

The Reformation Messenger

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International Missionary Society of S.D.A. Church Reform Movement



"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Revelation 18:1-4)



We Believe

The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.

He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.

The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness.

The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.

His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.

Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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In This Issue

FAITH	3
AGRICULTURE = THE ABC OF EDUCATION	4
SIMEON	5
"MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU"	8
AN APPEAL TO THE YOUTH	9
APPETITE & PASSION	10
LIKE THE MOST HIGH (PART 1)	15
LAY WORKERS ARE NEEDED...	16
OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD (PART 1)	18
KEEP IN THE LOVE OF GOD	22
PEACE OFFERING: A SWEET SAVOR	23
JAMES WHITE (CHILDRENS CORNER)	25

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FAITH



Have you ever seen a mustard seed? It is a tiny seed, Yet Jesus said that we only need faith like a grain of a mustard seed to be able to say to a mountain go and move away and it will. Of course that doesn't mean that we want to move a mountain literally. What Jesus was talking about was a mountain of problems. People complain that they have many worries, but if they have a living faith, a faith that keeps a constant connection with heaven, then they could "cast all their care upon him for he cares for us." (1 Peter 5:7) We will, with his help, be able to remove the mountains from our path.

"You may be perplexed in business; your prospects may grow darker and darker, and you may be threatened with loss. But do not become discouraged; cast your care upon God, and remain calm and cheerful. Begin every day with earnest prayer, not omitting to offer praise and thanksgiving. Ask for wisdom to manage your affairs with discretion, and thus prevent loss and disaster. Do all you can on your part to bring about favorable results. Jesus has promised divine aid, but not aside from human efforts. When, relying upon your tried Helper, do all you can and accept the result cheerfully. It will not always be gain from the worldling's standpoint; but perhaps success might have been the worst thing for you. If your confidence remains unshaken that God will do all things well, these light afflictions will work out for you a "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." {Review and Herald, February 3, 1885 par. 5}

"When we speak of faith, there is a distinction that should be borne in mind. There is a kind of belief that is wholly distinct from faith. The existence and power of God, the truth of His word, are facts that even Satan and his hosts cannot at heart deny. The Bible says that "the devils also believe, and tremble;" but this is not faith. James 2:19. Where there is not only a belief in God's

word, but a submission of the will to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him, the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith--faith that works by love and purifies the soul. Through this faith the heart is renewed in the image of God. The heart that in its non renewed state is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be, now delights in its holy precepts, exclaiming with the psalmist, "O how love I Thy law! it is my meditation all the day." Psalm 119:97." {Steps to Christ p.63}

In the storm on Galilee the disciples of Jesus had a mountain before them, but in that crucial moment they forgot that they had the master of the universe with them. They could rely on Him to help them out when they had done all they possibly could. Jesus was in the boat with them, sleeping, because He knew that his Heavenly Father would not let the waves engulf the boat, and if He did, it was His will.

There was once a man that was preparing for an operation. His family stood around looking very anxious. They didn't think he had a very great chance of living through this operation. Then he saw the anxiety on their faces and said, "Don't worry, if God wants me to live, no doctor in the world can kill me, and if God wants me to die, no doctor in the world can save me!" He had a living faith, an implicit trust in his heavenly father. He knew that God was the master of the situation. Whatever might happen, it was all His will. He knew that God never sleeps but is ever watching over his people.

Matthew 10:29, 31 says; "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father...Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

Yet we cannot expect to be able to claim the promises of God if we are not obeying his will. We must follow his

path to be able to claim his protection.

"The promises of God are not for us to claim rashly, to protect us while we rush on recklessly into danger, violating the laws of nature or disregarding prudence and the judgment God has given us to use. This would not be genuine faith but presumption. . ." {Mind Character and Personality p.25}

"But faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures." {DA 126.1}

We can only expect to claim God's promises to us if we are on the path of obedience. If we try to claim the promises of God while not on that path it is presumption.

We have no need to fear. As long as we have faith and not presumption we can rest assured, God is in control. All we have to do is trust in Him and follow his commands. That's all. Let go and let God accomplish His purposes. They will always be for our benefit, even if we don't see it at the moment. But if we trust Him we will know some day.

*Ben Dammasch
Queensland, Australia*



AGRICULTURE = THE ABC OF EDUCATION

Had all our schools encouraged work in agricultural lines, they would now have an altogether different showing. There would not be so great discouragements. Opposing influences would have been overcome; financial conditions would have changed. With the students, labor would have been equalized; and as all the human machinery was proportionately taxed, greater physical and mental strength would have been developed. But the instruction which the Lord has been pleased to give has taken hold of so feebly that obstacles have not been overcome.

EDUCATION MOST FAVORABLE TO SPIRITUAL ADVANCEMENT

It reveals cowardice to move so slowly and uncertainly in the labor line--that which will give the very best kind of education. LOOK AT NATURE. There is room within her vast boundaries for schools to be established where grounds can be cleared and land cultivated. This work is essential to the education most favorable to spiritual advancement; for nature's voice is the voice of Christ, teaching us innumerable lessons of love and power and submission and perseverance. Some do not appreciate the value of agricultural work. These should not plan for our schools, for they will hold everything from advancing in right lines. In the past their influence has been a hindrance.

WORK THE SOIL CHEERFULLY

If the land is cultivated, it will, with the blessing of God, supply our necessities. We are not to be discouraged about temporal things because of apparent failures, nor should we be disheartened by delay. We should work the soil cheerfully, hopefully, gratefully, believing that the earth holds in her bosom rich stores for the faithful worker

to garner, stores richer than gold or silver. The niggardliness laid to her charge is false witness. With proper, intelligent cultivation the earth will yield its treasure for the benefit of man. the mountains and hills are changing; the earth is waxing old like a garment; but the blessing of God, which spreads a table for His people in the wilderness, will never cease.

SERIOUS TIMES ARE COMING

Serious times are before us, and there is great need for families to get out of the cities into the country that the truth may be carried into the byways as well as the highways of the earth. Much depends upon laying our plans according to the word of the Lord and with persevering energy carrying them out. More depends upon consecrated activity and perseverance than upon genius and book learning. All the talents and ability given to human agents, if unused; are of little value.

RETURN TO SIMPLER METHODS

A return to simpler methods will be appreciated by the children and youth. Working in the garden and field will be an agreeable change from the wearisome routine of abstract lessons, to which their young minds should never be confined. To the nervous child, who finds lessons from books exhausting and hard to remember, it will be especially valuable. There is health and happiness for him in the study of nature; and the impressions made will not fade out of his mind, for they will be associated with objects that are continually before his eyes.

STUDY IN AGRICULTURE=ABC

Working the soil is one of the best kinds of employment, calling the muscles into

action and resting the mind. Study in agricultural lines should be the A, B and C of the education given in our schools. This is the very first work that should be entered upon. Our schools should not depend upon imported produce, for grain and vegetables, and the fruits so essential to health. Our youth need an education in felling trees and tilling the soil as well as in literary lines. Different teachers should be appointed to oversee a number of students in their work and should work with them. Thus the teachers themselves will learn to carry responsibilities as burden bearers. All should counsel together as to the very best method of carrying on the work.

TIME IS SHORT NOW--BUT...

Time is short now to accomplish that which might have been done in past generations. But even in these last days we can do much to correct the existing evils in the education of youth. And because time is short, we should be in earnest and work zealously to give the young an education consistent with our faith. We are reformers. We desire that our children should study to the best advantage. In order to do this, employment should be given them which will call into exercise the muscles. Daily systematic labor should constitute a part of the education of youth even at this late period. Much can now be gained in this way. In following this plan the students will realize elasticity of spirit and vigor of thought, and in a given time can accomplish more mental labor than they could by study alone. And thus they can leave school with constitutions unimpaired and with strength and courage to persevere in any position where the providence of God may place them.

(from Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, pp. 177-180)

*Submitted by Kathleen Ross
Alberta, Canada*

SIMEON

Simeon was the second son of Jacob's unloved wife, Leah. He was a man of strong passions. His life and that of the tribe, which bears his name, contain some of the darkest stains in the history of ancient Israel.

The crowing sin of Simeon's life was the murder of the men of Shechem¹. Levi was connected with Simeon in this wicked work, but Simeon seems to have been the leading spirit; for the divine record always mentions his name first when speaking of the sin.

There is something pathetic in the whole affair. The prince of Shechem had ruined Dinah, the only daughter of Jacob. It is easy to imagine how an only sister would be loved and cherished by her brothers, and especially by the sons of Leah who was also the mother of Dinah. When Jacob reproved Simeon and Levi for the murder. Their only reply was, "Should he deal with our sister as with a harlot."²

Love for their sister evidently prompted the act of revenge. They also wished to rescue her; for Dinah had been enticed to the house of the prince of Shechem, and after the murder, Simeon and Levi brought her home with them.³

The words addressed to Simeon and Levi by Jacob, show that God does not overlook sin in any one. The fact that their only sister was ruined, was no excuse for committing that terrible act of vengeance.

"Cruelty and falsehood were manifest in the character of his sons. There were false gods in the camp, and idolatry had to some extent gained a foothold even in his household."⁴ This shows us that the "strange gods" among Jacob's sons had a big influence in their characters, as well as in the spiritual life of the household. Today, as well as in the past,

we find "Simeons" among ourselves. We also find strange gods among ourselves. Sometimes we overlook the little things. Our real battle is "not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places",⁵ and therefore we should be aware that anything that draws our attention from God, could be a "strange god". It could even have a terrible influence upon our thoughts toward others and our acts and behavior may be influenced.

When the sons of Jacob gathered around their father's couch to receive his parting blessing, the sight of Simeon and Levi brought vividly to the mind of the dying patriarch the details of this murder committed some forty years before, and he exclaimed; "Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret." As if he shrank from the very thought of his name being tarnished by their wicked course, he continues, "Unto their assembly, mine honor, be not thou united; for in their anger they slew man, and in their self-will they digged down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and scatter them in Israel."⁶

Both tribes were "divided" and "scattered." But how differently! The Levites held positions of honor, and were scattered over the country as religious educators and priests. The dispersion of the tribe of Simeon arose from corrupting elements in the tribe itself, which reduced their numbers and finally resulted in driving them from their inheritance.

When the land was divided among

the different tribes, Simeon was given none; but as the allotment of Judah was too large for that tribe, Simeon was allowed to

occupy a portion of the inheritance of Judah. Afterward some of the Simeonites were obliged to seek new territory, and were thus separated from the rest of their brethren.⁷

In the writings of the ancient Jewish doctors it is stated that the tribe of Simeon became so straitened in their habitations that a very great number of them were forced to seek subsistence among the other tribes by teaching their children. Truly they were divided in Jacob and scattered in Israel.

When Israel was numbered at Sinai, Simeon had 59,300 fighting men. Only two tribes surpassed it in strength. But when Israel was again numbered at Shittim, Simeon was the weakest of all the tribes, numbering only 22,200. Why this great change? The strong men of Simeon did not sacrifice their lives on the battlefield, fighting for the honor of God; they were slain because of their licentiousness of their own hearts. The 25th chapter of Numbers relates the bad story of the ruin of Simeon. It seems from the record that the chief men of Simeon were the leaders in that great apostasy. They became a prey to the harlots of Midian. Truly "she hath cast down many wounded; yea, many strong man have been slain by her."⁸

Solomon, the wisest of men, who was thrice called the beloved of God, became a slave to his passion, and thus sacrificed his integrity to the same bewitching power.⁹

The shores of the stream of time are strewn with the wrecks of characters that have been stranded upon the rock of sensual indulgence. Israel became a prey to licentiousness before they

were led into idolatry. When licentious desires rule the heart, other sins quickly follow.

The most terrible thing is the sexual sin. It opens a door to evil spirits. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 2: 16-19; 5: 3-15, fornication or adultery lead certainly to death, nowhere else!. Many have fallen into this specific sin and seem not to be able to get rid of that weakness. Dear brethren, only in the Name and Blood of our risen Savior Jesus, is there entire victory, to break the chain that bind the souls.

The same fearless, warlike disposition manifested in the out-breaking sins committed by Simeon, was in the life of Judith used for the protection of God's people.

It is uncertain whether the book in the Apocrypha that bears her name is a history or a historic romance, but from the record there given, Judith will always remain one of the prominent figures among the deliverers of her nation. She, like Jael, slew the leader of the enemies' army.¹⁴ She nerved herself for her tremendous exploit by a prayer to the "Lord God of my father

to the mind of Joseph as he stood before his brethren and commanded that Simeon be bound as hostage before his eyes of the very men who had once seen him bind Joseph with intent to murder him.¹⁷

It may be thought strange by some that the name of a man, who was famous only for murder and sin, should be inscribed on one of the gates of the Holy City of God, and that one twelfth of the 144,000 will enter the city of God bearing the name of that man. But the fact that one has committed sin will never exclude him from the Kingdom of God. All have sinned. It is unconfessed sin that bars any one from receiving eternal life.

Jesus is the only one born of woman that is sinless. He alone of all the family of Adam will throughout eternity have an uncovered life record. No part of His record will be covered. But our life record, marred by sin, will be covered by Christ's righteousness. The blood of Christ can cleanse from sin of the deepest dye, and even murderers can enter heaven; not as murderers, but as pardoned sinners; for "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."¹⁸

Gathered out the sin and wickedness of the last generation, there will be 12,000 redeemed ones, who through the virtue of Jesus' blood and in His Powerful name received freedom and will be grafted in the tribe of Simeon, and Throughout eternity will represent that tribe on the new earth.

Next issue we will see Simeon's brother: Levi. Till next.

In His Steps *Oscar Oviedo*

¹ Gen. 34

² Gen. 34: 31

³ Gen. 34: 26

⁴ PP 205.1

⁵ Eph. 6: 12

⁶ Gen. 49: 5-7.

⁷ 1Chron. 4: 27, 39, 42.

⁸ Prov. 7:26.

⁹ Neh. 13: 26.

¹⁰ Matt. 5:8.

¹¹ Prov. 16: 32.

¹² Prov. 25: 28.

¹³ 2 Chron. 15: 9; 34: 6.

¹⁴ Judges 4: 21; Judith 13: 6-9.

¹⁵ Judith 9:2.

¹⁶ Gen. 42: 19-24.

¹⁷ Gen 42: 19-24.

¹⁸ Isa. 1:18.



"Blessed are the pure of heart."¹⁰ He that ruleth his spirit is greater than he that taketh a city¹¹; but "he that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."¹²

Some suppose that the omission of Simeon's name in the blessing of Moses was due to Moses' displeasure at the behavior of the tribe at Shittim.

Little is said of the position taken by his tribe when the kingdom was divided; but there are two references that would seem to indicate that their sympathy was with the kingdom of Israel.¹³

Simeon;"¹⁵ also in her prayer she alluded to the massacre at Shechem.¹⁶

The history of Judith, who, like Esther, risked her life for the deliverance of her people, is in pleasing contrast to the record of the wicked course pursued by Simeon and his descendants.

In the Targum Pseudo-Jonathan, it is Simeon and Levi who plot to destroy young Joseph; and Simeon bound Joseph before he was lowered into the well at Dothan. This was only about two years after the same men had planned and executed the murder of the men of Shechem. Memory must have brought all these events very vividly



BELIZE BIBLE SALE



BELIZE EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS



BELIZE EVANGELISTIC TEAM

“Thus CHRIST gave His disciples their com-
mission, HE made full provision for the prosecution
of the work, and took upon Himself the respon-
sibility for its success. So long as they obeyed
His word, and worked in connection with HIM,
they could not fail. GO ... GO ... Know
that My PRESENCE will be there. Labor in
faith & confidence for ... Hebrews 13:5 ”

DA



This world is full of trouble, unrest, wars, and terrorism. Even professed Christians are worried about the future. Jesus said, "Men's hearts are failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:26.

There is no peace in the heart of the people. The troubled, worried look on the faces show the inner restlessness, and all the human inventions are not able to cure it.

Man has invented wonderful things, machines, computers, airplanes and many great time saving equipment, but he has not invented how to bring peace into the world. He knows how to fight wars, how to kill and destroy only.

The greatest problem in our world that destroys the peace in the human beings is the psychological problems. The doctors and scientists have not found a solution to it.

People suffer depressions, sadness, loneliness, bitterness, and anger to the point that they see suicide as the only solution to their misery.

This all began with Satan. He tried to find a better way to live than God's way. But instead of finding peace and happiness, he created a monster, a psychological monster. Satan and his angels are the most restless and unhappy beings. Constantly they are arguing, fighting and disagreeing amongst themselves. And this problem they have passed on to the human race.

Children from an early age learn to fight and to complain. And this miserable restless way of living they continue to the end of their lives.

People think that pleasure and entertainment will remedy their misery. But it is only for a moment. Narcotic drugs and alcohol make them to forget their unhappiness for a moment, but when their effect is gone, their misery still remains.

"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Isa. 57:20,21.

This explains clearly why the worldly people have no peace. It simply is not possible to have inner peace in them while they are practicing and living in sin.

The promise of Jesus to His followers is, "My peace I give unto you." This shows that man cannot generate or make peace; it is a gift of God to His children.

But then if Jesus promised to give His peace to us, why are there restless professors of religion? Why do Christians complain and be miserable while the peace that passes understanding is offered to them?

Why did the disciples of Jesus become fearful in the storm, while Jesus was

peacefully sleeping? Why did they become angry when the Samaritans did not allow them to stay in their village? All because they did not yet possess the peace of Jesus. This gift of God was not yet granted to them.

Millions of professed Christians spend time and money for their religion and gain nothing in return. They have no peace in their soul, no joy nor happiness, and the worst of all, they have no hope of eternal life.

Jesus said, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? (for after all these things do the gentiles seek:) for your

heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." Matt. 6:31,32.

These are the major worries that people have; lack of food, drink, and clothing cause a restless heart. People have fears of unemployment, sickness, Sunday laws, time of trouble and many other troubles. But a true Christian is not affected by them. To them religion is peace, joy and quiet resting in Jesus, regardless of outside conditions.

How to Gain Peace?

The first lesson we need to learn is that peace comes only from God. "Now the

Lord of Peace Himself give you peace by all means." 2 Thess. 3:16.

The second lesson is that we must fulfill the conditions for receiving the peace. "O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Isa.. 48:18.

"Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Ps. 119:165.

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever." Isa. 32:17.

It was sin that took away the peace from Adam and Eve. It was sin that caused David to have a troubled heart. Judas lost the peace in his heart and he could not continue to live with it.

"The grace of Christ received into the heart, subdues enmity; it allays strife and fills the soul with love. He who is at peace with God and his fellow men cannot be made miserable. Envy will not be in his heart; evil surmisings will find no room there; hatred cannot exist. The heart that is in harmony with God is a partaker of the peace of heaven and will diffuse its blessed influence on all around." M.B. p. 28.

Only a person who has the peace of heaven in his heart can in turn become a peacemaker to spread this heavenly influence all around. Do not spend even one more day in worry and anxiety. Cast all your care upon Christ and your soul will be filled with sweet peace of heaven. May the Lord help us all to have this peace is my wish and prayer.

AMEN
Timo Martin

An Appeal to the Youth

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

1 Tim 4:12

Dear youth:

This year we are trying to add a youth section to the Canadian Reformation Messenger that will be divided into the four following categories:

1) Life, it's biological side. This will include the different stages and growth of the human being and will of course fall under the heading that deals with the physical part of our being.

2) Personal experiences and testimonies to encourage the rest of the youth around the world. This section will fall under the social side of our being.

3) Different thoughts and ideas that you would like to express about life. This section will be related to our mind and the way the human brain works.

4) Specific youth related subjects. This final section will discuss our spiritual side and ways in which we may improve our character to become more Christ-like.

This is an appeal to all the youth to write articles or to share their own personal experiences, as well as adding suggestions about topics that you would like to see discussed in more detail.

In Him we trust,

Reyna Conde

Appetite & Passion



Introduction - Perfect Character

“The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, expressed in character, is an exaltation above everything that is esteemed in earth or in heaven. It is the very highest education. It is the key that opens the portals of the heavenly city.” 6T 97.1

The character of Christ, the knowledge of this character is the key that opens the portals of the heavenly city. To have this key we need to study the character of Christ.

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” Hebrews 5:7-9

Christ in human flesh, in the days of His flesh suffered. When we suffer we don't always like it, we don't appreciate suffering, nevertheless it is character building. The same with Christ He suffered and it was character building. And through suffering Christ developed a perfect character, 'being made perfect.' Now about this Christ was the author, He wrote the book. He showed us how to attain a perfect character and thus open the portals of the heavenly city.

Propensities to be Removed

But to start with we do not have a perfect character. We all have character defects. We have things in our character that need to be removed. How did they get there in our character?

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” James 1:14,15

When we give in to the lusts of our own flesh we give in more readily the next time. And once we've given in many times over there develops in us an inclination to go and do sins. We want to go and do sins because we've made it a habit. It becomes part of our character. Having this inclination or corruption inclines us to sin. To remove this from our character requires something else outside of ourselves.

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:4

To escape the corruptions and inclinations of sin in our character we need to become partakers of the divine nature.

“We must realize that through belief in Him [Christ] it is our privilege to be partakers of the divine nature, and so escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. Then we are cleansed from all sin, all defects of character. We need not retain one sinful propensity.” 7BC 943.1

It says, “We need not retain one sinful propensity.” Where? In our character. A propensity is an inclination or tendency. An inclination to go and do sins. We need not retain one of these inclinations or tendencies in our character.

“As we partake of the divine nature, hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are cut away from the character, and we are made a living power for good.” 7BC 943.2

Each one of us has these sinful tendencies. Sinful inclinations which belong to our character where we're inclined to go and do sins because we like them. These inclinations need to be removed or as it says, 'cut away from our character.' This is what the religion of Christ is all about. Removing character defects, removing those sinful propensities, where we're inclined to go and do sins. And when these inclinations to go and do sins are removed from our character, then we would have a perfect character like Christ, wouldn't we? We would have no evil propensities right? We would be sanctified. With no inclination to go and do sins.

Propensities to be Controlled

So when we reach that stage, does that mean we have no more inclinations at all? Is that what it means? When we are sanctified does it mean we have no more propensities at all anywhere in us? Is that what it means?

“The greatest triumph given us by the religion of Christ is control over ourselves. Our natural propensities must be controlled [not removed, controlled], or we can never overcome as Christ overcame.” 4T 235.1

So here's some propensities--natural propensities. It says our natural

propensities must be controlled. You see there are propensities to be controlled and there are propensities to be removed. Inclinations to be controlled and inclinations to be removed. We need to realise the difference between the two. There is a distinction to be made. Propensities to be removed are character defects. They are inclinations, which belong to our character. They have appeared in our character. Propensities to be controlled are in our flesh. These are inclinations, which belong to our flesh. We have them anyway. You'll begin to see that as we go along

Passions and Appetites

Propensities to be controlled what are they like? What do they do to us? We want to know so we can overcome them like Christ overcame them. So what are they like? Let's read from further up in the same paragraph to get the whole picture.

"It is the grace of God that you need in order that your thoughts may be disciplined to flow in the right channel, that the words you utter may be right words, and that your passions and appetites may be subject to the control of reason, and the tongue be bridled [or controlled] against levity and unhallowed censure and faultfinding. "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle [or control] the whole body." The greatest triumph given us by the religion of Christ is control over ourselves. Our natural propensities must be controlled, or we can never overcome as Christ overcame." 4T 235.1

Did you see what the natural propensities to be controlled were? It says your tongue, your thoughts, your passions, and your appetites, that these may be subject to control, the control of sanctified reason. Passions and appetites are natural propensities that need to be controlled. If we are going to overcome as Christ overcame we need to control our passions and

appetites. This is what Christ did. He controlled the passions and appetites of the flesh. But some say you are wrong. That Christ did not possess passions like us.

"He [Christ] was a mighty petitioner [with strong crying and tears], not possessing the passions of our human, fallen natures, but compassed with like infirmities, tempted in all points even as we are." 2T 509.0

Sure enough there it says that Christ did not possess the passions of our human, fallen natures. But wait a minute there is another statement saying that Christ did have all the passion of humanity.

"Though He [Christ] had all the strength of passion of humanity, never did He yield to temptation to do one single act which was not pure and elevating and ennobling." HP 155.7

These two statements seem to be totally contradictory. One is saying that Christ did not possess the passions of humanity the other says He did have all the passion of humanity. How can we explain this? One says one thing while the other appears to say the opposite. Is one wrong? Can we throw out one and uphold the other? No, we can't. There must be harmony found between them. And it can be found in this way. Read carefully. Christ had all the strength of passion of humanity in His flesh. Yet He did not allow any one of these passions ever to appear in His character or mind. Therefore He did not possess the passions of our fallen natures. They were not His. They were only in His flesh. Though He had them they never appeared. Christ controlled the passions of the flesh so they never became His. They were not part of Him. Not part of His character.

If we have a temper, an inclination to get angry and lose control and do that. This is a passion that has appeared in our character. It's one of those that need to be removed from our character. But when it's removed that doesn't mean

that it's not still in your flesh. You are just controlling it by the power and grace of God. It is no longer yours. It's only in the flesh. Christ had the same in His flesh. But by the power of God He never allowed it to surface. This is how Christ could be tempted in all points as we are yet without sin. He never let any of those passions appear. They never became His. They were in fact agony to His soul. He suffered being tempted. And in so doing He developed a perfect character, being made perfect.

"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." James 3:2

The same is a perfect man; that is, he has a perfect character. Able to bridle or control the whole body. Christ wrote the book on how to do this. He is the author. He showed us how to have perfect control of the passions and appetites of our body. Christ was that perfect man able to bridle the whole body. In that text in James that's what Christ was, He was that perfect man.

The question we asked before can now be answered. If all the inclinations to sin are removed from our character thus, giving us a perfect character, does that then mean we have no inclinations at all? No it doesn't. Because the perfect man has inclinations which he must control in his body. That is what this text in James says. This is what we are called upon to do - to control the passions and appetites of our own body so they do not become part of our character.

Temperance

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under

my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Here Paul is talking about athletes who are temperate. They are very careful about what they eat and drink because they want to have perfect physical endurance. They want to win the race, obtain a corruptible crown, and win the gold medal. But the race we are running is the race of eternal life. It's a much higher race with a prize that will never diminish for all of eternity. How much more temperate should we be? The race of eternal life requires temperance to keep the body under control. That's what Apostle Paul did, he says "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection," least he should be a castaway. Paul kept his body under control. He brought it into subjection. He controlled the natural propensities -- the inclinations of the flesh. See how he did it. Paul gained the mastery over his body by being temperate. Being temperate means having self-restraint in all things. Including self-restraint in eating and drinking. If we want salvation this is required of us also.

“As our first parents lost Eden through the indulgence of appetite, our only hope of regaining Eden is through the firm denial of appetite and passion. Abstemiousness in diet, and control of all the passions, will preserve the intellect and give mental and moral vigour, enabling men to bring all their propensities under the control of the higher powers, and to discern between right and wrong, the sacred and the common.” CD 59.1

This is a key statement. It tells us how we are to gain control of our propensities; that is, through the firm denial of appetite and passion.

Eating of Flesh

Before we go on any further I want to bring an example into our study

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.” Hebrews 11: 8,9

Where was the land of promise in which Abraham sojourned? It was the land of Canaan.

“For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. . . These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. . . But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” Hebrews 11:10,13,14,16

The promised land was the land of Canaan but here it speaks of a heavenly land. It speaks of a heavenly Canaan. Earthly Canaan was in fact a type. It is a type of the final promised land, that is, heavenly Canaan. Also the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and their entrance into the earthly promised land, is a type of the final deliverance of God's people and their entrance into heavenly Canaan. That's where we are going, to heavenly Canaan. God's people in the last days are also Israel. They are called "Israel" in Revelation.

“And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.” Revelation 7:4

For modern Israel in these last days the Bible sets before us an example of the Israel of old and what happened to them prior to entering the promised land.

“But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.”

1 Corinthians 10:5,6

The children of Israel lusted. They gave in to their appetites and passions in the wilderness. They gave in to their sensual desires.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” 1 Corinthians 10:11

The ends of the world are come upon us. So this is written for our admonition. It's written for us. The example of Israel of old is for modern Israel in the last days. Now come and read how Israel of old lusted and gave in to their passions.

“And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.” Exodus 16: 3,4

The Israelites said, “we're going to starve here in the wilderness.” They said, “we need the flesh pots of Egypt to live.” But God had something else in mind to give them. He gave them something else to bring them off the diet of animal flesh. He gave them manna to eat there in the wilderness.

For modern Israel God did something similar. He didn't give us manna to eat but he gave us the light of the health message. The manna represents

the health message. This is what God had in mind for us to bring us off the diet of animal flesh. He gave us the health message.

But as we know Israel of old rebelled. They craved after flesh. They desired to eat the flesh of animals. They said, “who’s going to give us animal flesh to eat.”

“And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.” Numbers 11:4-6

The children of Israel were sick of the diet that God had given them. God had withdrawn the diet of animal flesh from them because he knew it was not best for them. He gave them manna instead. But they lusted after animal flesh. They said, “give us flesh to eat.” We want to fulfil our passions.

Has modern Israel done the same as this? Has it been said, “our souls are dried away because there is nothing at all, besides this health message? All we have to eat in the health message is this bland food. We want animal flesh to satisfy our cravings. We want to fulfil our passions. Give us fish and chicken.”

“And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness. And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.” Psalms 78:17,18

They asked meat for their lusts. They wanted to satisfy their appetites and fulfil those lusts. But it was a sin. They sinned in doing this.

“Because they believed not in God, and

trusted not in his salvation: Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels’ food: he sent them meat to the full. He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind. He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea: And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations. So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire; They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat was yet in their mouths, The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel. For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.” Psalm 78:22-32

It was a sin to go back to flesh eating. Since they knew better and God had provided something better. They had Manna to the full. It was God’s intention to bring them off the diet of animal flesh. God’s intention is the same for us. To get us off the diet of animal flesh. That’s why He has rained down upon us the health message. He has given us light to the full and food to the full. There are plenty of substitute foods in the health message.

“The same God who gave the children of Israel manna from heaven lives and reigns. He will give skill and understanding in the preparation of health foods. He will guide His people in the preparation of wholesome food.” CD 268.1

If we go back to the diet of animal flesh, after God has provided something better and having all the light of heaven blazing upon us, don’t we repeat the sin of Israel and provoke God? The following statement was written more than 100 years ago. We should have learnt it by now.

1890 - “Again and again I have been shown that God is trying to lead us back, step by step, to His original design--that man should subsist upon the natural products of the earth. Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavour to work steadily toward it.” CH 450.1

Have we reached that goal yet? For those new to the message there is some room for growth. But for long established Sabbath keepers who are eating more and more flesh we begin to wonder when they propose to arrive at this goal. Are they waiting for the coming of the Lord? Or are they saying in their hearts, “My lord delayeth his coming so I can eat some more flesh?” How do we propose to enter heavenly Canaan if we do what Israel of old did? They never entered Canaan. They were overthrown in the wilderness. They never overcame their appetites. Despite the fact of having the health message, manna - they refused to practice temperance. They turned back to meat eating. They had the very food to overcome -- angel food. What more did they want?

Propensities Increased

Going back to the subject at hand. How to gain control of our propensities, our inclinations. Remember it requires the firm denial of appetite and passion to do this.

“Flesh food . . . is harmful. Its naturally stimulating effect should be a sufficient argument against its use; and the almost universally diseased condition of animals makes it doubly objectionable. It tends to irritate the nerves and to excite the passions, thus giving the balance of power to the lower propensities.” CD 397.1

Here is something that actually increases the passions. The eating of animal flesh actually gives strength to the lower propensities.

Meanwhile in the religion of Christ we're trying to gain control of our propensities. So why would we want to partake of something which actually increases the lower propensities? Do we want to make it harder to control ourselves than it already is? Do we want to defeat ourselves in the religion of Christ? Obviously not, therefore animal flesh is not the food for God's people in these last days, for we are preparing a character for heaven.

1905 - "Is it not time that all should aim to dispense with flesh foods? How can those who are seeking to become pure, refined and holy, that they may have the companionship of heavenly angels, continue to use as food anything that has so harmful an effect on soul and body? How can they take the life of God's creatures that they may consume the flesh as a luxury?" TSDF 73 .7

When Sabbath keepers have all the light and continue eating flesh food it makes us wonder if they know what it means to control the propensities. Do they really know the nature of Christ and what it means to control the propensities?

Conclusion - Jesus in the Wilderness

Remember what Jesus did for us. Think of it. Think of that long fast that Jesus endured in the wilderness of temptation. He endured it to break the power of appetite and passion over us. That's why He did it, He did it for our sakes.

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Matthew 4: 1-3

Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights without food. He was fainting with hunger, craving for food, suffering the gnawing pangs of hunger. On top of that Satan came

tempting Him saying to Him, "if you are the Son of God work a miracle to feed yourself." In all of this suffering Christ denied His appetite. He controlled the appetite. He suffered for our sakes.

"For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:18

Jesus knows exactly how our flesh feels when we are tempted by appetite and passion. He is able to succour us when we are tempted because He knows exactly the struggles we have



with ourselves in trying to control the inclinations of our own flesh. When we think of the terrible sufferings of Christ in the wilderness and how tormented He was in the wilderness, we are aghast at those who profess Christ and yet indulge perverted appetites.

"The great end for which Christ endured that long fast in the wilderness was to teach us the necessity of self-denial and temperance." 3T 488.2

Christ endured this to teach us self-denial. It's through the firm denial

of appetite we gain control of our propensities. Christ taught us this in the wilderness. What a contrast between Christ and the children of Israel who were overthrown in the wilderness.

"This work should commence at our tables and should be strictly carried out in all the concerns of life. The Redeemer of the world came from heaven to help man in his weakness, that, in the power which Jesus came to bring him, he might become strong to overcome appetite and passion, and might be victor on every point." 3T 488.2

On how many points? On every point of appetite and passion. Jesus came to give us strength on every point. Out there in the world they have no hope of controlling their appetites and passions. No hope at all. None whatsoever. Neither can we control ourselves without Christ strengthening us. Therefore if we are failing to overcome our hasty tempers and our sharp words let us be driven to Christ all the more. Christ came from heaven to help man in his weakness.

"Every one of us may know that there is a power working with our efforts to overcome. Why will not men lay hold upon the help that has been provided, that they may become elevated and ennobled? Why do they degrade themselves by the indulgence of perverted appetite? Why do they not rise in the strength of Jesus, and be victorious in his name? The very feeblest prayer that we can offer, Jesus will hear. He pities the weakness of every soul. Help for every one has been laid upon Him who is mighty to save. I point you to Jesus Christ, the sinner's Saviour, who alone can give you power to overcome on every point." CTBH 148.4

AMEN

***Glendon Higgins
Perth Australia***

Like The Most High

PART 1

Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God, and “God is love.” 1 John 4:16.¹ His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been, it ever will be.² Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.³ Let not finite man attempt to interpret Him. Let none indulge in speculation regarding His nature. Here silence is eloquence.⁴

Look at the wonderful and beautiful things of nature.⁵ Nature testifies that One infinite in power, great in goodness, mercy and love, created the earth and filled it with life and gladness.⁶ Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.⁷ Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord.⁸

God’s law is the transcript of His character.⁹ The law of God is as holy as He is holy, as perfect as He is perfect.¹⁰ The law of God is an expression of His nature; it is an embodiment of the great principle of love and hence is the foundation of His government in heaven and earth.¹¹ Its two great principles are love to God and love to man.¹²

Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it.¹³ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.¹⁴ It is a sin to be sick; for all sickness is the result of transgression.¹⁵ Transgression of physical law is transgression of the moral law; for God is as truly the author of physical laws as He is the author of the moral law.¹⁶ God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency.¹⁷ But no provision had been made to save

(angels) who should venture to transgress His law.¹⁸

Sin originated in him who, next to Christ had been honoured of God and was highest in power and glory among the inhabitants in heaven.¹⁹ Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven.²⁰ For (he) hast said in (his) heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the



congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.²¹

From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan’s purpose to overthrow the law of God.²² In attacking the law he aimed to overthrow the authority of its Author.²³ When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of.²⁴

God’s government included not only the inhabitants of heaven, but all the worlds that He had created; and Satan

thought that if he could carry the angels of heaven with him in rebellion, he could carry also the other worlds.²⁵ He knew that he was honoured by the angels.²⁶ Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator.²⁷ His high position, in such close connection with the divine administration, gave greater force to his representation...²⁸ He had determined to claim the honour which should have been given him, and take command of all who would become his followers; and he promised those who would enter his ranks a new and better government, under which all would enjoy freedom.²⁹

And there was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.³⁰ Not a taint of rebellion was left in heaven. All was again peaceful and harmonious as before.³¹ All is harmony, peace, and love in heaven. No discord, no strife, no censuring, no unloving words, no clouded brows, no jars there; and no one will be introduced there who possesses any of these elements so destructive to peace and happiness.³² All is health, happiness, and joy.³³

AMEN.

Chester Cosby Detroit

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ¹ MB 18 | ¹⁸¹ SP 22 |
| ² PP 33 | ¹⁹ PP 35 |
| ³ Hebrews 13:8 | ²⁰ DA 22 |
| ⁴ 8T 279 | ²¹ Isaiah 14:13,14 |
| ⁵ SC 9 | ²² GC 582 |
| ⁶ 8T 256 | ²³ PP 69 |
| ⁷ Psalms 116:5 | ²⁴ MB 104 |
| ⁸ Psalms 107:43 | ²⁵ GC 497 |
| ⁹ COL 305 | ²⁶¹ SP 18 |
| ¹⁰ MB 54 | ²⁷ DA 21, 22 |
| ¹¹ SC 60 | ²⁸ GC 497 |
| ¹² GC 463 | ²⁹ PP 40 |
| ¹³ GC 493 | ³⁰ Revelation 12:7,8 |
| ¹⁴ 1 John 3:4 | ³¹¹ SP 23 |
| ¹⁵ HR Aug 1866 | ³²¹ T 706 |
| ¹⁶ COL 347 | ³³² T 81 |
| ¹⁷ DA 22 | |



LAY WORKERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE HARVEST

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” Prov.11:30.

“A neglected work remains to be done, and we are to repent of our indifference toward this work, and pray for spiritual discernment to see and to sense, as we should, its urgent needs. To us has been entrusted enlightening, saving truth. All about us are multitudes who have never yet been enlightened. To these we must proclaim the lifesaving truths of the third angel’s message. We are to hunt for souls, laboring with all diligence to communicate to others that which is for their eternal welfare.

“The unwarned multitudes are fast becoming the sport of the evil one. Satan is leading them into many forms of folly and self-pleasing. Many are seeking for that which is novel and startling; their minds are far from God and the truths of His Word. At this time, when the enemy is working as never before to engross the minds of men and women, and turn them from the truth, we should be laboring with increasing activity in the highways and also in the byways. Diligently, interestedly, we are to proclaim the last message of mercy in the cities--the highways--and the work is not to end there, but is to extend into the surrounding settlements and in the country districts--into the byways and the hedges.

“All classes are to be reached. As we labor, we shall meet with various nationalities. None are to be passed by, unwarned. The Lord Jesus was the gift of God to the entire world--not to the higher classes alone, and not to any one nationality, to the exclusion of others. His saving grace encircles the whole world. Whosoever will may drink of

the water of life freely. “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Rom. 10:13). But there is earnest work to be done. The gospel invitation is to be given in every place, for “how... shall they call on him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (verse 14).

“The Lord desires His people to arise, and do their appointed work. The responsibility rests not upon the ministry alone. The lay members of the church are to share the burdens of soul saving... The Lord now calls upon those who have a knowledge of the truth for this time, to arouse from their lethargy, and become true missionaries in His service. Time is short, and the Lord’s work must be done without further delay.” Letter 4, Feb. 15, 1911 to W.C. White.

“Paul set an example against the sentiment, then gaining influence in the church, that the gospel could be proclaimed successfully only by those who were wholly freed from the necessity of physical toil. He illustrated in a practical way what might be done by consecrated laymen in many places where the people were unacquainted with the truths of the gospel. His course inspired many humble toilers with a desire to do what they could to advance the cause of God, while at the same time they supported themselves in daily labor. Aquila and Priscilla were not called to give their whole time to the ministry of the gospel; yet these humble laborers were used by God to show Apollos the way of truth more perfectly. The Lord employs various instrumentalities for the accomplishment of His purpose; and while some with special talents are chosen to devote all their energies to the work of teaching

and preaching the gospel, many others, upon whom human hands have never been laid in ordination, are called to act an important part in soul-saving.” AA p. 355.

“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a

revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted the love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out... Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world, there we may be sure that God’s blessing is not bestowed... A wrong conception of the character, the perpetuity, and the obligation of the divine law has led to errors in relation to conversion and sanctification, and has resulted in lowering the standard of piety in the church. Here is to be found the secret of the lack of the Spirit and power of God in the revivals of our time.” GC p. 464-465

“All who enter the army are not to be generals, captains, sergeants, or even corporals. All have not the care and responsibility of leaders. There is hard work of other kinds to be done. Some must dig trenches and build fortifications; some are to stand as sentinels, some to carry messages. While there are but few officers, it requires many soldiers to form the rank and file of the army; yet its success depends upon the fidelity of every soldier. One man’s cowardice or

treachery may bring disaster upon the entire army.

“There is earnest work to be done by us individually if we would fight the good fight of faith. Eternal interests are at stake. We must put on the whole armor of righteousness, we must resist the devil, and we have the sure promise that he will be put to flight.” Test. Vol. 5, p. 394-395.

“The leaders in God’s cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans to advance moves all along the line. In their planning they are to give special study to the work that can be done by the laity for the friends and neighbors. The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers...” GW p. 351-352.

“There will be laymen who will move into towns and cities, and into apparently out-of-the-way places, that they may let the light which God has given them, shine forth to others. Some whom they meet will not appear to be the most promising subjects, but the only question should be, Will they come into harmony with Christ? Will they become partakers of His spirit, so that their influence, in precept and example, will present the attractions of the Author of truth and righteousness? In places where the truth is not known, brethren who are adapted to the work, might hire a hall, or some other suitable place to assemble, and gather together all who will come. Then let them instruct the people in the truth. They

need not sermonize, but take the Bible, and let God speak directly out of His word. If there is only a small number present, they can read a “Thus saith the Lord,” without a great parade or excitement; just read and explain the simple gospel truth, and sing and pray with them.” Rev. & Her. Sept. 29, 1891.

“If our people will act upon the light that is given in these few words of instruction, we shall surely see of the salvation of God. Wonderful revivals will follow. Sinners will be converted, and many souls will be added to the church.” Test. Treas. vol. 3, p. 250.

“Our church members should feel a deep interest in home and foreign missions. Great blessings will come to them as they make self-sacrificing efforts to plant the standard of truth in new territory. The money invested in this work will bring rich returns. New converts, rejoicing in the light received from the word, will in their turn give of their means to carry the light of truth to others.” Test. vol. 9, p. 49.

In order to accomplish this work successfully, materials have been provided for it; books about health and temperance, and instruction in regards to the organization and how to conduct health classes and how to care for the sick in the house. All who begin this work must seek counsel and help from the church leaders.

Brothers and sisters in all the world, we are living in the last days of the time of mercy,

our High Priest is about to finish His work, but before this we must receive the latter rain which will be poured out very soon in order to make the last call to repentance like Jonah did in Ninevah. If you and I will not do it then the Lord will finish His work through others.

Today we must accept this calling and use every opportunity that we have and put our hands into lay ministry work. It does not matter what work you do or what profession you have. God will give us enough wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit that we may be transformed into useful servants.

Recently I have visited Bolivia with Brothers Uldarico Alejos and Alfonso Reto in order to help reorganize the Bolivian Union. We saw more than 40 youth responding to the call to work as lay canvassers and as professional voluntary workers. They have the desire to unite in the proclamation of the third angels message.

We are to arouse our churches in all the world. “The harvest is great but the labourers are few.” The Lord is touching the hearts of the sincere members and many in the poorer countries respond to the call to sow the seed of the “PRESENT TRUTH”.

Dear reader, may the Lord help that you also respond to the divine call, “ARISE, SHINE; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.”

May the Lord help us in this.
AMEN.

*Your brother in
Christ,
Guillermo
Gamallo*



OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

PART 1

When God created man, He made him a social being. In the beginning He saw that man was alone, while all the animals had a companion so He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Gen. 2:18. And so God created Eve to be a help meet for Adam. Adam appreciated the companionship of his wife so much that he was willing to give up his eternal life for her. He joined in her sin and therefore shared in her fate. While we acknowledge the fact that Adam went one step too far, we can get an understanding of how far someone will go in their love and friendship with another human being.

Everyone likes to have friends. No one is happy being isolated from human companionship. Even though Jesus is to be our best friend, it is true that we all desire the friendship of our fellow human beings. However sometimes our earthly friends disappoint us as Jesus' friends did in the Garden of Gethsemane when He needed their comfort the most. Maybe they are too busy when we need help, or they just don't understand what we are going through, therefore, the Bible encourages us to make Jesus our best friend. Not everyone has a correct understanding of what it means to be a friend to Jesus. It is not always that easy because He is a friend that we do not see, even though He is very close by. It takes an understanding of the Bible and faith in God to believe that He is with us and to see His daily working in our lives.

Even though we live on the one planet in rebellion in the universe, Jesus still loves us very much. Often we get busy in our lives and take little time with the Lord in prayer and study, but He never forgets us. It makes Him sad when we do forget Him. Friendship is a two-way street. In order to maintain a friendship, there must be communication from both sides. Both people are to make an effort to spend time with and communicate with the person with whom they desire to maintain a friendship. If we call on our best friend only at a time of crisis, He may begin to feel used. He is only needed to bail us out of trouble. If we had a human friend who did that to us, how would we feel? They have no need to spend time with us or to communicate with us, except when they are in trouble and have



great needs. Then they come to us asking for help. We would not feel very good about that friendship. That is what some people do with Jesus.

The most wonderful part about our friendship with Jesus is the fact that, no matter how much we've ignored Him in the past or how much we've refused to communicate, when we decide to make a U-turn in our lives and turn back to Him, He is there waiting for us. Unfortunately this offer will not stand forever, but today the door is still open. Soon, very soon, it will be closed. While the door is still open, Jesus is calling all His dear friends to come through the door and enjoy perfect fellowship with Him. He is willing to do great things for us.

In this first part of this topic we will look at the wonderful things God is willing to do for us, as His part in our friendship. He wants us to be saved, more earnestly than we often want to be. He is putting more effort into our salvation, than we are. He knows what it is like in heaven, the beauty, the peace, the joy, the happiness there and He wants to share all these good things with us.

While we are living on this earth, He is working earnestly to bring about circumstances for our salvation. He answers all prayers of the sincere, contrite believers.

WHAT IS MAN?

Some people wonder if God really cares about what is going on here on planet earth. Is God just sitting up there as a keen observer, observing the events unfolding on this earth and taking note of how the people who call themselves Christians are acting? Is He there just making notes and jotting down names of those who are worthy to be saved? Or is He a God close by as a true Friend, ready to help us in time of need?

David wondered about this in his life.

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Psalm 8:4. When one stands in the presence of God, we realize that we are but an insignificant dot in the universe. When you look up at the stars on a clear night, you can be in awe and wonder about the vastness of the universe. Reflecting on the infinity of space, makes us feel very small and insignificant. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." Isaiah 40:7. Our life is as the grass of the field.

What is man? Isaiah describes him as grass. What is the value of one small grass blade in a large meadow? It easily fades. Although seemingly insignificant, each blade plays an important role in the vast blanket of the green meadow. God cares for each grass blade as though it was the only one in the field. My grandmother often marvels at the beauty of God's creation and one time she told me how she is impressed that God carefully created each blade of grass in the field. How much more does He care for us?

This earth is one small corner in the universe that is rebelling against the God who created and redeemed men. Yet He is a God of love and that love has reached down to our planet and offered salvation, a life free from sin and sorrow. He paid the highest price possible for our salvation and today He is constantly working for our salvation. He will not stop until we have firmly decided one way or another, which way we will turn. "It is through the cross alone that we can estimate the worth of the human soul. Such is the value of men for whom Christ died that the Father is satisfied with the infinite price which He pays for the salvation of man in yielding up His own Son to die for their redemption. What wisdom, mercy, and love in its fullness are here manifested! The worth of man is known only by going to Calvary. In the mystery of the cross of Christ we can place an estimate upon man." 2T 634/5.

We all agree that God gave up everything when He gave up His Son to come to this

earth to die for our sins. We understand this fact, but what does it mean to us personally? Do we really understand this love deep down in our hearts? Or is this just a fact that we've heard repeated over and over again?

This amazing sacrifice was made in behalf of man about 2000 years ago, but what is He doing today? Did He do His duty on the cross and then return to heaven, leaving the rest of the work to be done by ourselves while He is up there observing our behaviour, deciding who is worthy of entrance into the heavenly kingdom when He returns in the near future? No, a true friend is a friend forever and Jesus is a true Friend, the best Friend we could ever have.

THE SIZE OF OUR FAITH

Our Friend really wants to help us but we have to believe that He can and will help us. Often though, the size of our faith will sometimes determine the outcome. There was in the time of Christ a woman who had an issue of blood. All she did was touch the hem of Jesus' garment and she was healed. Was it the touch that healed her? "Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour." Mat. 9:22. Her faith in God's ability to heal her, brought her healing.

At one time, Jesus talked about the mustard seed. "Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Mat. 17:19, 20 "Though the grain of mustard seed is so small, it contains that same mysterious life principle which produces growth in the loftiest tree. When the mustard seed is cast into the ground, the tiny germ lays hold of every element that God has provided for its nutriment, and it speedily develops a sturdy growth. If you have faith like this, you will lay hold upon God's word, and upon all the helpful agencies He has appointed. Thus your faith will strengthen, and will bring to your aid the power of heaven. The obstacles that are piled by Satan across your path, though apparently as insurmountable as the eternal

hills, shall disappear before the demand of faith. "Nothing shall be impossible unto you." DA 431. Our Friend has given us all the necessary provisions for our salvation. We simply need to claim His promises by faith.

We often only ask God to remove pebbles not mountains. Some people never ask for mountains to be removed. Their prayers are just general prayers – praying about things they know for sure will come to pass; things that would happen whether they pray or not.

God can, and will, do great things for us if we would only ask Him. He will do large things, as He is also willing to do small things. No request is too large or too small for our Friend.

GREAT THINGS HE'S DONE IN THE PAST

Let's look into history and see how close our Friend really is to mankind and to what lengths He is willing to go in order to help man. God is willing to do great things even for those that have weak faith. As long as there is some faith.

God has been very close to His people. Much closer than we often realize, but sometimes He makes Himself known very clearly like the time Jacob wrestled with Him. Many have entertained angels unawares. Sometimes the angels reveal themselves as they did to Abraham.

Abraham: Abraham actually talked with God on several occasions. "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God." James 2:23. Abraham dined with Jesus and two angels, although initially he thought he was only entertaining some weary travellers. When he heard that Sodom would be destroyed, he pleaded with God for mercy, hoping that God would not be angry with his pleading. "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake." Genesis 18:32. The Lord was willing to discuss the matter with Abraham to see his opinion and ideas.

Gideon: Gideon was chosen by God to lead the Israelite army against the massive Midianite army. His faith was not very

strong and this appeared to him as a daunting and a seemingly impossible task from a human standpoint. He wanted to make sure that this was positively a message from God. "Gideon desired some token that the one now addressing him was the Covenant Angel, who in time past had wrought for Israel. Angels of God, who communed with Abraham, had once tarried to share his hospitality; and Gideon now entreated the divine Messenger to remain as his guest. Hastening to his tent, he prepared from his scanty store a kid and unleavened cakes, which he brought forth and set before Him. But the Angel bade him, "Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth." Gideon did so, and then the sign which he had desired was given: with the staff in His hand, the Angel touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and a flame bursting from the rock consumed the sacrifice. Then the Angel vanished from his sight." PP 547

Gideon was given a very powerful sign that this was a messenger from God, however he still wanted further evidence that God was sending him. "Gideon dared not place himself at the head of the army without still further evidence that God had called him to his work, and that He would be with him. He prayed, "If Thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as Thou hast said, behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth besides, then shall I know that Thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as Thou hast said." In the morning the fleece was wet, while the ground was dry. But now a doubt arose, since wool naturally absorbs moisture when there is any in the air; the test might not be decisive. Hence he asked that the sign be reversed, pleading that his extreme caution might not displease the Lord. His request was granted." PP 548. Although Gideon's faith was weak, God was patient with him and was willing to give him the sign of the fleece he requested even if it meant another day of delay before he took action.

Joshua: Joshua was in the midst of a very important battle with the nation of Israel; unfortunately night was coming and Joshua feared that the enemy may escape in the darkness. So he asked God to move a mountain. He prayed that the sun would stand still and that night would not come. God answered this prayer. Joshua did not

waver, but had faith in God. The sun stood still and for how long? The Bible tells us for the space of about one day. Joshua 10: 12- 14. That is a very long time. I asked my daughter how she thought God went about making the day last so long. She replied that since Jesus is light He could have come down from heaven and just spread His light over that part of the world. But I repeated that the sun actually stood still. The sun was visible in the sky and it was not moving. One of several things had to have happened for this phenomena to occur. The first possibility was for the earth to stop spinning on its axis, which could have major negative consequences to the planet if it was not for a miracle of God. Or perhaps the earth kept spinning but that the sun moved accordingly to keep the sun in the sky at the same place. If this happened, then the entire solar system would have had to move – all the other planets also – in order to keep everything lined up in their proper orbit.

This solar system did not just appear as evolutionists try to tell us. It was not some big bang, and suddenly everything was in order. God carefully placed everything in its place. I am sure there are scientific formulas that He had to follow in order to make sure the planets carefully follow their orbit. Their mass, their size, the gasses and distance from the sun all needed to be carefully considered. Each planet is in its specific place and if one moves, it affects all the others. They all react on one another. So if the earth stopped moving for one day, all the other planets would need an alteration also in order to be kept in proper order.

All this God was willing to do in answer to Joshua's prayer. Why was this prayer so important? With this prayer God's people won a decisive victory. However, it was not only a military victory. but also a spiritual victory. It was made known to the entire world that there is a God in heaven who is fighting for the salvation of His people. He is doing all He can for our salvation.

Hezekiah: Again we see an alteration of our entire solar system in the days when King Hezekiah was sick unto death. This time the shadow of the sundial went backwards 10 degrees – two hours. Did the earth reverse its orbit for two hours? What happened out there in our solar system in order to give Hezekiah a sign that he would

be healed? Only God knows. Hezekiah was already promised healing, and this time a miracle was done simply for reassurance, as it was for Gideon. "Like Moses in the land of Midian, like Gideon in the presence of the heavenly messenger, like Elisha just before the ascension of his master, Hezekiah pleaded for some sign that the message was from heaven. "What shall be the sign," he inquired of the prophet, "that the Lord will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the Lord the third day?"

"This sign shalt thou have of the Lord," the prophet answered, "that the Lord will do the thing that He hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?" "It is a light thing," Hezekiah replied, "for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees."



"Only by the direct interposition of God could the shadow on the sundial be made to turn back ten degrees; and this was to be the sign to Hezekiah that the Lord had heard his prayer. Accordingly, "the prophet cried unto the Lord: and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz." Verses 8-11." PK 342. Hezekiah knew that this was a simple task for God. He said, "It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees." 2 Kings 20:10

There are many other stories in the Bible where God did amazing things such as the experience of Jonah. Jesus is truly a Friend close by who will do amazing things for our salvation.

WHAT GOD ALSO WILL DO, BUT HE DOES NOT LIKE TO DO.

Whom the Lord loves, he rebukes and chastens. "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Heb. 12:7,11. Too often we pray for victory over particular sins only to find that God answers our prayers by permitting circumstances that will develop strength on the points where we are weak.

We need to recognize God's answers to our prayers. A friend will tell us when we are doing something wrong and tries to help us to correct it.

There is a brother in the faith in New York City whose name is Johnny. Now Brother Johnny is one of the happiest men you will ever meet. Johnny lives in his own apartment and he almost never leaves his own bedroom. Why? Well Johnny is

paralysed from the neck down. He stays in his own bed and has a caretaker come and take care of his daily needs. He gets his food brought to him, he gets his baths taken – all in his bed. I am sure God would want Brother Johnny to be able to walk, run, jump and take care of himself, however if He had left Brother Johnny in good health, he would have lost his salvation. How did Brother Johnny end up in this condition? He was in the world and had been playing cards with some friends and drinking. One of the friends got angry with him and pulled out a gun and shot Johnny in the neck at point blank range. It should have killed Johnny, however the Lord wanted to give Johnny an opportunity to give his heart to Him. Brother Johnny did turn to the Lord and was baptized on a stretcher. Is Johnny bitter about his disability? No, he praises the Lord because he knew that without that gunshot he would have been lost in the world. At least now he can look forward to the Second Coming of Christ when he can walk and run again in the New Jerusalem.

“Jesus invites us to come to Him and He will lift the weights from our weary shoulders and place upon us His yoke, which is easy, and His burden, which is light. The path in which He invites us to walk would never have cost us a pang had we always walked in it. It is when we stray from the path of duty that the way becomes difficult and thorny. The sacrifices which we must make in following Christ are only so many steps to return to the path of light, of peace and happiness. Doubts and fears grow by indulgence, and the more they are indulged, the harder are they to overcome. It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.” 4T 558. Our Friend does not like to see us hurt or sad, but often that is what it takes to remind us that He is there and that He cares and we need His help more than we realize.

WHAT GOD CAN'T DO

There are times when friends may not be able to help or support us because we do not make our needs known to them. Or, perhaps, we do things that disturb our friends so they don't desire our company as much. To have friends we must show ourselves to be friendly.

There are also times when God cannot help us and deliver us from sin. “It is not

because He is unwilling to forgive that He turns from the transgressor; it is because the sinner refuses to make use of the abundant provisions of grace, that God is unable to deliver from sin. “The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.” Isaiah 59:1, 2. PK 323. He cannot help those who don't want His help.

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:” James 1:13. It is inconceivable that God would tempt us into sin. True friends would never lead us astray. Though God grants to every man the power of free choice, He must never be charged with the evil deeds that this freedom makes it possible for man to commit. Adam blamed God for creating Eve as his wife and Eve, in turn blamed God for placing the serpent in the Garden of Eden. We must never directly or even indirectly blame God for our enticements to sin that we face every day.

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;” Titus 1:2. All the promises that God has made in the Bible He will keep. Though men and women may fail God and disappoint their fellow men, Christians may be certain that God is always trustworthy. His abiding presence never forsakes men who put their trust in Him. True friends do not lie to one another.

“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.” 2 Tim. 2:13. Because of His very nature God cannot fail to fulfil His promises. He will be as faithful in punishing the wicked as He will be in rewarding the righteous. No sinner should think that God, in the last days, will change His mind about the destruction of the wicked. But to our friend this destruction is a strange work. He doesn't really want to do it, but it is man that is rejecting His offer of salvation.

“The Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.” 1 Sam 15 :29. “Man's repentance implies a change of mind. God's repentance implies a change of circumstances and relations. Man may change his relation to God by complying with the conditions upon

which he may be brought into the divine favour, or he may, by his own action, place himself outside the favouring condition; but the Lord is the same “yesterday, and today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8.” PP 630.

“I am the Lord, I change not;” Mal 3:6

IS IT OK TO ASK FOR A SIGN even if we've already been told that God will be with us and do great things for us?

Was God angry with Gideon? Was he angry with Hezekiah? No God more than gladly complied with their wishes due to their weak faith.

When Ahaz was king of Judah, he was a very wicked king, however the Lord was still merciful to him and in a time of distress, the Lord came to help him. Two powerful kings were coming against him. The king of Syria and the king of Ephraim. Even though he had been wicked the Lord sent the prophet Isaiah with a message of encouragement. The Lord would help him overthrow these kings if he would only serve the Lord. Jesus was still wanting to be his Friend even though he had been rebellious.

The Lord then actually asked for the king to ask a sign from Him. “Moreover the Lord spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.” Isa. 7:10,11. However Ahaz refused. He had a knowledge of God. His father, Jotham, was a worshipper of the Lord, as well as his grandfather, Uzziah. His son, Hezekiah, also served the Lord. So Ahaz had knowledge of the Lord, but he just refused to worship the Lord. He refused the Lord's offer for a sign. “But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord.” The Lord was not pleased with his rebellious attitude.

The Lord wanted to deliver the king in his distress, but the king refused the Lord's offer. The Lord responded by saying, “And he said, hear ye now O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?” Isa 7:12,13. God does not do these things just for the sake of doing something spectacular. King Herod asked Jesus to perform a miracle to prove His power. He refused. The Pharisees also demanded a sign. “Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.” Mat. 12:38. But Jesus refused. What is the difference when people are asking for

a sign as opposed to the request of Herod and the Pharisees? A miracle would never have convinced Herod and the Pharisees. God knows how weak we are and He pities us. Our faith is so weak sometimes that we need a sign from Him to let us know that yes, He really does mean what He has said. He is such a loving heavenly Father that understands our weaknesses and frailties and He loves to show us and prove to us that He really is there. He really does care. Some want a sign only to observe something spectacular – for show. That request will never be granted.

Both Abraham and Gideon were discussing with God and asked Him not to be angry with them for making one more request. He was not angry, but patiently listened to these requests. He is not an unreasonable God. He is also not arbitrary. He treats us as thinking human beings. He tell us, “Come now, and let us reason together...” Isa. 1:18.

TO WAVER

To have a friend we must trust him. How can we trust our best Friend, Jesus, if we don't believe what He says? Some only believe when they see Him answer their prayers. If they don't see the answer they specifically want, then they don't believe He has answered. Our friends may not do things exactly as we wish them to, however they are still our friends and desire what is best for us. “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” James 1:6 Prayer without faith is useless. “Faith is trusting God – believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good.” Ed 253. Genuine faith trusts God, and the believer will rest in the assurance that his needs will be quickly supplied as God alone sees best. However if man possesses inward doubt as to whether God will hear his petition, the answer to his prayer is seriously hampered. God seeks man's cooperation in making the answer possible, and cooperation would be lacking in some degree if there was mental uncertainty. We must never doubt our best Friend.

God promised Moses that He would fight for Israel. “The Lord your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you,” Deut. 1:30. Later in chapter 31:6, He spoke to Moses again telling him that He would be with them. Moses relayed the message

to Joshua in verse 8 as Joshua was soon to take over the leadership. After Moses' death Jesus came personally to tell Joshua once more that He would be with Israel all throughout their conquest. Only Joshua needed to be strong and of good courage. (Joshua 1:6,9). Joshua believed God's promise and mighty victories were won by Israel in their conquest of Canaan. Our problem today is that sometimes we don't ask for mountains to be moved.

GOD ASKS US TO PROVE HIM

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Mal. 3:10.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Rom. 12:2.

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” 1Thess. 5:21. Our best Friend is willing to allow you to prove His love; prove that He is really the true Friend He claims to be. If we comply with His requirements, He has a storehouse of blessings for us.

GOD CAN AND IS WILLING TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR AND THROUGH US.

He is such a great God, but He loves us each individually as though we were the only person on the face of this earth. He cares about the birds, the animals and even the insects. He tells us to learn from these animals – “Go to the ant thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise;” Pro. 6:6. The little ant is often wiser than many people.

May God help us each to exercise our faith in the power of God and to appreciate His friendship and recognize the marvellous things He is doing for our salvation. May we see His wondrous love for mankind and may our hearts melt in His love as we surrender our lives to His service.

AMEN
Wendy Eaton



KEEP IN THE LOVE OF GOD

Although I am an isolated member of God's church, I never feel lonely. I have my dear and beloved mother to fellowship with; cherished pets for daily companions; plants to nurture; birds to watch and feed, work to do for exercise (I carry my water in and out; stoke the wood fire in Moms house, etc). All of these activities keep a person from becoming self-centered, lonely or inactive.

Often I feel the loving influence of heavenly angels. Without them it would be a hard, dreary world. But I do also wish to express my gratitude and appreciation for the monthly Messenger. My heart is always warmed and enlivened by reading it. I feel my affection going out to my dear brothers and sisters whom I have never met, but whose aims, goals and experience is so much like mine.

Our God is a good God; He will be our Guide even unto death. Until death is swallowed up in victory.

I do covet your prayers as I seek to let my light shine in this dark part of the world. Many possibilities lie open before me, and there are many adversaries. We need the prayers and encouragements of one another.

Certainly to keep ourselves in the love of God we must press together. For a fire to burn there must be more than one stick of wood. When they burn down they must be raked together, shaken up and refueled.

God bless and keep all who love our Saviour Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

AMEN

Kathleen Ross
Alberta, Canada

EXODUS 20:24; LEVITICUS 3



PEACE OFFERING: A SWEET SAVOR

The whole world is seeking peace, desperately seeking peace. Nations are furiously fighting for it. Thousands of men are selling their souls for riches, hoping that riches and gain will bring them peace, happiness and security. But, there's no real peace... it's all in vain... except from the great Prince of Peace. Peace was never received as a reward, a reward of useless bloodshed. Peace was never received, also, as a reward for greed of the world.

What was the last legacy of the Saviour? It was a legacy He gave to the disciples. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives, I give unto you." Here we have a distinctive brand of peace, different from that of the world. They, the disciples, would panic at receiving a "world peace" such as this, at such an hour when death was so close. The gift of His peace would make His followers unafraid, as He was. The abiding peace of God in the heart is not obtained in pursuit of worldly fame, riches, or power.

The peace offering in the Levitical service, beautifully taught, in type and shadow, how to obtain this coveted peace. In fact, the whole work of Christ in relation to the believer's peace is here in type. How? And why is this important to understand for the children of God today? Christ (1) made peace, (Col. 1:20); (2) proclaimed peace, (Eph. 2:17); and (3) is our peace. (Eph. 2:14).

In Christ, God and the sinner meet in peace; God is propitiated (gain good will-appeased) and the sinner is reconciled; both then are alike satisfied with what Christ has done. But, all of this was at the cost of blood sacrifice and fire.

In ancient Jewish ritual, there were many sacrificial offerings in the Tabernacle services; named the law of burnt offerings. Many different creatures were acceptable for sacrifice: the bullock, or ox, the sheep, or lamb, the goat, the turtledove, and pigeon. Then, too, there were the sweet savor offerings; the meal offering, and the peace offering. The sweet savor offerings are so called because they typify Christ in His own perfection and in his affectionate devotion to the Father's will.

In many ways the peace offering was different from any other offering. How? Of no other offering, except the Passover offering were the people to eat of the flesh. Unlike the Passover, it was not confined to one day of the year, but could be celebrated any day in the year. The animals for peace offerings chosen from the flock were to be without blemish, sickness, or lameness. Why? No deformed or abnormal animal could rightly represent the Prince of Peace.

What did the peace offering represent? They were made in a token thanksgiving to confirm a vow or contract and as voluntary offerings. It was a peace

offering, in fact, with which Moses confirmed the old covenant with Israel (Ex. 24:5-8). The Israelites bravely said, "All the Lord said, we will do and be obedient" (v.7). Then the people were set apart, and sealed. Sacrifices were then offered to confirm this vow of loyalty.

In times of special rejoicing, we read often in the Old Testament of the celebration of the peace offering. When David brought the ark into Jerusalem, he offered "peace offerings", and we read in 1 Chron. 16:1-3... "he gave to every one of Israel, both man and woman a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh." The peace offering was associated with other offerings and whenever the people ate of the flesh it was the peace offering celebrated, except Passover.

How was the offering made? The individual who offered the peace offering put (laid) his hands on the head of the animal, and the killed it himself. Could you do such a thing... kill a helpless animal? It demonstrated vividly to the one making the peace offering sacrifice, how cruel and offensive was the nature of sin. After the animal was sacrificed, all the fat from the different organs of the body was removed and the priest then took this fat and burned it on the altar of "burnt offerings". The separation and burning of the fat typified the only way real peace could be obtained... complete elimination and destruction by fire.

Interestingly, not only was the fat given to the priest, but also the breast, the right shoulder, and the two cheeks of every offering. The separating and burning of the fat truly typified again the only way real peace could be obtained, namely by delivering all our sins to the rightful owner... the Prince of Peace, the blessed Saviour, who gave Himself for our sins. (Gal. 1:3,4). He bought them that He might destroy sin and give us peace. He was, or became the Chief Sinner... all the sins of the world were His. He drank of this most bitter cup!

All of this was beautifully typified by the action of the priest, who "served unto the example and shadow of heavenly things." (Heb. 8:5). How? In taking the fat from the hands of the one making the peace offering, and burning it upon the altar (Ps. 37:20); (Isa. 43:23,24). The ensuing smoke, and continuing smell hovering over the Israeli camp constantly, consumed much of the time and energies of the populace and weighed heavily on the economy, gathering wood, raising animals, finding feed, and keeping order. This was, however, an acceptable way of life and all had a purposeful goal.

The colourful and sacred service of the peace offering continued, as the officiating priest waved the breast and shoulder before the Lord, and these were then eaten by the priest. As his portion of the peace offering, it became a part of his body, thusly beautifully typifying how Christ was to "bare our sins in His own body" and then entered the Heavenly sanctuary with that same body to appear in the presence of God for us. Observe now that it is the breast (affections) and shoulders (strength) upon who we, as priests (1 Pet. 2:9) feed in fellowship with the Father. This it is, which makes the peace offering especially a thank offering (Lev. 7:11-13).

The prophet Isaiah understood what was typified by presenting the breast of every peace offering to the priest, for in writing of the Saviour he says, "He

shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom." (Isa. 40:11). The child of God today who, like John the beloved disciple, leans on the bosom of his Lord, enjoys the real peace of God, of which the peace offering was but a type.

This antitype of the priest's taking the breast of each peace offering as his portion is comforting to every trusting child of God likewise. In the antitype of the priest's receiving the right shoulder of every peace offering, there is a special strength and blessing.

Let's read again from the prophet Isaiah who loved to write of the Saviour; (Isa. 9:6,7) "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his 'shoulder'; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with justice and righteousness from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Notice here carefully that it is the one who, realizing that Christ is his personal Saviour, lets the government of his affairs rest upon Christ's safe "shoulder", that receives never ending peace.

When we deliver the key, or control, of all our affairs to Christ, we shall find that he will "open up ways before us... astounding ways, which no earthly powers can shut... and He will close ways He would not have us travel, and no powers of earth can open them to entrap our feet." (Isa. 22:22).

After Samuel had anointed Saul to be over Israel, he brought him to his house and "said unto the cook... bring what I gave thee and the cook took the 'shoulder' and set it before Saul, and Samuel said, eat it." (1 Sam. 9:23,24). The people wanted a King to rule over

them, and persisted, in spite of the warning of Samuel in such a step. God finally agreed and gave them a King in Saul, a self-seeking, cowardly King, whom God afterwards rejected. King Jehosaphat, in contrast did good, and "lived in peace for many years." (PK 192). If Saul, on the other hand, comprehended the wonderful lesson taught in this act of Samuel, he would have placed the government of the kingdom upon the shoulder of the Great Prince of Peace, and not shipwrecked his life-work.

The offerings and sacrifices are over. The rituals and ceremonial services are over. We now have Jesus Christ as our High Priest. The former Tabernacle services all pointed to Christ in the peace offering. The peace offering was a symbolic service expressing thanksgiving to God in the form of a sacrificial feast reserved for the offerer, and friends with specified portions for the priest. (PP 576)... the bosom (affections) and shoulder (strength). In this peace offering we behold Jesus, the Son of God and seed of the woman, making peace for men with God, by the blood of the cross, the travail of His soul and obtaining eternal redemption for us. Let us learn then to thank God for every mercy received, and seek every blessing which we need through Jesus' atonement, surrendering our soul wholly to His service and honour; so that we at once shall be the sweet savor to our God, the rejoicing of ministers, and a comfort to the Lord and our friends. But never let us dare to make use of any thing relating to the Lord, and exhibiting His Christ as if it were a common thing, or forget the smallest of His injunctions, but receive His truth in love, and diligently observe His precepts.

May the Lord bless us to understand this message and place our lives on the bosom and shoulder of Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

John Theodorou
USA/Greece

JAMES WHITE

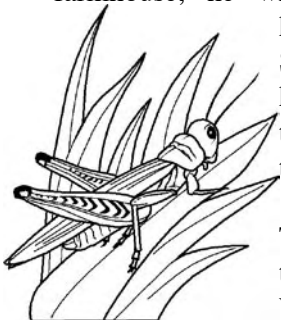


Many of us are aware of who Ellen G. White was. Her husband, James, although not a prophet, played a very important role in Adventist history. Here are a few stories from his early life.

It was night and a shadowy figure of a man moved in the swamp. He was a strong man, but his actions were slow and deliberate, for he was carrying something heavy. Water soaked his clothes and splashed upon the object in his arms. As he struggled on, he felt the pressure of water against his legs – a stream. Without hesitation, he plunged forward and slogged across to the other side, onto dry land. His breathing came hard and heavy, and he was slowing down. Yet he held his precious burden closer than ever. In a sheltered spot he gently placed it on the ground. It was a woman. Great joy surged through him as he looked at her. She was safe and unhurt. Now they could rest, but they needed shelter for the night.

Behind them, on the other side of that swamp, lay the twisted wreck of a train. It was mutilated and strewn across a vast area, but they had escaped. Yet, others were still back there at the scene of the accident, perhaps hurt. He knew he had to get help.

Later, he made the woman as comfortable as he could in a nearby farmhouse, he whispered softly to her, “I’ll be back.” Soaked as he was, he stumbled for three miles into a town for help.



That was 1854, and the man was James White. The woman

was his wife, Ellen. He was an unusual man.

New England was farming country back in those days. James was born on a farm, but he wasn’t a farmer. He was a schoolteacher. One summer as he returned home from teaching he took a problem with him. He was upset and the whole family knew it. But the only way for him to settle his problem was to fight it out alone. So off he went across his father’s fields. He was in such a hurry that he almost ran. He would settle this thing once and for all. His conscience and God were determined that he should be a preacher. He and his mind fought for teaching. There in the woods the battle raged. In the end, he stood as tall as he could, stomped his foot on the ground, and shouted, “I won’t do it!” Yet he did do it. He preached.

In the middle of winter, 1843, he borrowed a horse from his father. The only saddle he had was old and broken. He propped it against a log and patched it. Then off he rode through snow, with a thin overcoat around him. He preached in a schoolhouse that was so crowded that all the windows had to be opened for ventilation. But when he preached his unpopular message on the second coming of Christ, a mob gathered outside. They howled and roared, trying to drown him out. He didn’t stop. Snowballs, stones, and pieces of metal were thrown at him through the open windows. He was hit on the head, but he went on preaching until he finished his message.

That mob would kill him if he came back the next night. They boasted about it. Yet he prayed, saying to himself, “As God wills.” He went back,

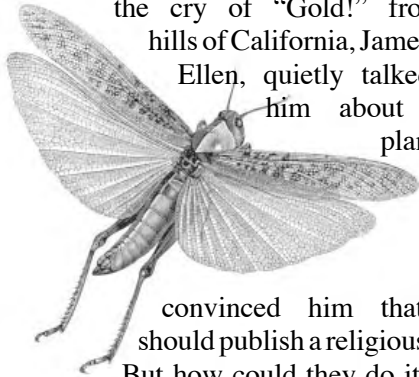
placed his chart on the wall, sang, prayed, and started to preach. The mob came screaming around the building, weapons in their hands, faces distorted in hate. They shouted him down. But above the roar and thunder of violence sounded a strong, clear voice. It was James White, and in his hand was a metal spike. The noise stopped as his words ran out. “Some poor sinner cast this spike at me last evening,” he said. “God pity him! The worst wish I have for him is that he is, at this moment, as happy as I. Why should I resent this insult when my Master had them driven through His hands?” There were gasps from the crowd.



He led more than 100 worshippers in prayer. Then he took down his chart, picked up his Bible, and walked through a hushed audience and out of the building. But there was that mob, waiting its chance. They started for him. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a giant man appeared. He joined arms with James White and together they walked past the mob, which opened before them. At a safe distance from the scene, James turned to thank this stranger, but no

one was there. Shocked and bewildered, James went on unconquered within and without.

Writing was one of his great loves. In 1849 when the world exploded with the cry of "Gold!" from the hills of California, James' wife,



Ellen, quietly talked with him about future plans. She

convinced him that they should publish a religious paper.

But how could they do it? They were penniless. He solved the situation by chopping wood, hauling rocks, and cutting acres of crops by hand to earn a few pennies.

Money came hard. Ellen White knew this only too well. Their life had not been an easy one. They had to travel because of James' preaching. Often their only home was in a suitcase on second-hand railroads, or in the lower decks of steamboats where thick clouds of tobacco smoke choked her and made her faint.

At night they slept on floors, boxes, or sacks of grain with carpetbags for pillows. Overcoats and shawls were their blankets. When they closed their eyes in sleep, swearing and obscene language rang in their ears. It all came surging back to Ellen's mind. Now this, to publish a paper; how could they ever do it?

"It is the Lord's plan that men should swing out by faith on His promises, and stay swung out until they have fully proved their strength." Was James answer to the problem of financing the paper.

And wouldn't you know, the print shop for the first edition of his new paper was eight miles from where he lived,

in another town. He was lame that year too. But as he limped along that winding country road, across hills and through valleys, he greeted farmers cheerfully along the way. James White was a happy man, for he and God were working together.

Yet, he must have been tired at the end of those eight miles as he climbed three flights of stairs to the print shop. He didn't complain. He did this several times until the first edition was finished. He borrowed a horse and buggy for the final trip, bringing home a thousand copies of the first paper he had ever published. He called it Present Truth.

A small group of friends gathered with Ellen and James to help fold and label his papers. When their work was finished, they knelt around those precious pages and asked God's blessing on them. The papers were placed into a carpetbag and once again James made the eight-mile trip to the post office, on foot.

Years later, James once again heard some old familiar words. This time it was in Colorado. He should start to print a new paper. "It can't be done!" came the cry of friends until his head pounded. He was a sick man, and some even thought his reason was gone. But he knew that with God's help he could do it.

"I've go to do it, Ellen," he said, "It can be done!"

So, in the

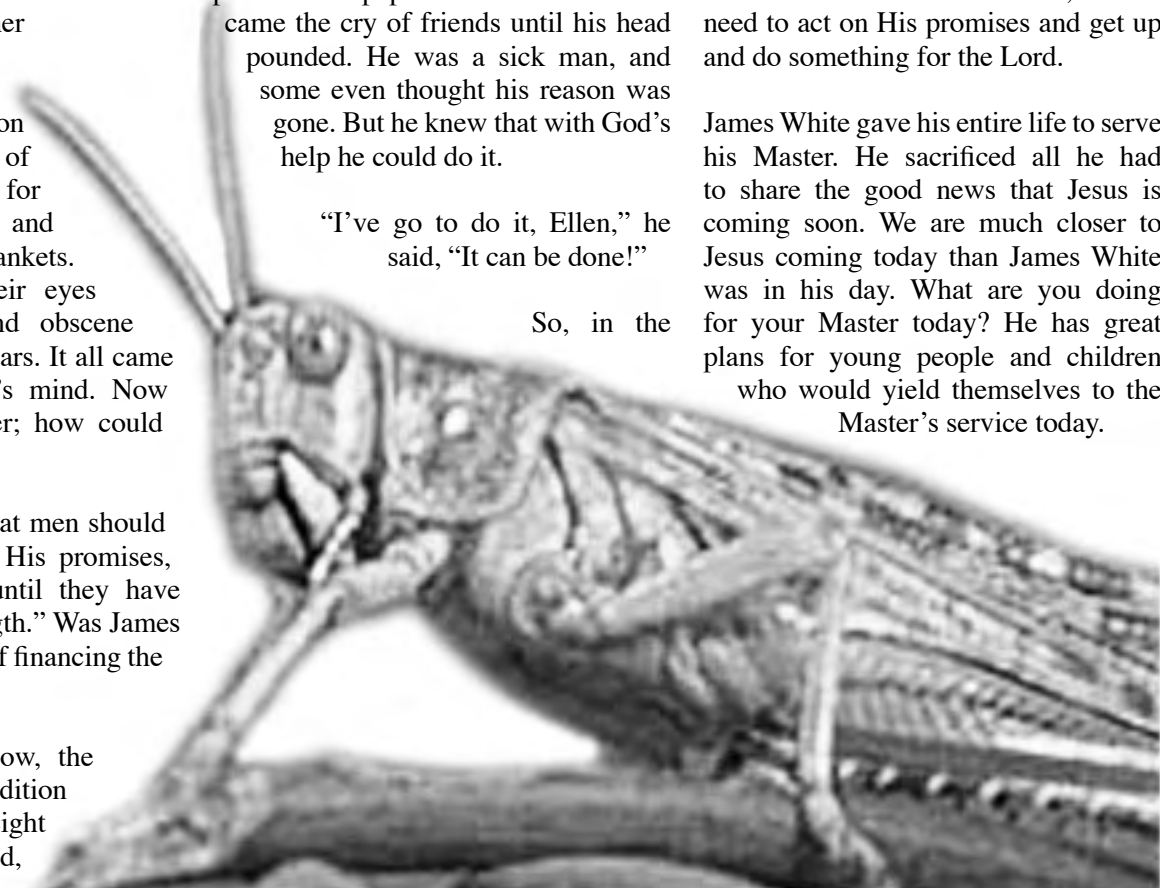
year 1874, while great hordes of grasshoppers clouded out the sun on the central plains of the United States and millions of little bodies destroyed everything in sight, even to clothing and the wooden handles of tools, away to the west, in California, James was publishing a new religious paper, the Signs of the Times.

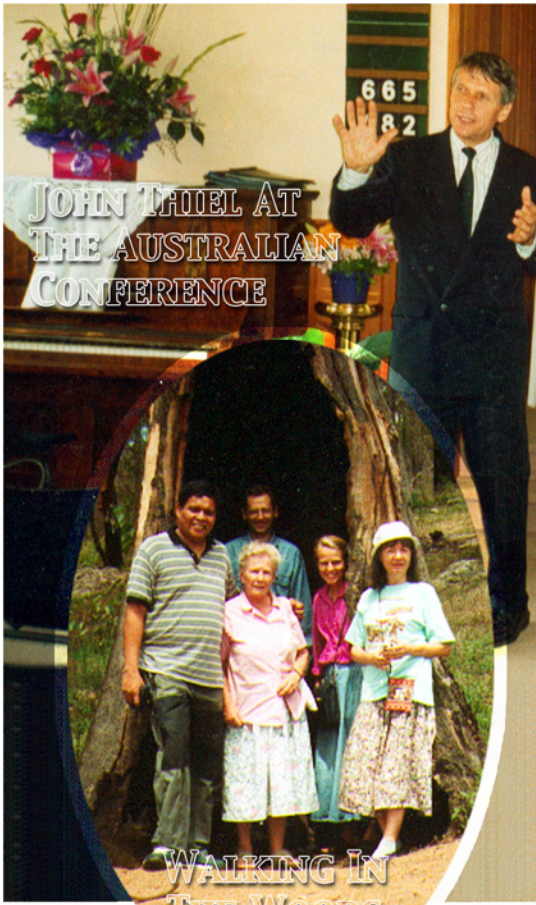
"It won't last!" said his amazed doubters. But that paper is still being published today.

James White was the pioneer editor of the Adventist church. "Our hearts are open to the people everywhere, and we hope that through the medium of this printed word to reach thousands of minds and hearts, and with the blessings of God lead many in the way of truth."

James White went forward amidst the doubts of his fellow believers. This is often the case when someone has a new idea or vision. There will always be sceptics, however if we believe that God is leading us, we know that anything God requires us to do, He will help us to successfully accomplish the task. We need the faith to believe in God, and we need to act on His promises and get up and do something for the Lord.

James White gave his entire life to serve his Master. He sacrificed all he had to share the good news that Jesus is coming soon. We are much closer to Jesus coming today than James White was in his day. What are you doing for your Master today? He has great plans for young people and children who would yield themselves to the Master's service today.





JOHN THIEL AT THE AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

WALKING IN THE WOODS

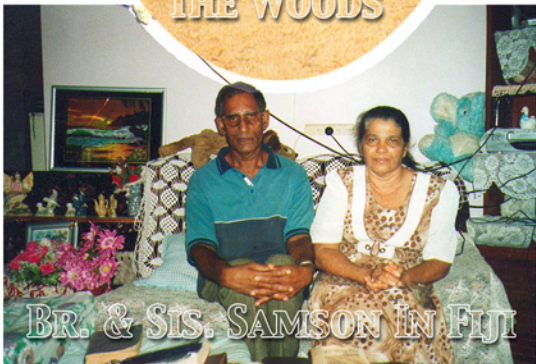


BR. JOSEPH & SIS. EDDA TEDFORD IN FIJI



AFTER PRAYER MEETING, SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

WORD CHUTE IN FIJI



BR. & SIS. SAMSON IN FIJI



SUVA GROUP IN FIJI



ESTHER ELLINGTON, EL SALVADOR

PAT ATENCIO, U.S.A.

AURY LEGIZIA GUERRA, BELIZE

DR. ROSAURA VALDES, GUATEMALA

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**"
(Matthew 24:6-13)

