarm they started to break the 10 commandments. In 1888 this message was presented to the General conference. If they would have accepted this message, the events would have been different. The church would have received the heavenly garment of Christ's righteousness and the Spirit of God would have been poured upon them like the early rain. Their rejection of the message was why the Rev. 18th angel was commissioned to come, the Reform Movement of the 1st world war where the Adventists openly broke God's commandments. When you sin against the Holy Spirit, Christ's presence is withdrawn. Their sin was the cause of the greatest change, which came upon the church from this time onwards.

When man fell by-transgression the law was not changed, but a remedial system was established. To bring him back to obedience, the promise of a Saviour was given. Sacrificial offerings pointing forward to the death of Christ as a great sin offering were established. Never has He given to the son of men a more open manifestation of His power and glory than when He alone was acknowledged as Israel's ruler and gave the law to His people. Here the specter no human eye could imagine and a stately going forth of Israel's invisible King was unspeakably grand and awful. It was the Son of God that gave our first parents the promise of redemption. It was the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament

The covenant of grace was first made with man in Eden and after the fall there was given a divine promise that the Seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. To all men, this covenant offered pardon and the grace of God

through obedience and faith in Christ. The promise eternal life on condition of fidelity to the law of God was given to them. The patriarchs received the hope of salvation. The covenant was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham. It could not be ratified until the death of Christ, but it has existed by the promise of God since the world began

Let us read Jer. 31:31-34. "Behold the days come, saith the Lord; that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt which my covenant they brake, although I was a Husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts: and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying. Know the Lord: for they shall all know me from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

What is this New Covenant? Jesus talked about it. As they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take it and drink it. This is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins." The old covenant was formed with Israel in Sinai. The Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ. This is called the new covenant. The new covenant was valid in the days of Abraham. It was then "confirmed both by the promise and oath of God that two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie." God brought them from Sinai. He manifested His glory. He gave them His law and a promise of great blessings on condition of obedience. "If ye will obey my laws then ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

The people did not realize the sinfulness of their heart and that without Christ, it was impossible to keep God's law. They readily entered into covenant with God feeling that they were able to establish their own righteousness. They declared that "all that the Lord has said we will do." Yet only a few weeks passed before they broke their covenant with God and bowed down to worship the graven image. They could not hope for the favor of God because they had broken the covenant. And now seeing their sinfulness and need of pardon they were brought to feel the Saviour revealed in the Abrahamic covenant, which shadowed forth in the sacrificial offering. Now by faith and love they were bound to God as their deliverer from bondage of sin. Now they were prepared to appreciate the blessing of the new covenant. It is now very clear that there were two covenants. Now we are clear on this point of the two covenants and what it means. Everybody will be saved through this new covenant. We cannot keep the law without the grace of God. Only Christ working a change in the human heart will accomplish what God wills. AMEN.

Augustus Ratneiyya, Montreal

BE NOT TROUBLED OVER MINOR MATTERS

WI.1912-07-01.001

The way to heaven is through Jesus Christ. He is the light that lighteneth every man that cometh into the world. He has given us most precious truths. But there are many who have not a right appreciation of what is essential for them to know and practice. Let not the people of God spend precious time on side issues which are of no importance. Let them instead strive to reveal that love for Christ and the truth has knit their hearts together in unity and love, and that this leads them to obey God's commandments.

WI.1912-07-01.002

The Lord has made every provision for our happiness in the future life, but He has made no revelations regarding these plans, and we are not to speculate concerning them. Neither are we to measure the conditions of the future life

by the conditions of this life.

WI.1912-07-01.003

Matters of vital importance have been plainly revealed in the Word of God. These subjects are worthy of our deepest thought. But we are not to search into matters concerning which God has been silent. May God help His people to think rationally. When questions arise upon which we are uncertain, we should ask, "What saith the Scriptures?"

WU912-07-01.004

Christ withheld no truths essential to our salvation. Those things that are revealed are for us and our children, but we are not to allow our imagination to frame doctrines concerning things not revealed. Again and again these non-essential subjects have been agitated, but their discussion has never done a particle of good. We are not to allow our attention to be diverted from the proclamation of the message given us. For years I have been instructed that we are not to give our attention to non-essential questions. We are not bidden to enter into discussion regarding unimportant subjects. Our work is to lead minds to the great principles of the law of God.

WI.1912-07-01.005

The only question asked in the judgment will be, "Are they obedient to My commandments?" The petty strife and contention over questions of no importance is an education which our people do not need. Let them seek instead to answer the prayer, "That they all may be one, as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me."

West Indian Messenger, 1912 Ellen G.

White.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF EVIL

Parti

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not..."¹ When I was a young boy, I had several pictures of a Man whom some black people today refer to as the blonde haired, blue-eyed Jesus Christ. One picture showed Him standing in a field with a shepherd's rod. Another showed Him knocking tenderly on the door of someone's house. And another captured Him carrying a sheep, like a child in His arms. Of them all, my favorite one was the portrait of Him. He was the most handsome Man I had ever seen; fairer than "ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." I would stare into His face for hours. I even took the pictures to bed with me. When I think of those days, I always wonder whatever happened to those pictures and to my adoration of them?

Around that same time, I dreamt a very impressive dream. In the dream, there was a time of total chaos! People were running "to and fro in the earth," "without any hope for the future, without God, lost." "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which (were) coming on the earth..."² I was among a group of "little" people, who found refuge under the porch of a house. When I awoke, I saw standing beside my bunk, the silhouette of a man with his arms raised. He was darker than the darkness in the room. His presence was like a cold winter night. Was it not "him that had the power of death, that is, the devil?"

“What is the purpose of living? Why am I here?” These questions I asked myself, while traveling this country while in the U.S. military. Unfortunately, I did not search for the answers until ten years later. “But when the fullness of the time was come,” God “called (me) out of darkness into His marvelous light.” “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

Approximately two and a half years after my conversion, my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, introduced me to her brother, the son of her mother, but not the son of her father. He was very interested in our health message, which I practiced to the best of my ability. “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” 3 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” 4 “If the power of appetite is so strong upon the human family, and its indulgence so fearful that the Son of God subjected Himself to such a test, how important that we feel the necessity of having appetite under the control of reason. Our Saviour fasted nearly six weeks...” 5

My brother also was very knowledgeable in the Scriptures, and very inquisitive of the hope that was in me. We spent several days together. “It is natural to seek companionship. Everyone will find companions or make them. And just in proportion to the strength of the fellowship, will be the amount of influence which friends will exert over one another for good or for evil.” 6

“In the first two great temptations Satan had not revealed his true purposes or his character. He claimed to be an exalted messenger from the courts of heaven, but he now throws off his disguise.” 7 Several times, my brother had hinted that he studied the occult, tempting me to inquire. Finally, he said that when he was young, he wanted to be a warlock. A warlock is “a man practicing the black arts: Sorcerer.” 8 He told how he had cursed a classmate. That classmate was attacked by his best friend. He told how he often obtains “revelations” of the winning lottery numbers, and “power” to attract the women he desired. He also told me how he held seances in his basement, and evil spirits would manifest themselves to him. Then he asked if I believed him. Most certainly! For in the Bible, it tells of men and women performing such acts.

Then he asked if I was afraid. At first, I wasn't. But when I was alone, “Evil angels crowded around (me), pressing their darkness upon (me), to shut out Jesus from (my) view, that (my) eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded (me), and (I) distrust God and murmur against Him.” 9 “But when (I) saw the wind boisterous, (I) was afraid; and beginning to sink, (I) cried, saying, Lord, save me.” 10 And it came to pass, I dreamt a dream. In the dream, I was in an Adventist book store seeking to purchase some of Sister Ellen White's books. I was sure that by reading them I would acquire the spiritual strength which I now lack. I was sorrowed to find the store without books, nor bookshelves. I pleaded to the clerks for help. They gave me a printout containing the titles of the books written by her. Two of the titles commanded my attention. One was entitled, “Spiritual Powers”. The other was entitled, “The King of the Universe”. THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE!!! “And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.” 11 AMEN

Chester Cosby.

- 1 Ecclesiastes 12:1
- 2 Luke 21:26
- 3 1 Corinthians 6:19
- 4 Romans 12:1
- 5 SM 1 p. 284
- 6 4T p. 587
- 7 SM 1 p. 286
- 8 Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

- 9 1Tp. 180
 10 Matthew 14:30
 11 Mark 4:39

CURRENT SCENE

Adventists suing breakaway church over use of name

CAW. *Com.* U.S. News, posted March 13, 2000 Miami (AP) - "The national headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church asked a federal judge Monday to bar a West Palm Beach church it considers 'a hate group' from using the denomination's trademark name.

"Newspaper and radio advertising run nationally by the Eternal Gospel Church of the Seventh-day Adventists denounces Catholics and most Protestants for worshipping on Sunday, likening them to satanists and pagans. Jeffrey Tew, an attorney for the national denomination, called the offshoot church 'a hate group' and branded the campaign 'a classic case of a breakaway church trying to use the mother church's name.' The name 'Seventh-day Adventist' was registered as a trademark in 1980.

"Robert Pershes, the attorney for the West Palm Beach church, told U.S. District Judge James Lawrence King that 'Seventh-day Adventist' is a generic term describing the religion.

"'What we have here is the trademark law being used in a religious context when it was intended to be used commercially,' Pershes argued. 'One particular religion, even if it's a large segment of the religion, should not be allowed to get a monopoly'"

"The court fight has attracted worldwide interest among the denomination's 10 million followers,

"Russell Standish, an evangelical pastor from Melbourne, Australia, plans to testify in support of church pastor Rafael Perez's right to use the Adventist name.

"'The issue is vital to religious liberty,'" Standish said outside court. 'Anyone who wants to can call themselves a Seventh-day Adventist, but you must remember there's a day of judgment.'

"The religion's name is based on its two basic tenets of honoring Saturday as the Sabbath and anticipating the Second Coming of Christ."

How Satan loves to divide and conquer! The nominal SDA church has shown itself to be the most adamant and spiteful to punish those who take the name and are not part of the organization - especially if these people are faithful in proclaiming the Three Angel's Messages. (Somehow, there is something very Catholic about that.)

"Then shall many be offended, and shall betray and shall hate one another Matt. 24:10 -As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but **have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth**, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false report and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them." *Maranathap.* 196

God's people, who are to be second to none in vindicating His holy law, must appeal for unity on the basis of the truth. Is this not the position that God has given His church?

If we cannot stand up and be counted on the side of right with those that are proclaiming the Three Angel's Messages when can we? (Maybe we will not agree with their methods exactly, but still our duty is to stand for the right.) "We have all kinds of material to deal with. There are those who will, through hasty, unadvised moves, betray the cause of God into the enemy's power. There will be men who will seek to be revenged who will become apostates

and betray Christ in the person of His saints. All need to learn discretion; then there is danger on the other hand of

being conservative, of giving away to the enemy in concession. Our brethren should be very cautious in this matter for the honor of God. They should make God their fear and their dread. Should this Conference make resolutions and pass them that it would be right and proper for Seventh-day Adventists to rest on the first day of the week in order to avoid arrests and what might probably arise if they did not obey the laws, would this be showing that we stand in right relation to God's holy law? Exodus 31: 12-17" E.G. White 1888 Materials p. 483

Since the nominal SDA church is no longer proclaiming the Three Angel's Messages for the most part, someone must proclaim them. The question may be for you and I: how can we build bridges for each and every soul to find their way to the truth and that people who are quietly and humbly giving the Three Angel's Messages, preparing to give the Loud Cry under the Latter Rain?

Vatican says Pope plans historic apology for sins of Catholics

CNN.com, posted on March 7, 2000 Vatican City (AP) - "Fulfilling a major goal of his papacy, Pope John Paul II plans to deliver a historic, sweeping apology for the sins of Roman Catholics over the centuries, Vatican officials said Tuesday. It was unclear how specific the pope would be, although the very idea has drawn opposition from some cardinals and others in the church. The pope's homily for the Day of Pardon Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Basilica is apparently still being written.

"But a document prepared by an international group of theologians that was released in Paris last week, and statements by officials Tuesday suggested the pope will at least allude to responsibility by the Catholics in the Holocaust, the Inquisition, the Crusades and acts against other Christians in wars of religion.

"Lapses by present-day Catholics, including sins against women, the poor and failure to defend against abortion, could also be included.

"The reference to errors and sins in a liturgy must be frank and capable of specifying guilt; yet given the number of sins committed in the course of 20 centuries, it must necessarily be rather summary,' said Bishop Piero Marini, who is in charge of papal ceremonies. The officials, briefing reporters on the event, also appeared to be setting limits on how such an apology should be viewed.

"It cannot assume the aspect of a spectacular self-flagellation," said Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Vatican's 2000 Jubilee Committee. The pope has campaigned for a collective examination of conscience as the church begins its third millennium.

"No pope has ever gone to such lengths to seek forgiveness for past sins,' Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

"The idea for an apology has been on the pope's mind for some time. 'What is interesting is that it is always the pope and Catholic church who asked forgiveness while others remained silent,' John Paul told reporters while flying in Brazil in 1997. 'Maybe that is as it should be.'

"When the pope was planning celebrations for 2000, the Vatican acknowledged that some cardinals wanted him to look ahead and not backward through the church's history.

"The theological commission document also spoke of reservations raised by those worried that an admission of fault by Catholics 'may look like acquiescence in the face of accusations made by those prejudicially hostile to the church.'

"During the ceremony Sunday, the pope is expected to drop to his knees in prayer.

"The theological document released last week broke little new ground and was intended to provide the context for the pope's call for a 'purification' of the Church. On the Holocaust, the document said it was important to keep a 'moral and religious memory' of the injury inflicted on Jews. In this area 'much has already been done, but this should be confirmed and deepened,' the document said.

"Some Jews were upset that the Vatican's landmark 1998 document on the Holocaust did not condemn the church hierarchy for any failures to save Jews. The Vatican and John Paul have consistently defended Pope Pius XII, who served during World War II and is a candidate for beatification.

"Israel's Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau said the latest reference to the Holocaust was 'quite disappointing.'

"It adds nothing to the low-key statements made in the past,' he said. 'It is impossible to correct a crime of the past without any mention, for example, of Pius XII when he stood on the blood of the victims and did not say a word.'

Is the Pope making this latest apology to seem noble-minded? John the Baptist told the pharisees who came to him seeking baptism; "Bring forth...fruits worthy of repentance." Luke 3:8 The current trend is to grant forgiveness

when there has been no repentance, but is this right?

Jesus said, "if he repent, forgive him" Luke 17:3, and the key here is repentance. (Of course, on a personal level it is necessary to let go of bitterness no matter what the evil one does, repent or not. But this article is talking about the legal or forensic reality of the cross, that sin was so ugly and costly a thing to God that He had to give His only begotten Son to pay our penalty and thereby win us back from its power. Therefore, sin is anything but a light and trifling matter.) We must repent before we can find the door of God's mercy, because sin is so offensive to God.

In the past five to six years, the Pope has co-opted whole communities through statements of reconciliation, reconciling Christianity with science through accepting evolution, for example. But when we examine the evidence, we find that for one who accepts and believes the Bible record of Creation, there can be no reconciliation with evolution. The same holds true with the latest "apology" of Pope John Paul's for the sins of the past. No repentance from the Catholic Church's former position of compromising Bible truth in favor of their own tradition and political power means no forgiveness.

"They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination?

Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls, But they said, We will not walk therein." Jeremiah 6: 14-16 Is this apology not healing the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly? God's people must show the only foundation of enduring reform (repentance) is found in the law of God. Otherwise it is only superficial words with suspicious intent.

"But the time had come for the fulfillment of the prophecy, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Isaiah 9:2. **The work of Christ was to present to the world the open door of mercy, through which all might have an abundant entrance through faith and repentance.** He held in his hand all the treasures of wisdom. Eternal truth fell from His lips like precious jewels, and its meaning was flashed into the minds and hearts of those who received His words. He had come to uproot tradition and superstition, and sow the earth with truth; in the place of the commandments of men, to give them the commandments of God. The insufficiency of formal, ceremonial obedience to save the soul, He made to appear in its true light when contrasted with the eternal obligations resting upon the human family." 5701-14-97

In fact, the Pope has shown that he is more than willing to advocate the various governments pass Sunday laws in the name of religious freedom. The office of the Inquisition still exists to punish dissent, as it will when the Vatican gets the political power for which it lusts. May God help us to be truly noble-minded in uplifting the truth, regardless of the consequences. Only as we speak the truth in love, showing the balance between reformation and revival, confession and repentance, can we be the Reformers that God needs in this time. (Thanks go to Brs. Radek Dobias and Henry Dering for this months' Current Scene)

By Jerry Eaton

CAUSES BRAIN DAMAGE? (CONTINUATION)

Circulation

“Perfect health depends upon perfect circulation.” It is Satan’s design so to pervert every function of our being that life may be made miserable, and God may be dishonored in the creatures He has made. If women make the customs of the world their criterion, they will become unfitted, both physically and mentally, for the duties of life. Many have done themselves untold injury by compressing the waist. Their power to do good in the family and in society is greatly lessened; and if they are mothers, their children are robbed of vitality. When the waist is compressed, the circulation of the blood is impeded, and the internal organs, cramped and crowded out of place, cannot perform their work properly. It is impossible, under such circumstances, to take a full inspiration. Thus the pernicious habit of breathing only with the upper part of the lungs is formed. And feebleness and disease are often the result.” *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, 89,88

Idleness and Inactivity

Inactivity is the greatest curse that could come upon one in such a condition. *Ibid.* 100. Idleness will destroy soul and body. The heart, the moral character, and physical energies are enfeebled. The intellect suffers, and the heart is open to temptation as an open avenue to sink into every vice. The indolent man tempts the devil to tempt him *OHC* pg. 222
More people die for want of exercise than from overwork; very many more rust out than wear out. In idleness the blood does not circulate freely, and the changes in the vital fluids, so necessary to health and life, do not take place. The little mouths in the skin, through which the body breathes, become clogged, thus making it impossible to eliminate impurities through that channel. This throws a double burden upon the excretory organs, and disease is soon produced. Those who accustom themselves to exercising in the open air, generally have a vigorous circulation. Men and women, young or old, who desire health and who would enjoy life, should remember that they cannot have these without a good circulation. Whatever their business or inclination, they should feel it a religious duty to make wise efforts to overcome the conditions of disease which have kept them indoors. *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, ^, 101

Fresh Pure Air

“Some invalids refuse to be convinced of the great importance of having a constant supply of pure air. For fear of taking cold, they willfully persist in living from year to year in an atmosphere almost destitute of vitality. It is impossible for such to have a healthy circulation. The skin is debilitated, and they become sensitive to any change in the atmosphere, *ibid.* 103

Many have been taught that night air is positively injurious to health, and therefore must be excluded from their rooms.... Living in close, ill-ventilated rooms, weakens the system, makes the mind gloomy, the skin sallow, and the circulation feeble; the blood moves sluggishly, digestion is retarded, and the system is rendered peculiarly sensitive to cold. Many labor under the mistaken idea that if they have taken cold they must carefully exclude the outside air, and increase the temperature of the room until it is excessively hot. But the system of one suffering with cold is deranged, the pores are closed by waste matter, and there is more or less inflammation of the internal organs, because the blood has been chilled back from the surface, and thrown upon them. At this time, of all others, the lungs should not be deprived of pure air. Judicious exercise would induce the blood to the surface, and thus relieve the internal organs. The power of the will is a great help in resisting cold, and giving energy to the nervous system. To deprive the lungs of air, is like depriving the stomach of food. Air is the food that God has provided for the lungs. Welcome it; cultivate a love for it, as a precious boon of heaven. *Ibid.* 104-105

The brain cannot work without oxygen which makes up a part of our blood. In four minutes people without oxygen can die.

“Sickness does not come without a cause. Violent epidemics of fevers have occurred in villages and cities that were considered perfectly healthful, and these have resulted in death or broken constitutions. In many instances the premises of the very ones who fell victims to these epidemics, contained the agents of destruction which sent forth deadly poison into the atmosphere, to be inhaled by the family and the neighborhood. It is astonishing to witness the prevailing ignorance relative to the effects which slackness and recklessness produce upon health. *Ibid.* 105-106

“A yard beautified with scattering trees and some shrubbery, at a proper distance from the house, has a happy influence upon the family, and, if well taken care of, will prove no injury to the health. But shade trees and shrubbery close and dense around a house, make it unhealthful; for they prevent the free circulation of air, and shut out the rays of the sun. In consequence, a dampness gathers in the house, especially in wet seasons. Those who occupy the sleeping rooms are troubled with rheumatism, neuralgia, and lung complaints. Then the great quantities of fallen leaves, if not removed immediately, decay, and poison the atmosphere. Dwellings, if possible, should be built on high ground. If a house is built where the water will settle around it, remaining

for a time and slowly drying away, there is a poisonous miasma continually rising from the damp ground, which breeds sore throats, fevers, ague, or lung diseases. *Ibid.* . 107-8

“Deprived of pure air, the body becomes diseased, torpid, and enfeebled.” *Ibid.* 160

Sleeping

“Sleeping rooms should be large, and so arranged as to have a free circulation of air day and night.

Those who have slept in an ill-ventilated room awake feeling feverish and exhausted. This is because the vital air was excluded, and the whole system suffers in consequence. Whoever occupies beds which have not been freely exposed to the air and sunlight, does so at the risk of health, and often even of life itself. *Ibid.* 106-7

Too much sleeping is not good and too little sleep is not good. For the brain to function properly it needs rest. Also during our sleep portions of the body are rested and nourished, sending supplies needed for the whole body.

“Every room, and especially every sleeping room, in the house, should be well ventilated throughout the year, both by day and by night.” *Ibid.* 173

“The work of God must not be done by fits and starts. It will not be placed on vantage ground by following a sudden impulse. On the contrary, it is positively necessary to follow the good work patiently, day by day, progressing in our ways and methods. One should get up at a regular hour. If during the day the work is neglected, and the following night is spent in making up for lost time, and the morrow and following day will show, as a result, a wearied brain and a general fatigue which constitute positive violations of the law of life and health. There should be regular hours for rising, for family worship, for meals and for work. And it is a religious duty, in every one of our institutions, to maintain this by precept as well as by a firm example. Many squander the most precious hours of the morning hoping that they can terminate the work thus neglected during the hours which should be devoted to sleep. Godliness, health, success, everything suffers from this lack of true religious system.” *Manuscript Releases, Volume 11, 204*

“In most cases two meals a day are preferable to three. Supper, when taken at an early hour, interferes with the digestion of the previous meal. When taken later, it is not itself digested before bedtime. Thus the stomach fails of securing proper rest. The steep is disturbed, the brain and nerves are wearied, the appetite for breakfast is impaired, the whole system is unrefreshed and is unready for the day’s duties.” *Education 205*

“Meanwhile, Dr. Paul B. Roen, director of the clinic for the study of arteriosclerosis at the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, says heavy meals at night load the bloodstream with saturated fat and promote a heart attack even in apparently healthy men. ‘The height of digestion following a large evening meal is reached after about seven hours, during deep sleep, when the body is at its lowest ebb. The blood pressure falls, the pulse rate decreases, the skin vessels dilate, the muscles relax, the body temperature declines and the overall basic metabolic rate decreases by 10 to 20 percent. The bloodstream is heavily laden with products of fat digestion and courses sluggishly through the arteries that may already be narrowed...

“Moreover, when frequently dining out with friends, the calories often are increased by the addition of choice, rich foods and liquor so that dinner represents 3,500 calories or more. This is a high caloric intake, in view of the fact that the average sedentary person requires only 1,800 to 2,000 calories for the entire day....

His suggestion corresponds with the health practices we as Seventh-day Adventists have advocated for decades: Eat a substantial breakfast, a larger-than-average noon meal, and a light evening meal, so that less blood fat will be circulating in the arteries during the relaxed sleeping hours.

Personal hygiene, including frequent bathing is very sensible for the health of the brain because it helps circulation.

From this point of view, we see how it is very important to recognize every part of the body as affecting the brain, and by extension the spirit of the person. Our health is in our hands, and with the help of Jesus we can follow His instructions in every area, for He that is faithful in least will also be faithful in much.

Nada Stcfanovic, Australia

Fresh Figs

Trivia

- It is not actually a fruit! Technically speaking, the fig is an inverted flower and the seeds are drupes, or the real fruit.
 - Picking fresh figs is a real chore. The stem bleeds latex that irritates the cuticles and skin under the nails. To do the job, pickers tape their fingers like football players.
 - The Fig Newton cookie was first advertised in 1892. It was named after the town of Newton in Massachusetts.
- a Two medium fresh figs contain 74 calories and are an excellent source of fibre. They also contain potassium, magnesium, iron and calcium.

Main Players

- The most common fig is the Black Mission. It has a greyish-black or purplish-black skin with pink flesh.
- Calimyrna (a.k.a. Smyrna) is a larger fig, with amber coloured skin and flesh. It has crisp, small seeds, and a slightly nutty flavour.
- Kadota figs are greenish-yellow and they ripen to pale yellow. The flesh is purple.

What's edible, what's not...

- You can eat every part of a fresh fig, except the tough stem end. Those edible seeds are what makes this fruit such a good source of dietary fibre. Some figs have a thicker skin than others... you may want to peel it off.

Ripe or not?

Fresh figs are the most perishable fruit around. Eat them ASAP!

Look for figs that yield to slight pressure but are not mushy. A ripe fig has a mild fig fragrance, An overripe fig smells sour.

Mission Figs are best to eat when slightly shrivelled and jet black.

Keep them out of plastic! Figs store best in a brown paper bag in the fridge, not in the crisper.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Old Man over the Hills

For many years I had wanted to go as a foreign missionary, but the Lord never opened up the way. At last I went to live in California. Life was rough in the mining town where I lived, with my husband and little boys.

While I was living there I heard of a man who lived over the hills and was dying of consumption. The men in the village said, "He is so evil that no one can stay with him; so we place some food near him, and leave him for twenty-four hours. We will find him dead sometime, and the sooner the better. He has no living relatives that we know of."

This pitiful story troubled me as I went about my work. For three days I tried to get some one to go to see him and find out if he was in need of better care. As I turned from the last man, troubled with his indifference, the Lord put the thought into my mind: "Why not go yourself? This is your missionary work, if you want it."

I didn't like the idea at first. I thought that I would not be able to help him as well as others could. I was also a little fearful from all the stories I had heard about him. This was not the kind of missionary work I had wanted.

But at last one day I could not resist the voice of the Holy Spirit any longer. I went over the hills to the little cottage where he was staying. It was a mud cabin, containing only one room. The door stood open. In one corner, on some straw and coloured blankets, I found the dying man. Sin had left awful marks on his face, and if I had not heard that he could not move, I would have been too afraid to go in. As I was about to enter, he greeted me with a curse. I stepped inside and again he swore.

"Don't speak like this, my friend," I said.

"I am not your friend. I don't have any friends," he said.

"Well, I am your friend, and ___"

But the cursing and swearing came quickly now and he said, "You are not my friend. I never had any friends, and I don't want any now." I

reached out, and gave him the fruit I had brought for him. Then, stepping backwards, I asked if he remembered his mother. I was hoping to find a tender place in his heart; but he cursed her. I spoke of God and he cursed Him, I tried to speak of Jesus and His death for us, but he stopped me with his curses, and said, "That's all a lie. Nobody ever died for others."

I went away discouraged, saying to myself that I knew it was no use. But the next day I felt I must go again and I went. I continued going every day for two weeks. He did not show any gratitude, and at the end of that time I said that I was not going any more. That night as I was putting my little boy to bed, I did not pray for the old man over the hills. My little boy noticed it and said,

"Mama, you did not pray for the bad man."

"No," I answered, with a sigh.

"Have you given up on him, mama?"

"Yes, I guess so."

"Has God given up on him also, mama? Should you give up before God does?"

I could not sleep that night. I thought of the dying man so evil and alone, with no one to care for him! I rose and went away by myself to pray; but the moment that I knelt, I was overpowered by the sense of how little meaning there had been to my prayers in the past. I had no faith, and I had not really cared, beyond a kind of halfhearted sentiment. I had not claimed his soul for God. O, the shame of such poor missionary zeal! I fell on my face literally, as I cried, "O Christ, give me a little glimpse of the worth of a human soul!" Did you, Christian, ever ask that and mean it? Do not do it unless you are willing to give up ease and selfish pleasure; for life will be different for you after the Lord answers this prayer.

I remained on my knees until Calvary became a reality to me. I cannot describe those hours. They came and went unheeded; but I learned that night what I had never known before, what it was to travail for a human soul.

I saw my Lord as I had never seen him before. I knelt there until the answer came.

As I went back to my room, my husband said, "How about your old man over the hills?"

"He is going to hear about Jesus tomorrow."

"How are you going to tell him amidst his cursing and swearing?" he asked.

"The Lord is going to give me wisdom. I do not know how, or what I will say right now," I replied.

The next morning the Lord brought me another lesson in Christian work. On all my previous visits, I had waited until afternoon, when my work was finished before going over the hills to see the man. That day, the moment my little boys went to school, I left my work, and hurried over the hills, not to see that "wretched old man," but to win a soul for Christ. I thought the man might die soon.

As I passed a neighbour's house, she came out and said, "I will go over the hills with you."

I did not want her to go, but here was the other lesson for me. God could plan better than I could. She had her little girl with her, and as we reached the cabin, she said, "I will wait out here."

I do not know what I expected, but the man greeted me with a terrible curse again. This time it did not hurt my feelings as it had done in the past; for I was now behind Christ, and I stayed there; and I could bear what struck Him first.

While I was changing the basin of water and towel for him, things, which I had done every day, but which he had never thanked me for, the clear laugh of the little girl rang out upon the air.

“What’s that?” said the man eagerly.

“It’s a little girl outside waiting for me.”

“Would you mind letting her come in?” he said, in a different tone of voice than I have ever heard before.

Stepping to the door, I called to her; then, taking her hand, said, “Come in and see the sick man, Mamie.” She shrank back as she saw his face, but I assured her with, “Poor sick man! He can’t get up; he wants to see you.”

She looked like an angel, her bright face framed in golden curls and her eyes tender and kind. In her hands she held the flowers that she had picked on the way up, and, bending toward him, she said, “I’m sorry for you, poor sick man. Will you have some flowers?”

He laid his great, bony hand beyond the flowers, on the plump hand of the child, and tears came to his eyes, as he said, “I had a little girl once. *Her* name was also Mamie. *She* cared for me. Nobody else did. I guess I’d been different if she’d lived. I’ve hated everybody since she died.”

I knew at once that I had the key to the man’s heart. The thought came quickly, born of that midnight prayer service, and I said, “When I spoke of your mother and your wife, you cursed them; I know now that they were not good women, or you could not have done it.”

“Good women! O, *you* don’t know anything about that kind of women! You can’t think how terrible it was for me.”

“Well, if your little girl had lived and grown up with them, wouldn’t she have been like them? Would you have liked to have her live for that?”

Fie had never thought of that before, and he was very thoughtful for a few minutes. Then he cried, “O God, no! I’d have killed her first. I’m glad she died.”

Reaching out and taking the poor hand, I said, “The Dear Lord didn’t want her to be like them. He loved her even better than you did, so He laid her to rest in the grave. He is keeping her there until the resurrection morning. Don’t you want to see her again?”

“O, I’d be willing to be burned alive a thousand times over if I could just see my little girl once more, my little Mamie!”

O friends, you know what a blessed story I had to tell (his man at that hour, and I had been so close to Calvary the night before that I could tell it in earnest! The poor face grew brighter as I talked. Two or three times he gasped, as if losing his breath. Then, clutching me, he said, “What’s that you said about talking to some one you can’t see?”

“It’s called praying. I tell Him what I want and need.”

“Pray now, quick. Tell Him I want to see my little girl again. Tell Him anything you want to.”

I took the hands of the child, and placed them on the trembling hands of the man. Then, dropping on my knees, with the child in front of me, I asked her to pray for the man who had lost his little Mamie, and wanted to see her again. This was her prayer,

“Dear Jesus, this man is sick. He has lost his little girl, and he feels bad about it. I’m so sorry for him, and he’s sorry too. Won’t you help him, and show him how he will be able to see his little girl again someday when you come from heaven to take us all home? Do please. Amen.”

Heaven seemed to open before us, and there stood One with the prints of nails in His hands and the wound in His side.

Mamie slipped away soon, and the man kept saying, “Tell Jesus about it. Tell Him everything.” Then he began speaking and he poured out his heart in confession to the Lord. It was such a great confession that I could not have borne to hear it had the Lord not been close to us at that hour.

By and by the poor man grasped the strong hand of Jesus. It was the third day when the poor, tired soul turned his heart completely to the Lord. He lived on for weeks; for God still had a mission for him. I had been telling him one day about a meeting when he said, “I’d like to go to a meeting once.”

So we planned a meeting, and the men from the village who worked in the mines came and filled the room.

“Now, boys,” said the old man, “Get down on your knees, while she tells about the Man that died for me.”

I had been a very shy person, rarely talking in meetings, but I found myself talking at length here, and I tried to tell the simple story of the cross.

After a while the old man said, “Boys, you don’t half believe it, or you’d cry; you couldn’t help it. Raise me up. I’d like to tell you something.”

So they raised him up, and, between his short breathing and coughing, he added to the story. He had to use the language he knew.

“Boys,” he said, “you know how the water runs down the sluice-boxes and carries off the dirt and

leaves the gold behind. Well, the blood of that Man she tells about went right over me just like that. It carried off everything; but it left enough for me to see Mamie, and to see the Man that died for me. O boys, can't you love him?" Many hearts were touched that night. One of the greatest witnesses to these men was the great change in character that had come over this sick man.

Some days later, there came a look into his face which told me that the end was here. I had to leave him that night and I knew I would not see him in the morning. "What shall I say tonight, Jack?" I asked.

"Just good night I," he said.

"What will you say to me when we meet again on the resurrection morning?"

"I'll say, 'Good morning,'"

The next morning the door was closed, and I found two men sitting silently by a board stretched across two stools. They turned back the sheet from the dead man and I looked on the face, which seemed to have come nearer to the image of God than when I first met him.

"I wish you could have seen him when he went," the men said.

"Tell me about it."

"Well, all at once he brightened up, about midnight, and smiling said, 'I'm going, boys.' Tell her I'm going to meet her on the resurrection morning, and introduce her to Mamie. We will go to meet 'the Man who died for me' together.' And then he was gone."

Kneeling there with my hands over those poor, cold ones, which had been stained with human blood, I asked that I might understand more and more the worth of a human soul, and be drawn into a deeper sympathy with Christ's yearning compassion, "not willing that any should perish."

Funeral in El Salvador

... To every thing there is a beginning, and to every thing there is an end... God said in the beginning. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Gen. 3:19. These were the words read by Brother Virgilio Gusman, who conducted the funeral service of much remembered and appreciated Brother Jose Ramiro de Paz, who passed away at the age of 70 years. He was borne in Intipuca, La Union, March 11, 1929 and passed away January 27, 2000. Brother Ramiro was an active member in our church for 32 years. He left behind his wife Rosaura Leiva de Paz and 10 of his 12 children who are still alive. He had a great spirit of service and cooperation and we expect to see him again in the resurrection morning. He has left an empty spot in the hearts of the church members and in his family who lost their great father. May the Lord comfort the brothers and sisters in the church as well as his sorrowing family.

Brother Oscar Archila.

The Incomparable One

*If you could have a diamond with which your hand to grace,
Would you want a piece of glass to put there in its place?
If you could have a brilliant light to guide along life's way,
Would you take a candle flame to lead through life's long day?
Or would you ever want to choose the best things to replace
With that which is inferior, to try to take its place?*

*So why do oh so many take the glass and not the jewel?
The candle flame and not the light to be their guiding rule?
Perhaps it is because they think the best is too high priced,
But naught can take the place of the Incomparable Christ.
Our God has given us His Son, and none can ever compare
With Him, Who gives His best to those who choose His love to share.*

*Yes, God will freely give His jewels and light to those who will
Yield to the Incomparable Christ, Who longs their hearts to fill*