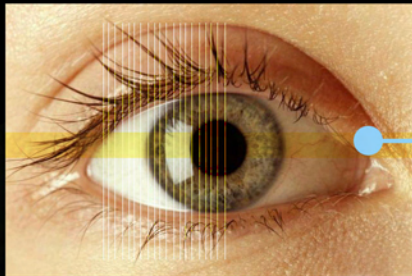


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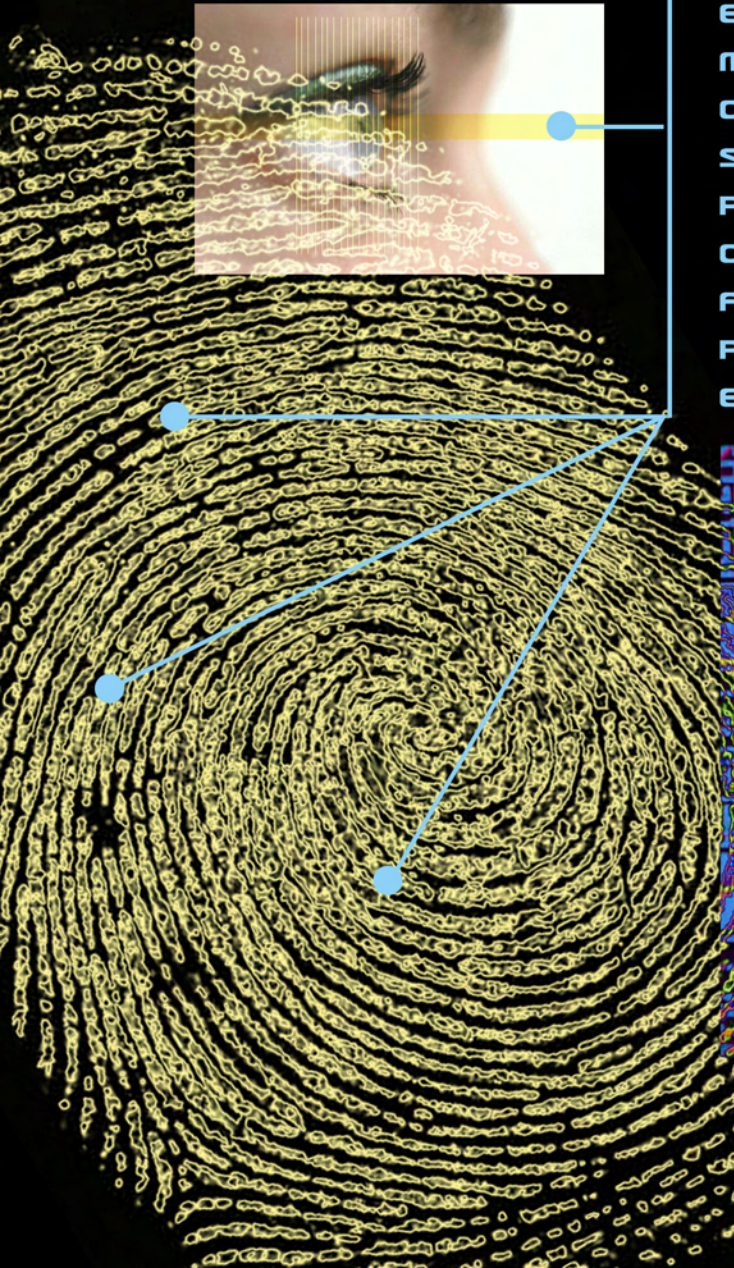
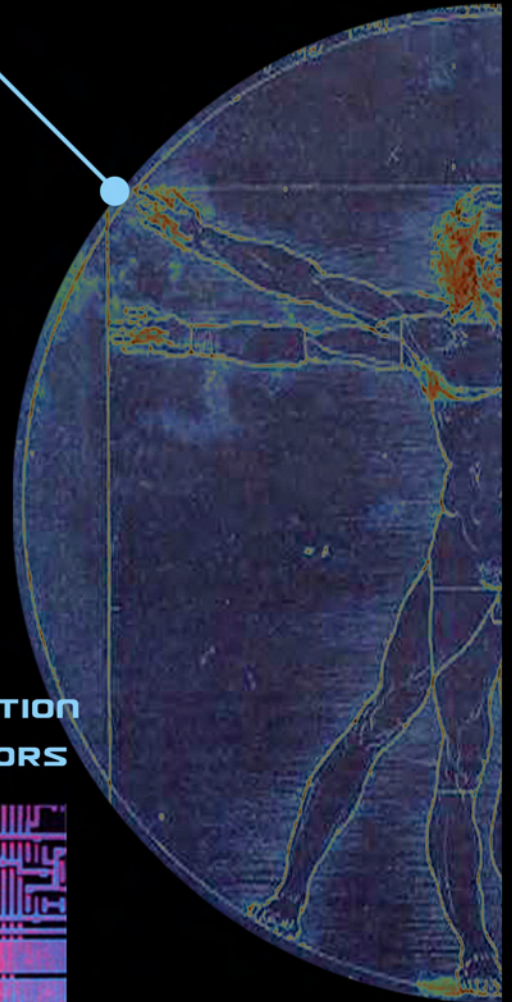
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International Missionary Society of S.D.A. Church Reform Movement



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ECONOMIC INDICATORS



"AND HE HAD POWER TO GIVE LIFE UNTO THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST, THAT THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST SHOULD BOTH SPEAK, AND CAUSE THAT AS MANY AS WOULD NOT WORSHIP THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST SHOULD BE KILLED. AND THAT NO MAN MIGHT BUY OR SELL..."
(REVELATION 13: 15, 17)



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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.

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Official Publication of the International Missionary Society of the Seventh Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field.

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CANADA

WE ARE NOT OUR OWN



One of the greatest mistakes that man has done is to think that they belong to themselves; that they are their own.

For that reason people think that they themselves can decide what they do, how they live, how to spend their time, how to use their money, even how to treat other people. In other words, they think that they are masters and not servants.

Paul writes to us, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

In the parable of the talents we are called stewards and therefore have to give an account of our stewardship in the end. Some will be commended, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Others will hear the words, "Thou wicked and slothful servant." "Cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness."

Paul writes further, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." 1 Cor. 4:2.

In what are we to be faithful? The answer is clear, "The people answered together, and said, all that the Lord hath spoken we will do." Ex. 19:8.

All that the Lord has spoken include the whole Bible, the Old and New Testament and the testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy.

We must be found faithful in health reform, in Sabbath keeping, in tithes and offerings, in missionary work and in every aspect of our lives. We must be honest even toward the government in income taxes and custom duties.

Some time ago I visited the United States and bought a raincoat there and I did not declare it at the border. It bothered me so much that I had no peace until I sent a letter and money to the customs house. After that I felt happy again.

Sister White writes, "God prizes goodness and

was a disciple of Jesus. In a similar way we are brought in situations where our character weaknesses are revealed.

Job was tested severely and he remained faithful in the test. Also Joseph and Moses passed tests before God could lay on them greater responsibilities.

God has given us also a talent of speech. We are not free to use it any way we like. James gives us counsel about our tongue. "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and is set on fire of hell... But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God." James 3:6-9.

God requires faithful use of all our talents. Angry words, and vain trifling words are unfaithfulness of the talent of speech. Also to be silent when we should speak the truth to others is unfaithfulness.

"We shall individually be held responsible for doing one jot less than we have ability to do. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service. The unused capabilities are as much brought into account as are those that are improved... We shall be judged according to what we ought to have done,



faithfulness above all else." She continues, "The earnest toil, unselfish work, patient persevering effort will be abundantly rewarded." GW, p. 267.

God is watching us and testing us daily to reveal to us our weak points. Peter would not have known his weak point until someone came and asked him if he



but did not accomplish because we did not use our powers to glorify God.” COL, p. 363

Jesus spoke a parable of a man whose ground brought forth plentifully. This rich man decided to build bigger barns to store all his fruits. “But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be, which thou

as they try to help others.” Test., Vol. 9, p. 42.

By using our talents, they increase. We become better workmen in the field of the Lord. Greater responsibilities will be laid upon us. We will grow mentally, morally and spiritually.

In the faithful service our love to God and to our neighbour will increase. To love God will bring the highest development to every faculty.

This knowledge and development cannot be obtained in the schools and

God requires faithful use of all our talents.

hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:20-21.

Many will lose heaven and be cast to outer darkness who are unfaithful in tithes and offerings. They do not realize that all they have really belongs to God and therefore they should ask God how to distribute and spend their money.

The work that needs all our talents is work of soul saving. This is the most important work that every child of God is asked to do.

“Those who give their lives to Christlike ministry know the meaning of true happiness. Their interests and their prayers reach far beyond self. They themselves are growing

universities. It can be attained only in the communion with God and in faithful performance of our daily duties.

We are nearing the time when the Lord will call all of us to give an account of our stewardship. God will not make a mistake; in order to hear the words, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant,” we must be faithful in all things.

May the Lord help each one of us to understand our duty as stewards of the Lord’s goods. The unfaithful stewards will be shaken out and cast into outer darkness which means that the Holy Spirit will leave them and the truth which they believed before now makes no sense to them and they will believe lies invented by Satan. At the same time the faithful stewards will grow “unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Eph. 4:13.

AMEN

Timo Martin

BROTHERLY



LOVE

“These things I command you, that ye love one another.” John 15:17. Christ’s prayer (in John 17) is an illustration of the intercession that He is offering for us before the Father.

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth,” He prayed (verse 17). “As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” Verse 18-23.

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 13:34.

A NEW CONCEPTION OF LOVE

“Why was this called “a new commandment”? The disciples had not loved one another as Christ had loved them. They had not yet seen the fullness of the love that He was to reveal in man’s behalf. They were yet to see Him dying on the cross for their sins. Through His life and death they were to receive a new conception of love. The command to ‘love one another’ was to gain a new meaning in the light of His self-sacrifice. In the light shining from the cross of Calvary they were to read the meaning of the words, “As I have loved you, that ye also love one another’ “ 5BC 1140

A DEDICATION TO SERVICE

“Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for [so] I am. If I then, [your] Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” John 13:13-17.

The ordinance of feet washing is an

ordinance of service. The Lord would have all practice this ordinance on a regular basis. When this ordinance is rightly celebrated, the children of God are brought into holy relationship with each other, helping and blessing each other.

“That His people might not be misled by the selfishness which dwells in the natural heart, and which strengthens by self-serving, Christ Himself set us an example of humility. He would not leave this great subject in man’s charge. Of so much consequence did He regard it that He Himself, one equal with God washed the feet of His disciples.

“This ceremony means much to us, God would have us take the whole scene, not only the single act of outward cleansing. This lesson does not merely refer to the one act. It is to reveal the great truth that Christ is an example of what we through His grace are to be in our intercourse with each other. It shows that the entire life should be one of humble, faithful ministry... The ordinance of feet washing most forcibly illustrates the necessity of true humility. While the disciples were contending for the highest place in the promised Kingdom, Christ girded Himself, and performed the office of a servant by washing the feet of those who called Him Lord.” MS 43, 1897.

“Read the instruction given in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew. There is nothing more positive than this in all the oracles of God; and yet God is dishonoured and His cause marred by the doing of the wrongs pointed out in this chapter. These words are for you and for me, and for all who claim to be disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus. He shows us the principles upon which we are to act in all cases and under all circumstances. There is to be no striving for the supremacy. Christ teaches that in His spiritual kingdom it is not position, not outward splendor or authority, that constitutes greatness, but spiritual excellence manifested in true conversion.” UL 136

“By our unity, by esteeming others better than ourselves, we are to bear to the world a living testimony of the power of the truth. We are not to fear that unless we labor to be first, self will not be properly estimated. If men had higher and greater views of Christ, if they had greater confidence in Him and less confidence in themselves, their characters would be molded and fashioned after the divine likeness. When self is hid in Christ, the Saviour will appear as the One altogether lovely and the chiefest among ten thousand.” UL 136

“All the disciples had serious faults when Jesus called them to His service.” DA 295

“Differing so widely in natural characteristics, in training, and in habits of life, needed to come into unity of feeling, thought, and action. This unity it was Christ’s object to secure... The burden of His labor for them is expressed in His prayer to the Father, ‘that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us’ (John 17:21).” CC 288.

“Jesus reproved His disciples, He warned and cautioned them; but John and his brethren did not leave Him; they chose Jesus, notwithstanding the reproofs. The Saviour did not withdraw from them because of their weakness and errors. They continued to the end to share His trials and to learn the lessons of His life. By beholding Christ, they became transformed in character.” DA 296

“Christ had bidden the first disciples love one another as He had loved them. Thus they were to bear testimony to the world

that Christ was formed within, the hope of glory. ‘A new commandment I give unto you,’ He had said, ‘That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.’ John 13:34. At the time when these words were spoken, the disciples could not understand them; but after they had witnessed the sufferings of Christ, after His crucifixion and resurrection, and ascension to heaven, and after the Holy Spirit had rested on them at Pentecost, they had a clearer conception of the love of God and of the nature of that love which they must have for one another. Then John could say to his fellow disciples: “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

“After the descent of the Holy Spirit, when the disciples went forth to proclaim a living Saviour, their one desire was the salvation of souls. They rejoiced in the sweetness of communion with saints. They were tender, thoughtful, self-denying, willing to make any sacrifice for the truth’s sake. In their daily association with one another, they revealed the love that Christ had enjoined upon them. By unselfish words and deeds they strove to kindle this love in other hearts.” AA 547

THE EARLY CHURCH – SPIRITUALLY FALLEN BUT UNAWARE OF IT

Evil results of neglect

“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name’s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” Rev. 2:1-5.

“In this scripture are outlined the conditions of acceptance with God. The first experience of the Ephesus church led to good works. God took delight in the fact that His

church reflected the light of heaven by revealing the spirit of Christ in tenderness and compassion. The love that dwelt in the heart of Christ; the love that caused Him to give Himself a sacrifice for humanity, and to suffer with forbearance the reproach of men, even to the extent of being called a devil; the love that prompted Him to perform mighty works of healing during His ministry--this was the love that was to be revealed in the lives of His disciples.

“But they neglected to cherish Christ’s compassion and tenderness. Self, as manifested in hereditary traits of character, spoiled the principles of the grand, good works that identified the members of the Ephesus church as Christians. The Lord Jesus must needs show them that they had lost that which was everything to them. The love that constrained the Saviour to die for us, was not revealed in its fullness in their lives; and hence they were unable to bring honor to the name of the Redeemer. And as they lost their first love, they increased in a knowledge of scientific theories originated by the father of lies.” 7BC 956

“This change is represented as a spiritual fall. ‘Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works’--as outlined in the preceding verses. The believers did not sense their spiritual fall. They knew not that a change had taken place in their hearts, and that they would have to repent because of the noncontinuance of their first works. But God in His mercy called for repentance, for a return to their first love and to the works that are always the result of true, Christlike love.” 7BC 957

LOOKING FOR DEFECTS AND MISTAKES

“But the early Christians began to look for defects in one another. Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the Saviour and of the great love He had revealed for sinners. They became more strict in regard to outward ceremonies, more particular about the theory of the faith, more severe in their criticisms. In their zeal to condemn others they forgot their own errors. They forgot the lesson of brotherly love that Christ had taught. And, saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss. They did not realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives, and that soon they would

walk in darkness, having shut the love of God out of their hearts.” 8T 241

LOSS OF LOVE – A MORAL FALL

“The losing of the first love is specified as a moral fall. The loss of this love is represented as something that will affect the entire religious life. Of those who have lost this love, God says that unless they repent, He will come to them, and remove their candlestick out of its place.

“It is our work to know our special failings and sins, which cause darkness and spiritual feebleness, and quenched our first love.” 7BC 957

“The apostle John realized that brotherly love was waning in the church, and he dwelt particularly upon this point. Up to the day of his death he urged upon believers the constant exercise of love for one another.” 8T 241

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” 1 John 4:11.

“The world is looking with gratification at the disunion amongst Christians. Infidelity is well pleased. God calls for a change among His people. Union with Christ and with one another is our only safety in these last days. Let us not make it possible for Satan to point to our church members, saying: ‘Behold how these people, standing under the banner of Christ, hate one another. We have nothing to fear from them while they spend more strength fighting one another than in warfare with my forces.’” 8T 240

“The piles of rubbish that have been accumulating need to be removed. How? Let

us ‘cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God’ (2 Cor. 7:1). Cultivate personal piety. God would have us inquire, ‘Who hath known the mind of the Lord?’ that He may instruct us, and that we may be able to say, ‘We have the mind of Christ.’ Then all the rubbish of evil words will be removed. May the Lord imbue us with His Spirit, and touch our lips with a burning coal from the altar. Earnestly, vigilantly watching and waiting and working, we are

“We have no time to praise the devil, no time nor voice to criticize. We are to show that the grace of Christ is abiding in our hearts. Its influence will be revealed, whatever company we are in, by words of deepest importance, involving consequences as enduring as eternity.

“At this period of the earth’s history we cannot afford to weaken one another’s influence. The Christian warfare is close and severe. We have to meet and battle

with unseen foes, and we must be in harmony with the heavenly agencies, who are seeking to cleanse us from the inclination to criticize our brethren, to pass judgment on them. The Lord desires us to stand under the yoke of Christ. . . “ UL 239

CHRIST LOVES THE SINNER

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 13:34.

“There are those who cherish a spirit of envy and hatred against their brethren, calling it the Spirit of God. There are

those who go up and down as talebearers, accusing and condemning, blackening character, inspiring hearts with maliciousness. They carry false reports to the doors of their neighbors, who, as they listen to the slander, lose the Spirit of God. Not even the messenger of God, who bears to the people His truth, is spared.

“This sin is worse than the sin of Achan. Its influence is not confined to those who cherish it. It is a root of bitterness, whereby many are defiled. God cannot bless the



to be ‘not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord’ (Rom. 12:11).”

“The church is the one object of Christ’s intense interest in this world, and for which He has unceasing care. This church is engaged in securing the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life to all who receive it. In every soul God looks for stable principles revealed in word and action. Then they will bring from the treasure house words weighted with the principles of eternal truth.

church till it is purged of this evil that corrupts minds and spirits, the souls of those who do not repent and change their course of action.

“He who is renewed after the Spirit of Christ will not only love God; he will love his brethren also. Those who make mistakes are to be dealt with according to the directions given in the Word of God. ‘Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted’ (Gal. 6:1).

“Plainly and faithfully evil is to be reprov'd. But let the one who takes up this work first be sure that he is not himself separated from Christ by evil works. He must be able to restore the erring in the spirit of meekness. Unless he can do this, he should not attempt to correct or reprove his brethren, for he will make two evils in the place of curing one.

“Let men be careful how they treat the purchase of the blood of Christ. Let them not forget the prayer offered by the Saviour just before He left His disciples for the long struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane. Let them not forget the high estimate He has placed on human beings by purchasing them at the sacrifice of His life. There are many who seem willing to wound and bruise the hearts of their brethren. Are they following the example Christ has left them? Where in the record of His dealing with men do they find themselves sustained in showing so little forbearance and patience in dealing with their brethren? . . .

“That which distinguishes Christians from worldlings is the manifestation of Christlikeness, which by its pure influence cleanses the heart from selfishness.-- UL 122

“Many are deceiving themselves; for the principle of love does not dwell in their hearts.” SD 49

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become [as] sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have [the gift of] prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed [the poor], and though I give my body to be burned, and

have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.” 1 Cor. 13:1-5

“No matter how high his profession, he whose heart is not imbued with love for God and for his fellow men is not a disciple of Christ. ...In his zeal he might even meet a martyr’s death, yet if destitute of the gold of love he would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite.” 5T 168

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another”

“We may be active, we may do much work; but without love, such love as dwelt in the heart of Christ, we can never be numbered with the family of heaven.” COL 158

“Many are zealous in religious services, while between them and their brethren are unhappy differences which they might reconcile. God requires them to do all in their power to restore harmony. Until they do this, He cannot accept their services.” DA 311

“No matter how many good qualities we may have, however honorable and refined we may consider ourselves, if the soul is not baptized with the heavenly grace of love to God and one another, we are deficient in true goodness and unfit for heaven, where all is love and unity.” 4T 223

In his letter the apostle Paul writes to the Romans, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” Romans 16:17,18

THE TONGUE AND THE HEART

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.” Exodus 20:16

This commandment was given to guard our rights. Also guarding our conversation and confining our words to that which is strictly true protects the interests, and reputation of our neighbour. We should never carry a sword in our tongue to wound the reputation of any man. We should not

say anything about a person in his absence that we would be unwilling to say if he were present.

“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

“Instead of gossiping, thus creating mischief, let us tell of the matchless power of Christ, and speak of His glory, thus

magnifying and lifting up the Lord God of hosts and training ourselves to sing the song of victory in the kingdom of glory. By beginning to sing songs of triumph and thanksgiving now, we may prepare ourselves to sing the song of Moses and the Lamb when we meet on the sea of glass.

“The Lord will be with us during this life, if we allow ourselves to be led by His Spirit and do not neglect to glorify His name. We should bring as much of heaven as possible into this life. The light of heaven shining into the heart will be imparted in words of pleasantness, in deeds of kindness, to those who are near us. Having acquainted ourselves with God, when He comes we will be able to say, ‘Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us’ (Isa. 25:9).” UL 306

FOR FURTHER STUDY

PART A	PART B
Lev. 19:16	Mat.22:35-40
Pro. 26:22	Mat. 7:21
Pro. 17:9	1 John 2:3-6
Pro. 26:20	1 John 4:20,21
2 Cor. 12:20	Mat. 19:21,22
Ps. 15:2,3	Rom. 13:10
Gal. 5:14,15	1 Cor. 13:4-7
1 Tim. 5:19	1 John 3:10
	1 John 4:21
	John 13:35

COL pages 45,46

May the Lord help each one of us to love one another as Christ loved us and died for us, is my wish and prayer. **AMEN**

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia

HEART HEALTH

Hard work is the best investment a man can make. Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. What about our heart and its work? Who is going to think about our heart and its functions?

The heart is a complex, highly specialized muscle that contracts approximately 70 times each minute to pump blood to the head, arms, chest, abdomen, and legs. This pumping work requires oxygen, which is carried in the blood by specialized red blood cells.

Three blood vessels, called the coronary arteries, supply the heart with blood and oxygen. Over time, plaques made of cholesterol and other substances can develop in these arteries and partially block the flow of blood. Occasionally the surface of one of these plaques can burst or rupture. When this happens, a blood clot may form on top of the plaque, further blocking blood flow in the artery.

If a blood clot becomes large enough, it can completely block the flow of blood through the coronary artery. This makes the heart muscle ischemic, meaning it is not receiving enough oxygen to survive. Ischemia of the heart muscle can produce chest pains and other related symptoms. If the muscle in the heart is deprived of oxygen for 30 minutes or more, it begins to die. The longer the blockage deprives the heart muscle or blood-borne oxygen, the more heart muscle dies. This complete blockage of a coronary artery leading to death of the heart muscle is called a heart attack.

Some Facts About Heart Disease

More than 3 in 4 Ontario adults have at least one risk factor for heart disease.

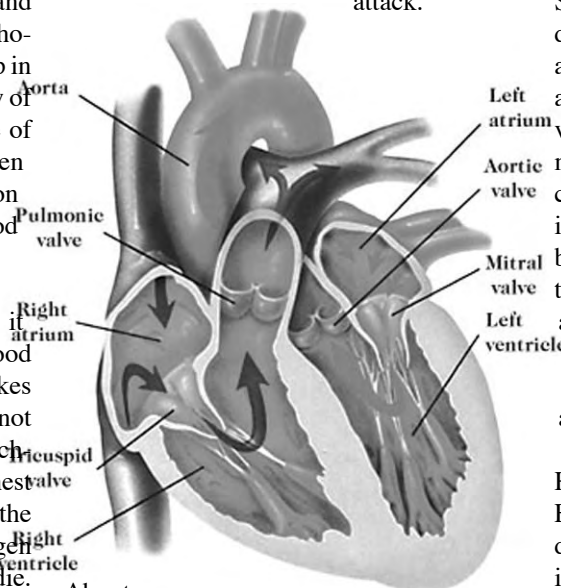
Contrary to popular misconceptions, women are equally susceptible to developing heart disease as men.

Signs and Symptoms

Heart attacks are experienced in different ways. The classic description of heart attack pain is an intense ache in the chest, often centered in the left side of the chest.

Instead of pain, some people experience a tightness or pressure in the chest, often describing the sensation as feeling like “an elephant was sitting on” their chest. Other symptoms that can accompany a heart attack include indigestion, nausea, shortness of breath, intense sweating or clamminess.

Because symptoms can vary, it is important to be aware that not everyone experiences the classic severe chest pain of a heart attack; some heart attack victims may experience one or more symptoms. When any of these symptoms persist longer than approximately 30 minutes, one should assume that they are having a heart attack.



About one quarter of all heart attacks occur without producing any identifiable symptoms. These so called “silent” heart attacks may only be discovered incidentally by examination of an electrocardiogram (EKG) or by other heart tests.

How to Protect Your Heart When Experiencing a Heart Attack

If you really think that you are having a heart attack, seek medical attention immediately. There are two critical reasons to do so.

First, excellent medications and treatments are available that can help dissolve a blood clot and open a blocked coronary artery,

restoring normal blood and oxygen to the heart muscle. Less irreparable damage is done to the heart muscle if these therapies are initiated promptly.

Talk to your doctor freely about reducing your risk. While some risk factors, such as a family history of heart disease cannot be prevented, there are others you can control. These include:

Smoking, exposure to second-hand smoke, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, obesity—particularly extra weight around your middle, inactive lifestyle, diabetes, stress, family problems.

Secondly, the heart becomes predisposed to developing irregular heart rhythms during a heart attack. The most serious of these arrhythmias are ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation, in which the heart muscle no longer contracts in a regular, coordinated fashion. Instead it quivers in place, becoming incapable of pumping blood to the organs of the body, including the brain. In these cases, brain damage and death can occur within minutes. For this main reason, it is best to call 911 and summon paramedics who can treat these abnormal heart rhythms if they occur.

Heart disease is Canada’s number one killer. Every year 26,000 Ontarians die of heart disease—that’s 35% of deaths in this province. In fact, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of premature death, illness and disability in Ontario.

All Ontarians Pay the Price: In treatment costs of over \$2 billion. In lost productivity of \$4.5 billion per year. In lives tragically cut short.

It is good to study or work. But if you are going to neglect your health, you have to pay the very high price for perishable merchandise.

Be awake, I pray you and be prepared before you suffer a heart attack.

Xavior Chelliah



THE TWELVE TRIBES ISSACHAR

stopped bearing. Here comes a son born out of a hire situation. Let's examine the ingredient of hire:

Genesis 49:14-15. "Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens: 15 And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.

This person is prepared to work hard. There are tribal characteristics of servitude.

I Chronicles 7:1,4,5. "Now the sons of Issachar were, Tola, and Puah, Jashub, and Shimron, four. And with them, by their generations, after the house of their fathers, were bands of soldiers for war, six and thirty thousand men: for they had many wives and sons. 5 And their brethren among all the families of Issachar were valiant men of might, reckoned in all by their genealogies fourscore and seven thousand. Deborah the prophet sang praises of Issachar.

Judges 5:15. "And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; even Issachar, and also Barak: he was sent on foot into the valley. For the divisions of Reuben there were great thoughts of heart. They were men of understanding.

I Chronicles 12:32. And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment. They came to help David.

I Chronicles 7:22. For at that time day by day there came to David to help him, until it was a great host, like the host of God. 23 And these are the numbers of the bands that were ready armed to the war, and came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

They rallied around David. David was already King, but others came to help. Observe this quality of self denying services. Note the woman of Shunem who was prepared to help Elisha.

II Kings 4:8-10. And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. 9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. 10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither. "

II Kings 4:12-20. "And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him. 13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people. 14 And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old. 15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door. 16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid. 17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life. 18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. 19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother. 20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

But one of the tribe was corrupt.

This character is a complete turn around from what we have studied. We have been studying the negative backgrounds but as we study Issachar, here is one character with good qualities.

In Issachar's situation, we see something good come out of something bad. Who comes out of this situation?

Genesis 30:14-18. "And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes. 15 And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes. 16 And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night. 17 And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. 18 And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar."

God does things according to people's needs and desires. After her sixth son, Leah

II Kings 15:25-34. 24 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. But Pekah the son of Remaliah, a captain of his, conspired against him, and smote him in Samaria, in the palace of the king's house, with Argob and Arieah, and with him fifty men of the Gileadites: and he killed him, and reigned in his room. 26 And the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. 27 In the two and fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years.

28 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. 29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abelbethmaachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria. 30 And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

31 And the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. 32 In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign. 33 Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok. 34 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD: he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.

Because of the sin of Jeroboam, the tribe was not clean. When the people came to the Passover, they weren't sanctified. Likewise today, we may have people come into our midst at church who in their ignorance are doing things wrong. We are admonished to pray for them.

II Chronicles 30:17-20. For there were many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the

charge of the killing of the Passovers for every one that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the LORD. 18 For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the Passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one 19 That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary. 20 And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.

{COL 123.3} "God does not desire the destruction of any. "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" Eze. 33:11. Throughout the period of probationary time His Spirit is entreating men to accept the gift of life. It is only those who reject His pleading that will be left to perish. God has declared that sin must be destroyed as an evil ruinous to the universe. Those who cling to sin will perish in its destruction.

Even though people have done everything wrong, when you give your heart to the Lord, God takes everything, the good and bad traits. As Issachar came back, the Lord gave back his good traits.

Good things we've grown up with. Christ has made provision. No matter where we are in tribal decay.

FE page 316." Dullness and ignorance are no virtue. You can choose to become stereotyped in a wrong course of action because you have not the determination to take yourselves in hand and to reform, or you may cultivate your powers to do the very best kind of service, and then you will find yourselves in demand anywhere and everywhere. You will be appreciated for all that you are worth. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."

Although he became ignorant and dull, he had to cultivate the powers he had in the beginning.

4T page 612. "The solemn, sacred truth--the testing message given us of God to communicate to the world--lays every one

of us under the strongest obligation to so transform our daily life and character that the power of the truth may be well represented.

2T page 205. The church of God is required to fulfill her night watch, however perilous, whether long or short. Sorrow is no excuse for her to be less watchful. Tribulation should not lead to carelessness, but to double vigilance. Christ has directed the church by His own example to the Source of their strength in times of need, distress, and peril. The attitude of watching is to designate the church as God's people indeed. By this sign the waiting ones are distinguished from the world and show that they are pilgrims and strangers upon the earth.

MM page 176-177. "But when an emergency arises, and help is needed, no worker should say, That is not my work. The helper who has the idea that he is only to do the work assigned him, and no more, who feels no responsibility to help wherever and whenever help is needed, should at once dismiss this idea from his mind. He should never feel that a wrong is done him if in an emergency he is asked to work overtime. When extra help is needed, let the workers assist willingly, in Christian meekness, and they will receive a blessing.

Issachar can be ministers.

3T page 13-14. "I was shown that some ministers among us fail to bear all the responsibility that God would have them. This lack throws extra labor upon those who are burden bearers. Some ministers fail to move out and venture something in the cause and work of God. Important decisions are to be made; but as mortal man cannot see the end from the beginning, some shrink from venturing and advancing as the providence of God leads. Someone must advance; someone must venture in the fear of God, trusting the result with Him. Those ministers who shun this part of the labor are losing much. They are failing to obtain that experience which God designed they should have to make them strong, efficient men that can be relied upon in any emergency."

AMEN

Ariadne Kondoukas



There are many things in this world that we do not like. We don't like paying taxes, we don't like getting sick, we don't like it when people irritate and annoy us. When we dislike something very strongly it turns into hatred. We often hate unpleasant circumstances, and it is unfortunate that many times people begin to hate each other. Hatred is a very strong dislike of something or someone. Strong hatred has led to many cruel and unreasonable wars. Many have been fought for no apparent reason other than hatred for a certain nationality of people or for another country. Hitler had no good reason for persecuting Jews as well as Christians who would not join his army. He simply did not like them, even though they were good citizens of their respective countries. Satan is the author of this kind of hatred. It is totally unreasonable and many times unexplainable.

GOD'S HATRED

When we think of hatred, we think of something negative, associated with the powers of darkness, however this is not always the case. Hatred can be a good thing. There are things that God actually hates.

While sin is evil and from the devil, hatred may not be. It all depends on what you hate. Here is a list of some things that God hates.

“God hates hypocrisy and falsehood.” AA 72

“Not to the early church only, but to

all future generations, this example of God's hatred of covetousness, fraud, and hypocrisy, was given as a danger-signal.” AA 74

“God hates all sin, and when man persistently refuses all the counsel of heaven, he is left to the deceptions of the enemy.” CC 165

“God hates pride, and . . . all the proud and all that do wickedly shall be stubble, and the day that cometh shall burn them up.” FLB 68

“God hates all coldness, all commonness, all cheap efforts.” 4BC 1141

“God hates hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong.” 4BC 1154. Now some people make excuses for their sinful lifestyle by saying that it is the fault of their parents. It is hereditary. However our God is a great God and He can change a heart of stone into a heart of flesh. Nothing is impossible with Him. If we have hereditary sins and character traits that are negative, we don't need to make excuses. Jesus can, and is willing to, turn these negative character traits into positive character traits. The only thing lacking is our faith.

“I saw that some professed Sabbath-keepers spent hours that were worse than thrown away studying this or that fashion to decorate the poor, mortal body. While you make yourselves appear like the world, and as beautiful as you can, remember that the same body may in a few days be food for

worms. And while you fix it up to your taste to please the eye, you are dying spiritually. God hates your vain, wicked pride, and he looks upon you as a whited sepulchre; but within full of corruption and uncleanness.” 4bSG 20

“Many of them cherish impure thoughts, unholy imaginations, unsanctified desires, and base passions. God hates the fruit borne upon such a tree. Angels, pure and holy, look upon the course of such with abhorrence, while Satan exults. Oh, that men and women would consider what is to be gained by transgressing God's law! Under any and every circumstance, transgression is a dishonour to God and a curse to man. We must regard it thus, however fair its guise, and by whomsoever committed.” 5T 146

“God hates pretence.” TDG 326. If you don't want to serve God, stop pretending. Let your true colours be seen. Make a decision. If you choose to follow the Lord, then give Him your all. Give Him 100%. If you choose not to follow Him, then don't pretend. In the end you will gain nothing.

“God hates deception.” TDG 551

Since God hates all these things, it would stand to reason that we should also. These kinds of character traits will not be in heaven and if we possess any of them, God will hate them, even though He always loves the sinner. Why would we want to possess something that God hates? If we really do love God as we often say we do,

we shall strive to let go of anything that God hates.

“God hates sin, but He loves the sinner. ‘I will heal their backsliding,’ He declares; ‘I will love them freely.’ Hosea 14:4.” PK 84. Even though He may hate our sin, He always will love us, and will do all He can for our salvation. He will heal our backsliding. If we are not where we should be spiritually – or if we have gone backwards, there is still hope for us today. The door of mercy may not be open very much longer, but let us act quickly while there is still time if we possess any character traits that God hates.

MAN’S HATRED

While it is true, that there are Christians who have developed this kind of Godly hatred, the majority of the world has an evil kind of hatred – a hatred that comes from Satan. God’s hatred hates the evil acts but loves the sinner. Satan’s hatred ends up hating people, seeking to do harm to the individual that is hated, whether bodily harm or emotional harm, but they love the sin. God’s and Satan’s hatred are exactly opposite as with everything else associated with them. They are as opposite as light is from darkness.

Hatred on this earth often begins in the heart and, for the most part, is motivated by selfish ambition or simply selfish feelings and emotions.

People hate people for various reasons. One reason being that others are impeding their way up the ladder of economic success. They wish to remove these people from the position. Or perhaps they may hate people because of the character traits that are simply irritating to their own character. Or maybe another person has mistreated them – this is a large reason why people hate today. There are so many other reasons that Satan has dreamed up leading man in the pathway of hatred. Once hatred is harboured long enough it will lead to open sin, whether it is to murder, stealing, or some other kind of sin.

People can even be openly friendly as was Judas Iscariot, while harbouring hateful thoughts in their mind. They look good and friendly on the outside. But they are only empty husks. There is no kernel of truth on the inside.

“The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.” Psalm 55:21

Are you a full kernel of corn or just a husk? We want to be kernels....

Here is a description of people who are just husks:

“Those who live upon the husks of others’ failings and deficiencies, and who gather to themselves the unwholesome miasma of their neighbours’ neglects and shortcomings, making themselves church scavengers, are no advantage to the society of which they form a part, but are an actual burden to the community upon which they inflict themselves.” 4T 193. These people have no love in their hearts. Something else is motivating them to be such scavengers, and more than likely it begins with jealousy and envy, leading to hatred.

“Those who measure themselves by others, do as others do, and make no higher attainments, excusing themselves because of the faults and wrongs of others, are feeding on husks and will remain spiritual dwarfs as long as they gratify Satan by thus indulging their own unconsecrated feelings.” 1T 500. It is easy to measure ourselves with man and often members are tempted to measure themselves with the ministers and deacons in the church. Yet these sinful men provide only an imperfect example. Jesus is our perfect example, which we will be expected to follow. Nothing less is acceptable before God. When anyone points out their errors, they are tempted to get angry and excuses, pointing to the example of the others as their excuse for their spiritual condition. Unless the situation is rectified, this often leads to hatred of the one bringing the reproof.

Those who dislike reproof will do one of two things. Leave the church in frustration or they will attempt to hide their own faults and failings, appearing to be a better person than they really are. These people are called hypocrites. They will cunningly fight against the ones who brought the reproof. It won’t be open opposition, but pretended

friendship.

It is all so evil, full of darkness and deceit. Satan has been studying human behaviour and the human mind for thousands of years and has become an expert in deceiving man, leading him to believe he is all right when he is all wrong.

“By the public rebuke of their unbelief these disciples were still further alienated from Jesus. They were greatly displeased, and wishing to wound the Saviour and gratify the malice of the Pharisees, they turned their backs upon Him, and left Him with disdain. They had made their choice, --had taken the form without the spirit, the husk without the kernel. Their decision was never afterward reversed; for they walked no more with Jesus.” DA 392. It is a sad day when those who were once enlightened and on fire for the Lord, turn away, never more to walk with Him.

HYPOCRITES

The point that I want to dwell on a little more now in this second half of the article is: “God hates hypocrisy and falsehood.” AA 72

And ----

“God hates pretence.” TDG 326

These two conditions, God finds very offensive.

A hypocrite pretends to be someone he is not, often trying to look good when they have evil in their hearts. They are pretending to be Christians.

“If hypocrisy is allowed to exist in the heart, it permeates the character and the life.” DA 408

“Hypocrisy always met the severest rebuke from Jesus; while the veriest sinners who came to Him in sincere repentance were received, pardoned, and comforted.” 4T 326. Hypocrisy, if not checked, will lead to greater deception in the future.

“Brethren, while you as a people profess to have light far in advance of other denominations, your works do not correspond with your profession. Many who have been in the darkness of error gladly accept the truth when it is opened

to their understanding. Although they have spent their life in sin, yet when they come to God in penitence and with a sense of their sinfulness they are accepted of Him. Such persons are in a more favourable position for the perfection of Christian character than are those who have had great light and have failed to improve upon it. That which leaves men and women in darkness is their neglect to improve the light and opportunities granted them. Christ hates all vain pretence. When on earth, He ever treated with tenderness the penitent, even though they had been the chief of sinners; but His denunciations fell heavily upon all hypocrisy." 4T 614



It also happens that when people are living a hypocritical life, they make great efforts to cover up their hypocrisy by ambitiously doing other good deeds to make themselves look good. But God reads the hidden secrets in each heart.

"No matter how high his profession, he whose heart is not imbued with love for God and for his fellow men is not a disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith, and even have power to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless. He might display great liberality, but should he from some other motive than genuine love bestow all his goods to feed the poor, the act would not commend him to the favour of God. In his zeal he might even meet a martyr's death, yet if destitute of the gold of love he would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite." 5T 168

It is important to understand what really is hypocrisy, as there seems to be little hope for them for often they feel as though they

are, "rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." Rev. 3:17.

A hypocritical person reasons that as long as man does not see what he is doing, then it is ok. This is very deceptive. It is, in fact, lying. Often young people try to do things secretly that their parents do not approve of telling themselves that all is well as long as their parents never find out. These people forget that God not only sees all their actions, but makes an accurate record of them all and they will have to answer in the judgment for their deeds.

"The Redeemer of the world never spurned true repentance, however great the guilt; but He hurls burning denunciations against Pharisees and hypocrites. There is more hope for the open sinner than for this class." 5T 144

"Love to God is the very foundation of religion. To engage in His service merely from hope of reward or fear

of punishment would avail nothing. Open apostasy would not be more offensive to God than hypocrisy and mere formal worship." PP 523

WHO IS NOT A HYPOCRITE

Although at first we may think that the foolish virgins were hypocrites, however they accepted the truth, but simply did not yield themselves to the Holy Spirit. They were still in a very dangerous position.

"The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man's heart, according

to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form. 'They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.' Eze. 33:31." COL 411

IN THE END OF TIME

It would be well for each of us to examine our own hearts. Are we living up to the standard of Jesus? Are we living the life of a hypocrite, making excuses for our sin by comparing ourselves with others? Are we allowing our hypocrisy to develop into hatred for those who bring us reproof?

Remember, God hates hypocrisy.

"There are hypocrites now who will tremble when they obtain a view of themselves. Their own vileness will terrify them in that day which is soon to come upon us, a day when 'the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.' Oh, that terror might now lay hold upon them, that they might have a vivid sense of their condition and arouse while there is mercy and hope, confess their sins, and humble their souls greatly before God, that He might pardon their transgressions and heal their backslidings! The people of God are unready for the fearful, trying scenes before us, unready to stand pure from evil and lust amid the perils and corruptions of this degenerate age. They have not on the armour of righteousness, and are unprepared to war against the prevailing iniquity. Many are not obeying the commandments of God, yet they profess so to do. If they would be faithful to obey all the statutes of God they would have a power which would carry conviction to the hearts of the unbelieving." 2T 446

Thankfully we have a merciful God who wants to help us to change this fearful condition, however our time is running out. "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Romans 13:11

Even our prayers can be hypocritical. “The prayers that are offered to God to tell Him of all our wretchedness, when we do not feel wretched at all, are the prayers of hypocrisy. It is the contrite prayer that the Lord regards. ‘For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, ‘whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, and with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of

However just saying we love our brethren is not enough. We need to show that we love them.

“The church is in need, not of burdens, but of earnest workers; not of faultfinders, but of builders in Zion. Missionaries are really needed at the great heart of the work--men who will keep the fort, who will be true as steel to preserve the honour of those whom

A hypocritical person thinks only of themselves, while denouncing others. Hypocrisy can also conceal hidden hatred - Satanic hatred. We must guard against the sin of speaking evil of others as this leads to not only hatred on our part, but also we spread the deadly seeds of hatred to our listeners.

“Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person’s life or character. Cultivate thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful love in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to think of our grievances. God calls upon us to think of His mercy and His matchless love, that we may be inspired with praise.

“Earnest workers have no time for dwelling upon the faults of others. We cannot afford to live on the husks of others’ faults or failings. Evil speaking is a twofold curse, falling more heavily upon the speaker than upon the hearer. He who scatters the seeds of dissension and strife reaps in his own soul the deadly fruits. The very act of looking for evil in others develops evil in those who look. By dwelling upon the faults of others, we are changed into the same image. But by beholding Jesus, talking of His love and perfection of character, we become changed into His image. By contemplating the lofty ideal He has placed before us, we shall be uplifted into a pure and holy atmosphere, even the presence of God. When we abide here, there goes forth from us a light that irradiates all who are connected with us.” MH 492

May God help us to put away all hypocrisy and hatred, learning to channel all hatred into the things that God hates (hating all manner of sin), thus allowing the love of Jesus to come into each of our hearts. In this way we can fulfil the commission that He has given to us of being light bearers in this dark world. Jesus is coming soon. Will you be ready?

AMEN

Wendy Eaton



the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” MYP 247

WHAT THE CHURCH NEEDS

First of all, the greatest need is love.

God has placed at the head of His work, and who will do their utmost to sustain the cause in all its departments, even at the sacrifice of their own interests and lives, if need be.” 4T 194



THE DUAL NATURE OF CHRIST PART 2

“To be pardoned in the way that Christ pardons, is not only to be forgiven, but to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. The Lord says, “A new heart will I give unto thee”. “The image of Christ is to be stamped upon the very mind, heart and soul. The apostle says, ‘And we have the mind of Christ’. Without the transforming process which can come alone through divine power, the original propensities to sin are left in the heart in all their strength, to forge new chains, to impose a slavery that can never be broken by human power. But men can never enter heaven with their old tastes, inclinations, idols, ideas and theories”- Ellen. G. White, Review and Herald, August 19.1890.

When the sinner has the born again experience, he is sealed with the Holy Spirit. [Ephesians 1:13, This Holy Spirit guides the sinner to be sanctified.]

Apart from all this, the grace and power of God unto Salvation is keeping the believer from falling into sin through the born again experience. 1 John 3:9 The born again man is having his propensities to sin, but not committing sin by yielding to temptation. Since Christ is our example, He also got victory over sin in the same manner. Christ, both the example and Substitute for a righteous man who has propensities to sin, but not having the bias toward instigating those propensities of evil. The grace of God made with the everlasting Covenant, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the guardian angels, the prayers of saints; all these keep us from falling into sin.

In the humanity of Christ He uttered these words “O, my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me...” But in His divinity, He never withdrew Himself from His mission. His divinity never died.

When He was nailed upon the cross He was crucified, but He had submitted His will to the will of His Father in the garden of Gethsemane.

Another phrase Christ uttered in His agony of Calvary “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Matt 27:46. For which we read the following statement of M.L.Andreason. “But mere physical agony does not explain the heart rending cry that comes from the lips of the Saviour. “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me? Only spiritual distress can account for this, a feeling of being forsaken, being left alone, and that in the crisis hour.

We hear no complaints as the cross is rudely thrust into the ground; we hear no complaints as they spat upon, scourged and reviled Him; the thing that occupied His mind was the hiding of God’s face. Martyrs were upheld in their last hour by the assurance of the love and care of God. But not so Christ. He was alone and apparently forsaken. To Him God seemed far off”. - The Book of Hebrews, p.109, 110. By M.L.Andreason.

The Character of righteousness that was formed in Him made Him to stand firmly in His atoning sacrifice. Jesus never made a complaint of His sufferings. He understood that it was the will of God, and He must drink of that cup. But the only feeling He had was why God separated Himself at that moment? If Christ was in heaven with His divine nature, He could have understood the ways of God. But in the human nature of Christ He could not comprehend the ways of God. Without a doubt Christ was clear in His service to mankind. That was why He went ahead with His atoning sacrifice in man’s stead. The love He had for God and man made Him not complain of His sufferings.

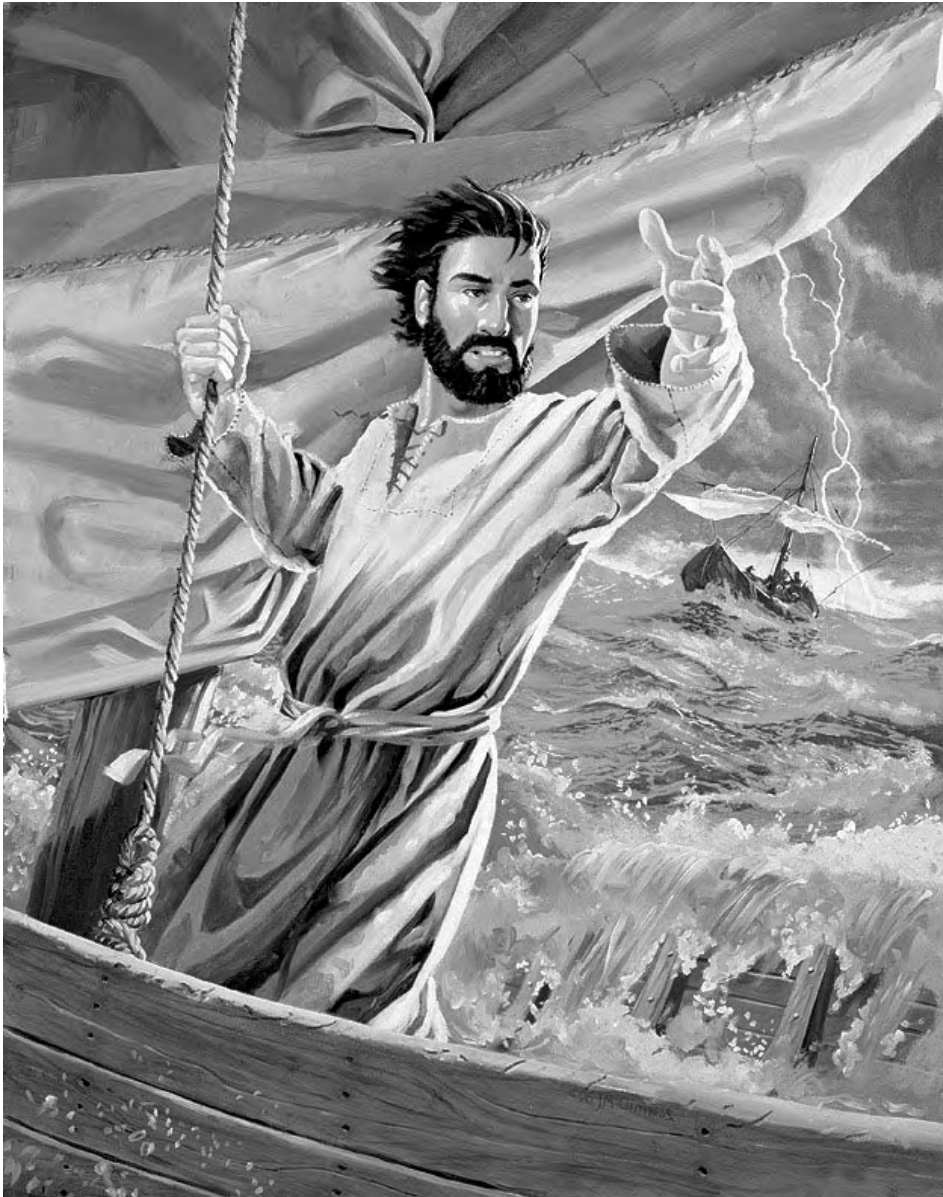
This must be what the Apostle Paul means when He writes in his epistle to the Galatians, “I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” Galatians 2:20. Christ is the example for us to submit ourselves to the will of God as He humbled Himself to the death of the cross. Paul expects all the followers of Christ to possess the same submission to the will of God. Christ also said, “And He said unto them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me” Luke 9:23. Daily bearing the cross means daily submitting our will to the will of God. In all our daily duties we have to find out what is the will of God. “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” - Romans 12:2. Paul says- “I die daily” I Corinthians 15:31.

In Christ dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily. This is why, although He was tempted in all points as we are, He stood before the world, from His first entrance into it, untainted by corruption, though surrounded by it. Are we not also to become partakers of that fullness and is it not thus only, that we can overcome as He overcame? - SDA Bible Commentary 7 p.907. In the study of righteousness by faith, we find two parts: Imputed righteousness, and imparted righteousness. The pen of E.G. White explains meaningfully about this: “The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven” - Messages to Young People, p.35.

We are going to study this subject of righteousness by faith only briefly. But we have to ask one question: what is the connection between imparted righteousness, and the nature of Christ? We already said that Christ left all His royal robes of heaven and almighty power, and took the nature of sinful flesh as we are. If Christ had sinned the whole plan of salvation would have not succeeded. To be an example for us in sanctification Christ sanctified Himself, "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through

prayed to His Father. If Jesus had not taken human nature, why should He pray? Christ had to live by faith, just like we do and He received all His power from God to overcome sin, just like us as well. When Jesus was sleeping in the bottom of the boat that stormy night out on the lake, how could He sleep? --Because He had complete faith.

"When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He was in perfect peace. There was no trace of fear in word or look, for no fear



the truth". John 17:19. If Christ did not take a human nature as we have what was the necessity of Him to be sanctified? To sanctify Himself, Christ could only depend upon God the Father for His strength. We read in the Bible several times Jesus

was in His heart. But He rested not in the possession of almighty power. It was not as the "Master of earth and sea and sky" that He reposed in quiet. That power He had laid down, and He says, "I can of Mine own self do nothing." John 5:30. He trusted in

the Father's might. It was in faith--faith in God's love and care--that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God. {DA 336.1}

The power of sanctification Jesus received from God the Father only by faith. Because Jesus says, "I can of mine own self do nothing" this word "nothing" includes sanctification also.

As Jesus took the nature of sinful flesh as we are, He is an example for us in sanctification, prayer, and total submission to the will of God, righteousness, undefiled spiritual, mental and physical powers and conclusively in that we partake of the divine nature. The following appendix provides us more information upon the human nature of Christ.

"He (Christ) took upon His sinless nature our sinful nature, that He might know how to succour those that are tempted." - Medical Ministry p.191. "But Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God, He took upon Himself human nature and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity." - 5 Bible Commentary, pp.1128.1129.

(Here "evil propensity" meant a like for sin: the rest of the passage shows us that "He could have sinned. He could have fallen" - this makes us understand that Christ took the fallen nature of man). "For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, and the moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation." Desire of Ages, p.117. "The king of glory proposed to humble himself to fallen humanity. He would take man's fallen nature and engage to cope with the strong foe who triumphed over Adam." Review and Herald, Vol 1, p.140.

The propensities or inclinations of Christ were just like what we would have in similar circumstances. But He merged His will with the will of God, His Father. "I can

of mine own self do nothing; as I hear I judge; and my judgement is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. "John 5:30. This submission of Christ's own will to the will of His Father lasted until His Crucifixion. "...My Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt". Matt 26:39.

"The humanity of the Son of God trembled in that trying hour... The words fall tremblingly from the pale lips of Jesus". O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done". Desire of Ages p.690

THE DIVINE NATURE OF CHRIST AND THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST

"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God... And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth". - John 1:1,14. Before Abraham was, I am; Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent son of God". Signs of the Times April 18,1897, p.214.

About the pre-existence of Christ, the prophet Micah writes: "But thou Bethlehem. Ephratah though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" - Micah 5:2.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and He received the adoring homage of the angels as right. This was no robbery of God"- Review and Herald April, Vol. 6.p 8.

THE DIVINE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

Though Christ was in human nature, in many circumstances Christ was united with His divine authority: "But ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins..." Matt.9:6. "But I say unto you..." Matt 5:28

The pronoun "I" stands for the divine authority of Christ. "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath" for example. Though Christ came in human nature, the divine authority was not taken from Him. Here, let us see more about the divine nature of Christ, What the pen of E.G. White says, "was the human nature

of the son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person - the man Christ Jesus. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead, bodily. When Christ was crucified, it was His human nature that died. Deity did not sink and die: That would have been impossible..." Letter 280. 1904.

"The human did not take the place of the divine nor the divine of the human. This is the mystery of Godliness. The two expressions of human and divine were Christ. Closely and inseparably one and yet they had a distinct individuality..." Signs of the Times May 10,1899, p.306.

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

The word "mystery" is used several times by the Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Ephesians. (Ephesians 1:9 3:3,4) The Apostle Paul's knowledge about the mystery of Christ is said in Ephesians 1:10 The mystery of God's will purposed in Christ is "That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him." Eph - 1:10

These words "... gather together in one all things in Christ," meant for the reconciliation work of Christ. Jesus made the reconciliation "... Both which are in heaven, and which are on earth..." E.G. White says clearly upon this subject: "Jesus could give alone security to God; for He was equal with God. He alone could be a mediator between God and man; for He possessed divinity and humanity. Jesus could thus give security to both parties for the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions. As the Son of God He gives security to God in our behalf and as the eternal Word, as one equal with the Father, He assures us of the Father's love to usward who believe His pledged word" - Review and Herald, April 3, 1894. The work of mediation and reconciliation of Christ through His divine nature and human nature is the mystery of Christ. The human comprehension in this sinful nature is limited; with thus we cannot understand fully the nature of Christ as it is. E.G. White says, "That is a great mystery, a mystery that will not be fully and completely understood in all its greatness until the translation of the redeemed shall take place. Then the power and greatness and efficiency of the gift of God to man will be understood. But the enemy is determined that this gift shall be so mystified that it will become as nothingness" The S.D.A. Bible Commentary. Ellen G. White Comments, Vol; 5...p.1113

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now", -John 16:12. The most gifted men on earth could all find abundant employment, from now until the judgment, for all their God-given power in exalting the character of Christ. But they would still fail to present Him as he is. The mysteries of redemption, embracing Christ's divine human character, His incarnation, His atonement for sin, could employ the pens and the highest mental powers of the wisest men from now until Christ shall be revealed in the clouds of heaven in power and great glory. But though these men should seek with all their power to give a representation of Christ and his work, the representation would fall short of the reality ... (Letter 280,1904).

Spiritual discernment, and the mental faculties are limited to some extent in man. Of course, with this limited intelligence we cannot comprehend this divine mystery fully. But the revealed facts are given to be understood as far as human beings can. In the plan of redemption the role of Jesus in representing God to man and man to God for whom Jesus took human nature as well as keeping His divine nature. Even though to be an example to man Christ never parted with His divine nature in fulfilling all the righteousness of God. *Amen*

David Sampathkumar, India



Mushroom Liskes



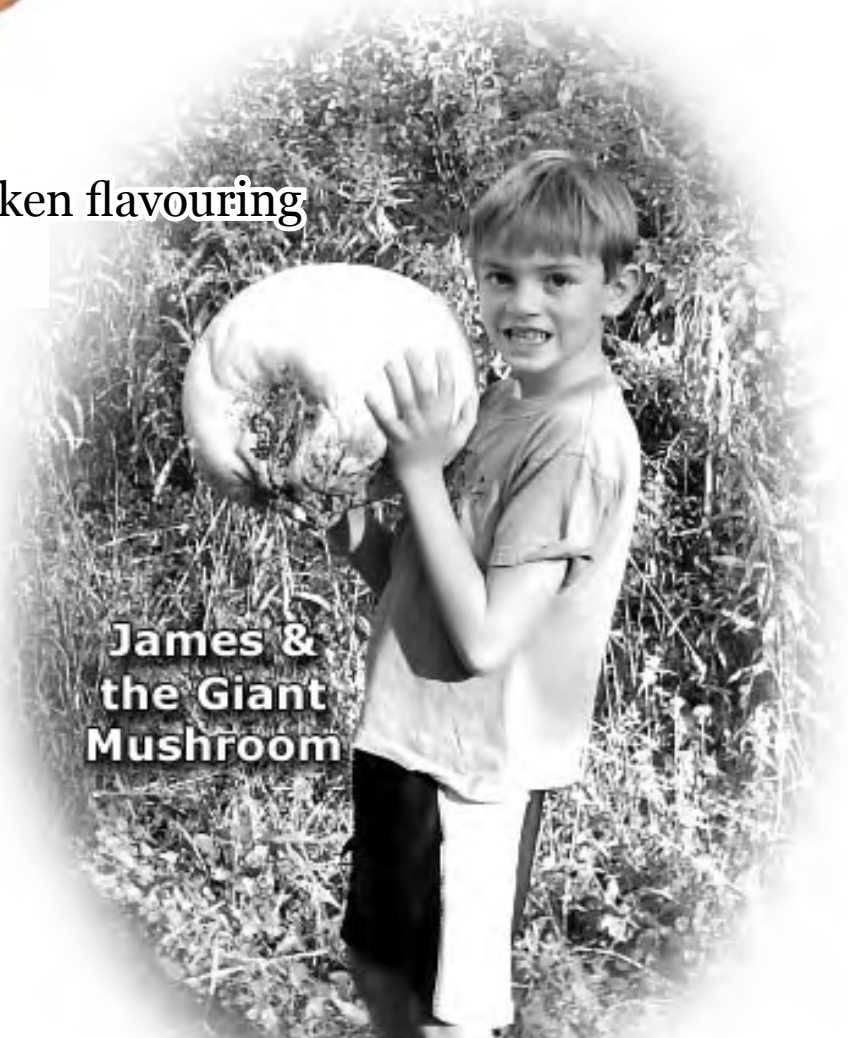
Ingredients:

- 425g of fresh mushrooms cooked until they are just tender
- 1 Large Onion, chopped fine
- 3 tbsp. bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. marjoram
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 tsp. simulated beef or chicken flavouring



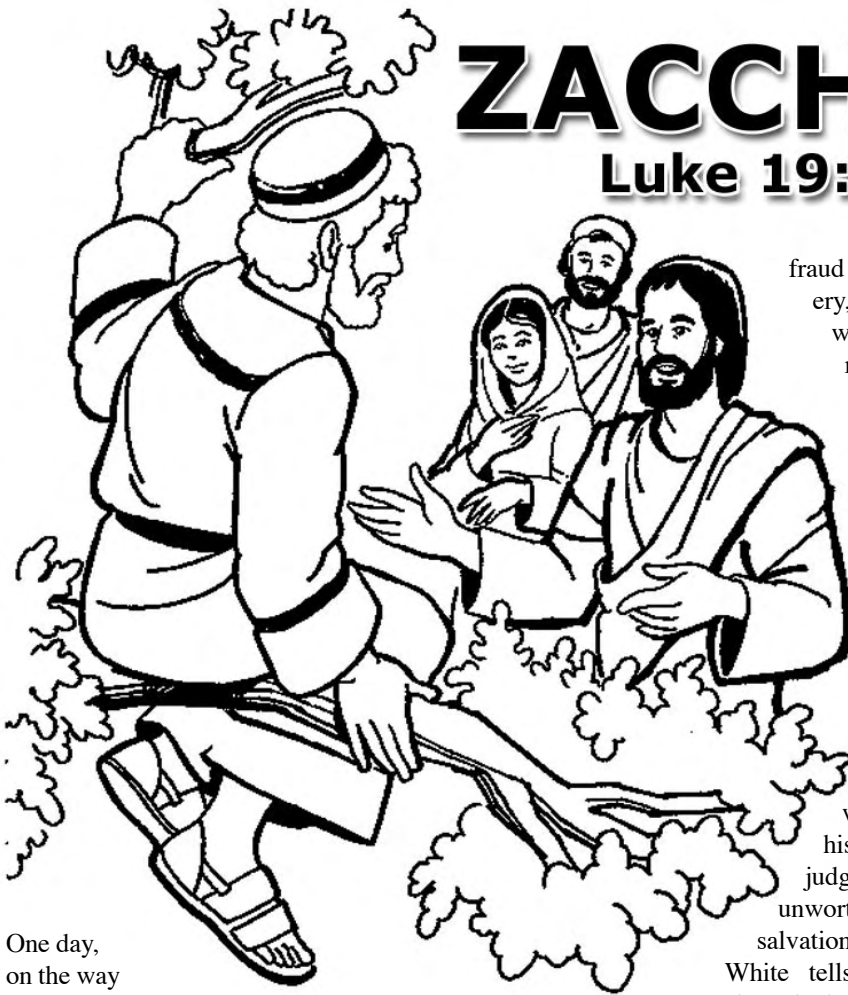
Procedure:

Drain mushrooms after cooking & chop fine. Put together all ingredients & mix well. Form into small patties. Roll formed patties in bread crumbs. Fry in Olive Oil on medium heat until brown.



ZACCHEUS

Luke 19:1-10



One day,
on the way
to Jerusalem,
Jesus passed through
Jericho, a tropical paradise,

comparable to Palm Springs in California or Palm Beach in Florida. Many priests lived there (reminding me of the Isle of Patmos, where priests stand on practically every corner and offer, for a small fee, to give a tour of the cave in which the disciple John supposedly lived).

On this day the multitudes had gathered in Jericho to see and hear and pay homage to the Galilean rabbi who had just performed His greatest miracle—the raising to life of his friend, Lazarus.

Because caravans traveled through Jericho, many publicans lived there, too—to collect taxes from travelers and residents alike. One meaning of publican is “a keeper of a tavern, or pub” (when I study my Bible, I always have my dictionary handy), but the publicans in Jericho were Jews who collected taxes for the Roman Empire.

Jericho’s chief tax collector was Zaccheus, the most hated man in the city. He, along with the other publicans, was dishonest, an extortioner, a man who practiced

fraud and bribery, too. He was a very rich, powerful and proud man of the world, living in pomp and luxury. Even though men and women of his time judged him as unworthy of salvation, Sister White tells us that Zaccheus had a soft spot in his heart.

We, too, tend to judge people too quickly. We think some will respond to God’s love and willingly give them studies, but they fall away. Others we won’t even offer to study with, because we think they haven’t the slightest interest.

Zaccheus had gone to listen to John the Baptist with his straightforward message: “Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matt. 3:2). The publican was unhappy. He wanted a better life. He felt guilty for his sins. So when the chance came he decided to go see a “notable person,” this man Jesus, about whom so much had been told.

Have you ever gone to see a notable person? One time I decided to stop at a Chicago street corner on my way to visit my mother, to see President Clinton pass by with his cavalcade of cars, SWAT teams, security guards and so on. The president even waved directly at me, but I wasn’t really impressed.

Another time, as I studied the Bible with a man in Greece, a parade of people passed

by. “There is probably a bishop or another important church officer in that car” I said, pointing to the imposing vehicle in the midst of the parade. “No,” said the man with whom I was studying, “We are more important.”

Zaccheus joined the crowd. The others, however, didn’t care that he wanted to see Jesus. He most certainly was recognized as a hated publican. People may have intentionally jabbed him in the ribs while they had the opportunity! But Zaccheus was a smart Jew with a great desire to see Jesus. In the midst of all those people, he realized it was impossible for such a short man as himself to see anyone coming. So the publican ran ahead of the crowd, holding onto his turban, perhaps holding up his brightly-coloured silk robe. He climbed up into a sycamore tree, which Sister White says is a fig tree, and looked—not up or around any more—but down on the people. The noise and commotion stopped. There stood Jesus!

And Jesus spoke directly to the astonished man: “Zaccheus, come down, I want to visit with you in your home today.” The astonished little man may have jumped down from that fig tree!

The people, the priests, all those others in the crowd—what did they say? “Jesus, this performer of miracles, this man who can raise people from the dead, is going to eat with a sinner. Can you believe it? A sinner!”

And Jesus did eat and talk with Zaccheus. But when Jesus was through, Zaccheus was no longer the sinner he had been. “I will give half my goods to the poor,” he exclaimed. “I will restore four times the amount of everything I have taken in a wrong way from anyone.” “Today,” said Jesus, “is salvation come to this house.” Not only Zaccheus was converted, but his family was also influenced by the change in his life.

No man—not even rich Jews—can do the impossible, but “with God all things are pos-

sible.” Mark 10:27. Zaccheus had yielded to the Holy Spirit. Have you yielded?

Have you repented? I hope so, but repentance is not enough. You must change your ways—your character and your conduct. You call yourself a Reformer. Are you really one? Has your character and your conduct changed over the years? Ask your husband or your wife, or someone else who has known you a long time.

Zaccheus was a business man. He had been a shrewd one. How do you deal with people in your office, work, or in your store? In farmer’s markets, I used to haggle, I’d habitually try to talk to people into giving me goods for a lower price than what they asked. It’s customary in many countries. But I no longer do that. I realize that everybody has a right to be paid a fair price for what he or she has taken the time to produce and bring to the market.

When Zaccheus was converted, salvation came to his house. It was a blessed place. When people walked in, they felt the presence of God. What hangs on the walls or your home? Is it neat, orderly, clean? Is your bed made? When someone unexpectedly knocks on your door, do you dash to put on something decent? Do you run to turn off the TV, then answer the door and say, “Oh, I’m so sorry.” Don’t be sorry. Be ready. Be prepared for Jesus to come to your door at all times!

Zaccheus
d i d

not receive Jesus as a guest, but as his Saviour, to live and abide in his heart and soul forever.

When was the turning point in the life of the publican? It came when he accepted the presence of Jesus in his life. Sister White said that we should let the presence of Jesus Christ be “enshrined” in our hearts. There are many shrines in the world—in Lourdes in France, Tarpon Springs in Florida, USA and in Tino’s in Greece, for example. Jesus’ shrine is indestructible. It will last forever!

Cain left the presence of the Lord. How many believers have gone out of the presence of Jesus Christ? “I’m not going back to that church,” they say. “I’m offended.” Yet the Lord says, “In thy presence is fullness of joy.” (Ps. 16:11). Someday, however, men “shall shake at my presence.” (Ezekiel 38:20). Your home life—inside and outside—should have the presence of Jesus.

If Jesus Christ is present in your life, nothing can get in—no cares or anxieties. Sister White says that “worry is sinful.” How can we doubt or be unfaithful to Him? To be in the presence of Jesus is to have a barricade against all bad influences. Where do your thoughts take you? Do you turn to Jesus or to your sins? Do you say, “I am afraid?” That is selfishness. You don’t trust Him. Remember His words in Heb. 13:5, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee,” and in Ps.

139:7, “Whither shall I flee from thy presence?”

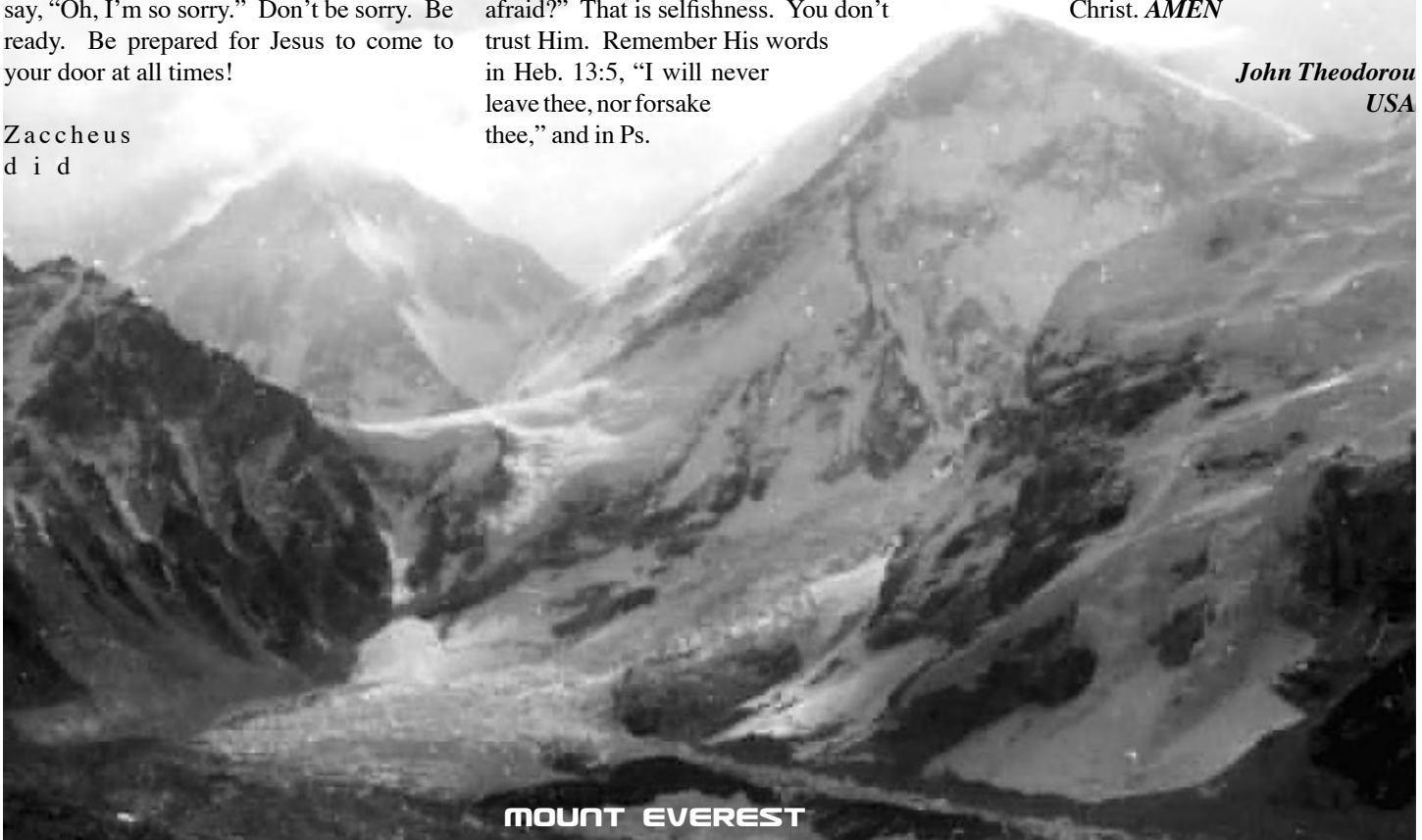
His presence comes with the security of His knowledge. We make plans. We forecast what will happen each day. He then comes and upsets all our plans. He wants us to be like children so He can tell us that He reigns in our lives. In His joy is our strength. When you grieve Him, you become grieved. He wants to share His best with you. “Search me, O God, and know my heart,” God says in Psalm 139:23.

Our lives should be our present to Him. He wants to visit us over and over again.

When will you come down from your tree?

Five Alpine climbers went up Mt. Everest, with a special guide in front of them and in the back. An avalanche partly covered them all. Climber one fell into a crevice. “Help me,” he screamed. Moments later, climber two fell, then number three and number four. “Help us, help us,” they cried. But the fifth climber was prepared. As soon as climber one fell, climber five dug his stake deep into the ice. He was prepared to help climber one, then climber two, climber three and climber four. They were all saved because of that one saviour. We too may be saved by our one and only Saviour, Jesus Christ. **AMEN**

John Theodorou
USA



MOUNT EVEREST



SIZE DOES MATTER

The trend to super-sizing or value-added meals started with fast food restaurants and quickly spread – along with our waistlines. It seems everything we eat is getting bigger. Since 1982, the standard size of a hamburger has increased 112 percent. Bagels are 95 percent bigger. Servings of pasta have gone up a whopping 480 percent. As the size of portions increased, so did the size of people. According to Statistics Canada, 2.8 million Canadians, aged 20 to 64, were considered obese in 2000-01. That's up from 500,000 just five years earlier.

“There are many associations now between what we eat and our health,” says Karen Ng-Anderson, a registered dietician with the region of Halton. “Things like cancer, heart disease, stroke and diabetes. These are diseases which really relate quite closely to the diet.”

So-called portion distortion has not helped. In fact, one survey of eating habits shows that people continue to eat everything they are served without even knowing that the serving sizes are double or triple what they used to be. The larger portions offered by fast food restaurants, which are often a better deal economically, seem to make people resistant to change. Professor Philip James, chairman of the International Obesity Task Force says “Unwittingly the food industry, by going for a super-marketing process, has contributed substantially to the problem.”

www.healthyontario.com

CHIPPING AWAY AT YOUR PRIVACY

RFID chips could make your daily life easier, but they also could let anyone with a scanning device know ... how much money is in your wallet

But these same super-small computer chips

might also, for the convenience of retailers, be tucked into every shirt you wear, every book you buy and even every dollar bill you put in your wallet -- and that could inadvertently create a profound threat to your personal privacy. A clever snoop, armed with a scanner that can read the radio signals coming from the microchips, could size you up in an instant while just strolling past you on the street.

“When I put something in my purse, my assumption is that other people can't see it, that they don't have X-ray vision,” said Katherine Albrecht, a leading privacy rights advocate. “With chips in our credit cards and in our bras and underwear and tennis shoes, that assumption goes away. Unless we act now, 10 years down the road everything we have could be scanned by anybody with access to a reader device.”

www.suntimes.com

BIOMETRIC BORDER

Biometric technology that scans faces, fingerprints or other physical characteristics to confirm people's identities is about to get its biggest, most public test: at US border checkpoints.

Yet significant questions loom about whether the US and foreign governments can meet an October 26, 2004 deadline set by US Congress for upgrading passports and visas to include biometrics.

“This is the mother of all projects - there's no question about it,” said Joseph Atick, chief of Identix Corp, a maker of biometric systems.

With fingerprint and face scanners due to be in place at air and sea ports by the end of this year and biometric visas and passports beginning to get into the hands of travellers next year, US officials hope to keep the wrong people out while letting the right people in without delay.

Biometric visas and passports, certainly, will be harder to fake. The challenge will be to equip the millions who will need the new documents in order to enter the United States, and to upgrade computer systems at border crossings.

Biometric systems reduce patterns in a person's fingerprints, irises, faces, voices or other characteristics to mathematical algorithms that can be stored on a chip or machine-readable strip.

When arriving travellers put their fingers into biometric scanners or stand in front of face-recognition cameras, a computer will check whether the patterns it detects match the ones the subjects gave when they were first scanned. The system also will check whether visitors appear on watch lists of suspected terrorists or immigration violators.

The technology has been used for years to secure sensitive corporate and government facilities, and to help state motor vehicle departments keep people from getting multiple licences. Mexico maintains 60 million face-recognition files to prevent people from registering to vote more than once.

After September 11, 2001, interest surged in biometrics as a security tool. Last year, Congress mandated that biometrics be added to a new automated entry and exit system for travellers known as US-VISIT. And it set several deadlines.

The Department of Homeland Security expects to begin taking fingerprints and digital pictures of incoming travellers at air and sea ports in January. The biometric identifiers will be added to the bevy of data the government maintains about international travellers.

www.theage.com.au

...CEASE TO DO EVIL, LEARN TO DO WELL...



What a learning experience it is! And what do we do when we do well? God does not leave us in the dark. He says, "Seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow."

"Seek judgment." How?—Learn the truth about issues.

"Relieve the oppressed." Who are the oppressed?—Wherever and under whatever

circumstances, whoever is being oppressed, we are to relieve.

That can hardly leave us being neutral in society.

What does all that mean in everyday experience?

Are we doing it?

Am I doing it?



And what are people being oppressed by?—Sin is the biggest oppressor. Some of those who seem to be oppressed by their fellow man could get free if they were willing to break away from sin.

But how many are willing to do that? How many are willing captives to sin? And of course the question must always come home to my private heart. Am I willing to search out and decidedly put away all that the Spirit of God reveals, however painful and difficult that may be, or seem to be.



"Judge the fatherless." Who are more fatherless than those who do not know our loving God as a tender Father. A Muslim "high caste" woman in India had an experience with God and she wrote about it in a book called, "I Dared to Call Him Father". Until she realized that God was like her father whom she loved, she had not much interest in Him. He was a stern, far-away Master. (See Hosea)



"Plead for the widow." Who are more widowed than those who feel God is dead, or has no interest in them.

Until Christ throws down the censer, may he help us to pray and work as never before for the oppressed, fatherless, widowed souls of this world. Otherwise, because iniquity does abound, our love will grow cold.



AMEN
Kathleen Ross,
Alberta, Canada



FALL COLORS

It's October, and the display of fall colors in many parts of North America is glorious to behold. Everywhere we see shades of yellow, orange, and red—all perfectly accented by shades of green. The colors aren't just simple colors from a paint set, however. The Creator has provided us with a constantly changing painting that contains every imaginable hue and shade. Not only do the colors alter from day to day, but they also shift through the day as the sunlight becomes more intense or as the clouds shade the sun's rays.

Notice that maple tree in the foreground beside the road. It's been changing from green to brilliant red over the last week. In a day or two every leaf will be scarlet. Each translucent leaf is becoming a jewel as the light shines through it. Together the leaves glow iridescently in the sunlight. When seen from a distance, the tree is an explosion of color that defies description.

What a lesson this teaches! As the life-giving chlorophyll disappears from the leaves in autumn, the substances left can produce any number of colors, depending on their chemical composition. The colors were there all along but were invisible because of the overpowering influence of the chlorophyll. When the inner colors do come forth, they are short-lived. Soon the brightly colored leaves will fall and turn brown. Then comes winter.

It is interesting that really brilliant fall colors occur only where winters are snowy. Our sins, like the leaves of the maple tree, are scarlet. But they can fall away and be replaced by the pure covering of Christ's righteousness. "Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white a snow." Isa. 1:

18.

A word from our Creator—

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalm 51:7.

(From 'Nature Quest'—James and Priscilla Tucker).

HAILSTORM



CHILDRENS CORNER

Sister White greatly enjoyed pets, and she also was fond of horses, which were common around many homes in her days.

One Sabbath in early February 1895,

she and several friends drove home from the church services at Prospect, New South Wales, Australia, to Granville. Jessie, the young horse pulling the carriage, trotted along peacefully, occasionally flicking her tail at some insect that annoyed her.

Glancing at the horizon, Sister White noticed a storm beginning to loom across the Blue Mountains. The clouds, however, seemed to be moving in a direction that would miss them. To be safe, the driver flicked the reins and urged the horse on a little faster. The carriage rattled, and the dust cloud that trailed it rose slightly higher. Gradually the sky darkened more menacingly. Sister White watched the clouds with increasing concern.

As they neared home, they passed the bridge on the Granville-Parramatta Road. Suddenly strong gusts of wind whipped the dust higher into the sky. Thunder boomed, and lightning flickered and shimmered among the clouds. The carriage came to the turnoff leading to where Sister White lived, whipping around the corner, and rattling down the side road. With a clatter on the carriage roof, egg-sized hailstones pelted the earth. Gleaming white and flecked with iridescence, the hail bounced about Jessie's hooves. The ground soon disappeared beneath a white icy carpet.

The road sloped down to a gate. Stumbling on the hailstones, twice the horse slipped and fell backward on its haunches. "Byron," Sister White said to her nephew, "get out at once, stand by Jessie's head, and talk to her." Shielding his head with his

arm, Byron jumped out of the carriage and seized the reins near the frightened mare's head. Two women remained with Sister White in the scanty security of the carriage. Turning to Sara McEnterfer, her travelling companion and secretary, and May Lacey, who latter married Willie White, Sister White said, "Get out as quickly as possible. The hail is getting even larger and heavier. The horse may get out of control at any moment."

Violent gusts of wind lashed the canvas carriage top, rocking the vehicle back and forth. Rain now mixed with the hail. As the two women helped Sister White down from the carriage, a blast of air snatched the seat cushions, sending them spinning through the darkened sky. Sister White's cushion hurtled out of the carriage, skipped across the fields and disappeared with a splash in a nearby stream. Supporting Sister White, Miss McEnterfer and Miss Lacey helped her across the yard and into the house. The wind slammed the door behind them. Drenched, May Lacey and Sister White went upstairs to change clothes. Her heavier clothing had kept Sister White from becoming as wet as Miss Lacey.



Grabbing a shawl, Sara McEnterfer hurried back outside to help Byron with the horse. The hail pounded the ground with even greater force than before. Byron squatted beside the horse, sheltering his hatless head under the animal's neck. Sara struggled blindly toward the carriage, but the fury of the hail kept her and Byron from

trying to unhitch the horse. A hailstone struck the young man on the forehead, nearly knocking him to the ground.

Desperately Sara tried to unloose the tugs and slip off the harness while the ice stones smashed her wrists and hands. Unable to free the tugs, she stumbled back beside Byron and took the reins from him. The sound of the hail and the rumble of thunder threatened to deafen them. Frightened by the cold rain and ice continually striking her body, the horse tried to buck and struggle free. Motioning for Sara to hold the reins, Byron went to the carriage and fumbled at the tugs. Moments later he had the horse free and led her for a few feet, but the mare tried harder to break loose and run for some kind of shelter. Byron held onto her reins, trying to calm her. When the storm slackened slightly, he reharnessed Jessie, gathered up the scattered cushions and other objects blown from the carriage, and drove into the yard near the house.

Sister White had watched Byron and the storm from an upper story window. As the carriage came close to the house, she could see even at that distance that large swellings covered the horse's body. Soaked, Byron's and Sara's clothes clung to their bodies. When Sara entered the house, she glanced down at her wrists and found them heavily bruised and discoloured.

Sheets of rain splashed against the sides of the house, pouring in beneath the door and flooding the halls and the dining room. Dripping water drenched the stair carpet, and the kitchen and scullery floors disappeared beneath puddles. Examining the house, Sister White found hail had smashed the windows on the south side, hurling shattered glass halfway across the hall. The upper and lower veranda windows lay in fragments on the floor.

On Sunday morning the sun rose in a clear blue sky above the muddy landscape. Deciding to see what further damage the storm had done, Sister White and her

friends walked out to the orchard. Leaves and broken branches lay everywhere. The wind had blown off almost all the peaches on one tree near the house, leaving only a little badly bruised fruit. In the garden the hail slashed the rhubarb plants to pieces and punctured the pumpkins.

The corn lay in tumbled confusion.

Although she felt sad damage, she did not let it discourage her. Instead, she found things to be thankful about. For one thing, Jessie, the mare, had not kicked once during the storm despite the painful glows of the hail. Now Sister White had greater confidence in the horse and knew that she could be trusted in an emergency. Also God had spared her life and that of her friends. Sister White's life had always been close to God, and her mind immediately responded with praise whenever she was an example of His protection of her. She knew that the violent hailstorm could have easily killed her, her friends, and the horse.

She had remained calm during the storm, knowing that God was in control and that nothing would happen that was not accord-

ing to His permissive will.

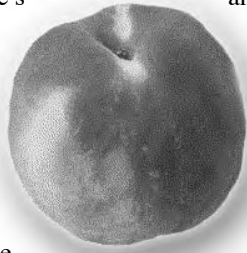
"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28.

Many people in the world curse God when bad things happen to them, but if they would only understand the love of God, they would be like Sister White, praising God for preserving their lives in the midst of tragedy around them. Bad things may happen all around us, but if our lives are preserved we can thank and praise God. Therefore we should earnestly seek to use our time and energy for God since it is He that is preserving our lives every day. God is in control of our lives until we tell Him we don't want Him around any more – then we are in control of Satan and Satan shows no mercy. He wants to kill as many people as he can, while they are sinning so that they won't get to heaven.

Often God allows disasters for two reasons. One reason is to test our faith and trust in Him and remind us that He is still in control. The second reason is because we have wandered away from God and He is trying wake us up and to bring us back to Him.

May God help each one of you to yield to Christ – turning away from Satan. Have

you counted the cost? There is a song that says just that, "Have you counted the cost if your soul should be lost?" What will it profit you if you gain the whole world and lose your own soul? It will profit you nothing – only eternal death after hell fire. However while there is still time, God is calling each one of you to turn away from the world, which is soon to perish.





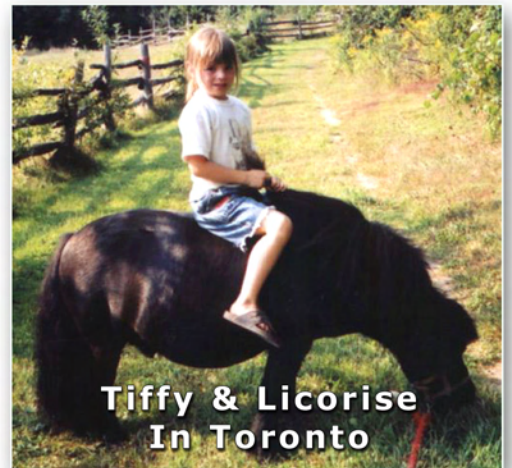
Tiffy



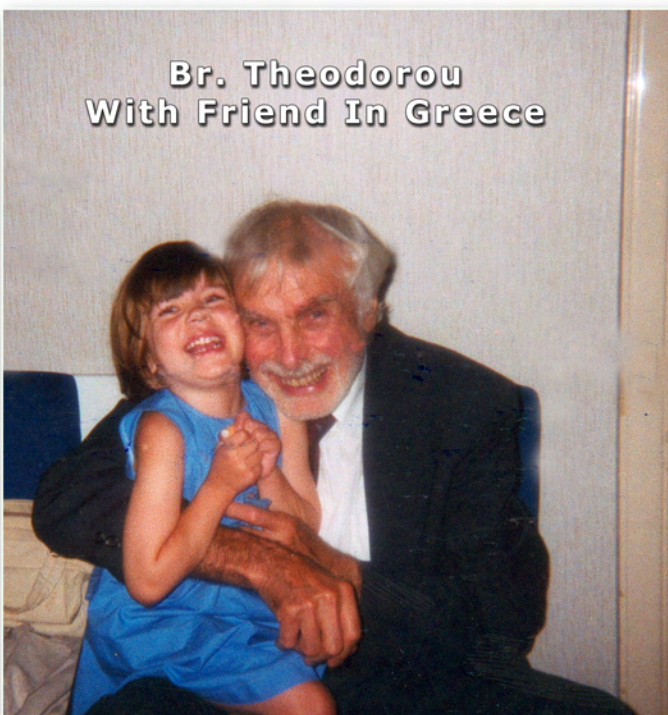
Br. Formosa's Birthday In Toronto



Sis. Helen Marttinen Talks Horse In Toronto.



Tiffy & Licorise In Toronto



Br. Theodorou With Friend In Greece



Br. Theodorou With Field President Br. Caputo In Greece

Church In Athens, Greece



Church In London, Canada



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