



We Believe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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"AS THY DAYS, SO SHALL THY STRENGTH BE"

We are not left to perish in human weakness. The promise of God is that our strength will be according to our days. We may not have the strength to go to prison or to death for our faith today, but when the time of persecution comes upon us then the strength will be given us accordingly.

It is sometimes hard to understand the meaning of the words of Jesus when He said, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matt. 5:11,12.

"Christ knows our weakness, and to Him we can go daily for help. It is not necessary for us to gain strength a month ahead. We are to conquer from day to day." B.C. 7, p. 974.

"Wherever in His providence God has placed you, He will keep you. 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be.' Deut. 33:25." CT p. 258.

Sometimes we may be like Peter, saying that we are ready to go to prison and to death for Jesus. But when the time came to Peter that there was a danger to him, he denied his faith. If we think that we are strong and able to suffer for our faith, then we will fail in the time of test. We must recognize that alone we can do nothing, but through Christ we can do all things.

faithful? This is important to know because we are soon going to face the Sunday law and persecution and many among us may fail because they do not have the divine power to remain faithful. The promise is clear that as our days are, so much of the divine power will be given us.

"Those who think themselves the strongest will prove to be the weakest, unless they make Christ their efficiency." DA, p. 414.

"The reason why our people have not more power is that they profess the truth, but do not practice it." Test. Vol. 4, p. 613.

Here is the secret of a victorious life. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10.

Often it happens that we try to keep the great commandments but ignore the little duties and the minor requirements of the law. It could be the health reform that is neglected or Sabbath-keeping or a way we treat one another. These little sins will take away our strength and eventually our faith, but yet for a little while we may seem outwardly as good Christians.

The way of a Christian is narrow, it includes trials and afflictions, and humanly no one is strong enough to endure them and even rejoice as they go

through these difficulties.

It is impossible to be a Christian and not to suffer persecution. Paul writes, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Tim. 3:12. "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Phil. 1:29.

As we study the history of the past six thousand years we find that God's people had to suffer ridicule, imprisonment and death in the hands of their enemies who often were their own brethren. This happened to Abel who was killed by his own brother. Joseph had to suffer much for the hatred by his brothers; Jesus was crucified by His own church.

"Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers." Acts 7:52.

We are not to pray that God would remove all trials and the persecution from us, but we are to pray for the strength to endure them.

"While the Lord has not promised His people exemption from trials, He has promised that which is far better. He has said, 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be.' 'My grace is sufficient for you: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Deut. 33:25; 2 Cor. 12:9. If you are called to go through the fiery furnace for His sake, Jesus will be by your side even as He was with the faithful there in Babylon. Those who love their Redeemer will rejoice at every opportunity of sharing with His humiliation and reproach. The love they bear their Lord makes suffering for His sake sweet. In all ages Satan has

persecuted the people of God. He has tortured them and put them to death, but in dying they became conquerors. They revealed in their steadfast faith a mightier One than Satan.” M.B., p. 30.

Apostle Paul had learned to rejoice in suffering for his faith. He said, “I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” 1 Cor. 12:10.

“Words cannot describe the peace and joy possessed by him who takes God at His word. Trials do not disturb him, slights do not vex him, self is crucified.

Day by day his duties may become more taxing, his temptations stronger, his trials more severe; but he does not falter; for he receives strength equal to his need.” MYP, p. 98.

It is much better to be persecuted than to be the persecutor. Jesus said, “It is impossible but offenses will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!” Luke 17:1.

Satan’s spirit in the persecutors will not give them peace. They will be wretched and miserable. Their suffering is greater than their innocent victims who have the Comforter, who fills their hearts with the

peace and joy of heaven.

This persecuting spirit often creeps into the very church of God. We find this in the Old Testament time, in the time of Christ and ever since then.

“We should be the last people on the earth to indulge in the slightest degree the spirit of persecution against those who are bearing the message of God to the world. This is the most terrible feature of unchristlikeness that has manifested itself among us since the Minneapolis meeting. Sometime it will be seen in its true bearing, with all the burden of woe that has resulted from it.” G.C.B., 1893, p. 184.

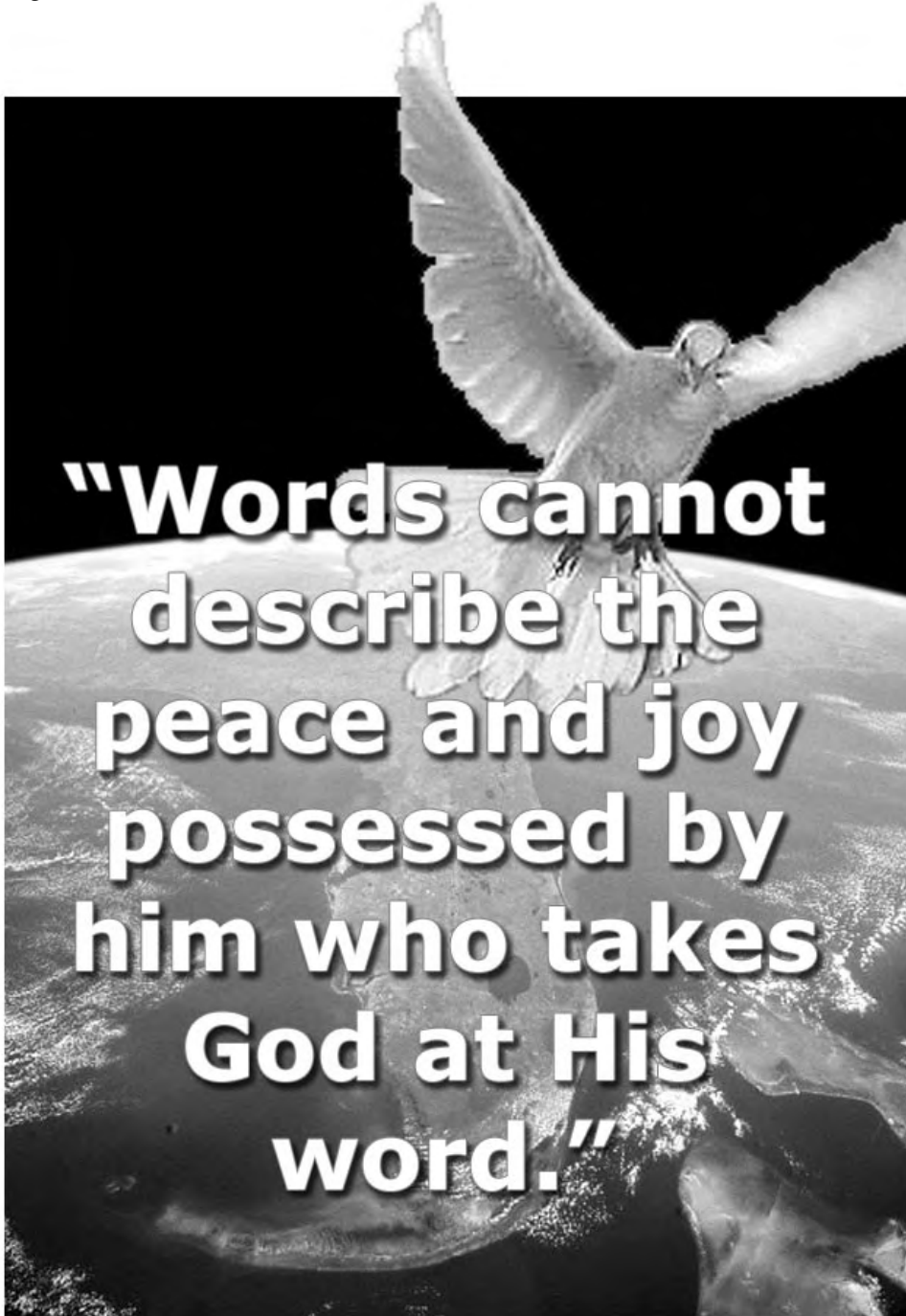
When Sister White visited the church in Battle Creek she was not permitted to speak by the leaders. It was not until after her death that her work was appreciated more.

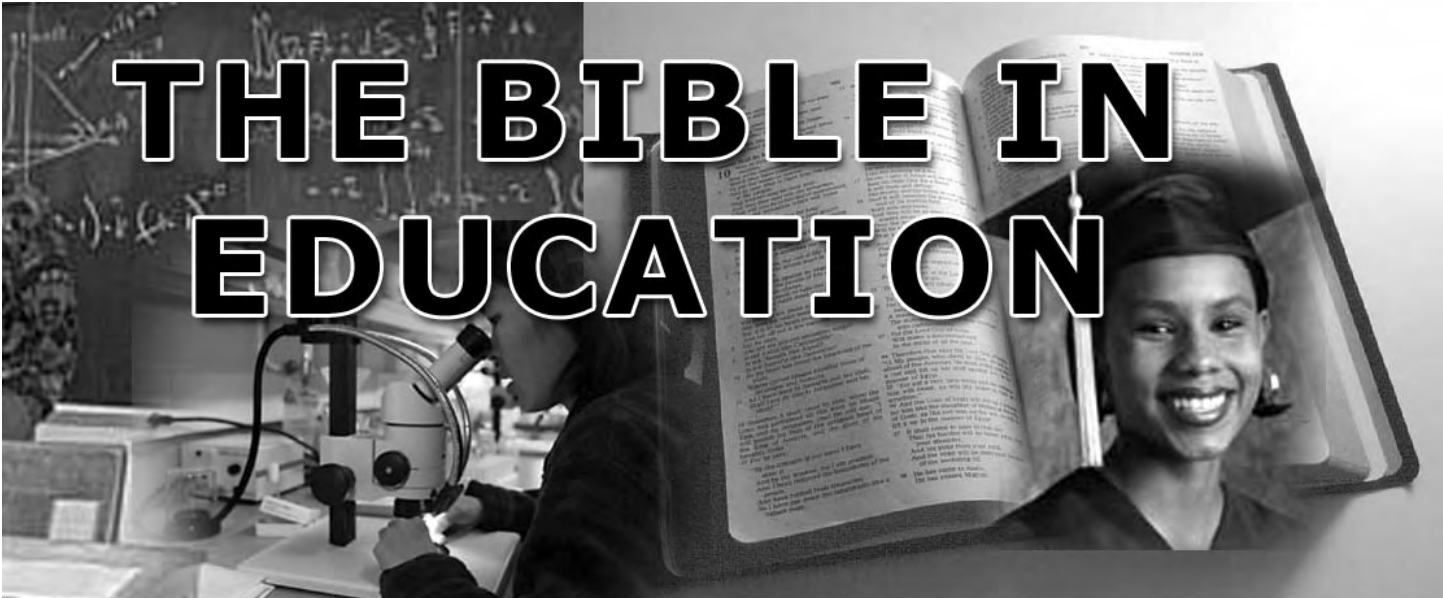
“The persecution that is carried on among church members is a most terrible thing. It is true that some have committed errors, and made mistakes, but it is equally true that these errors and mistakes are not nearly as grievous in the sight of God as is the harsh and unforgiving spirit of those who are critics and censors.” T.M., p. 186.

In the church there has always been troublemakers as well as also peacemakers. The troublemakers have Satan’s spirit and they always cause disturbance and divisions. The peacemakers on the other hand have God’s spirit and they work for the unity and peace in the church.

Do not hesitate to be a peacemaker. Even that you may have to suffer, the power of God will sustain you. “As thy days, so shall thy strength be.” *AMEN*

Timo Martin, Canada





THE BIBLE IN EDUCATION

“That our sons *may be* as plants grown up in their youth; *that* our daughters *may be* as cornerstones, polished *after* the similitude of a palace:” Psalm 144:12.

“True education is more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.” *Education, p.13.*

My initial thought when I first read the book “The Bible in Education” by A T Jones was that how could this subject be relevant to me as I’ve already been through my schooling? You may wonder the same as you may have already brought up children and the fruition of seeds planted has already come to pass. You may feel that past mistakes cannot be redeemed. I soon realised that the subject was relevant to me as it revealed a subtle aspect of Babylon that I had been drawn into and was still affected by.

We are not educated solely so that we may obtain a good career, it is the preparation for eternal life. But this depends entirely on what kind of education we receive.

I would have been the perfect candidate for home schooling. I disliked school immensely and found school, its activities, the playground and others students daunting. School went against the Jesus

inside of me that wanted to be at home with my Mum. It wasn’t within my mother’s capabilities to home school me, in fact, it may not be within the capabilities for many of us. This study is not to charge anyone who sends their children to school, but merely to look at the origins of education today and to learn how to perhaps counteract the influences that will be met there. This study may open your eyes to how another one of God’s ideals has been subtly perverted in the world today and how it fits into the fallen state of Babylon.

Before being sent to school, my mother did something good, she helped me to know God so I could have a source of strength for what I was to meet; “Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.” Job 22:1. I became acquainted with God at home and we are to acquaint ourselves with God if we want true knowledge and the source of all wisdom.

Gods original plan of education.

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.” Psalms 32:8. “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.” Prov 9: 10. “With the ancient *is* wisdom; and in length of days understanding. With him *is* wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.” Job 12:12,13

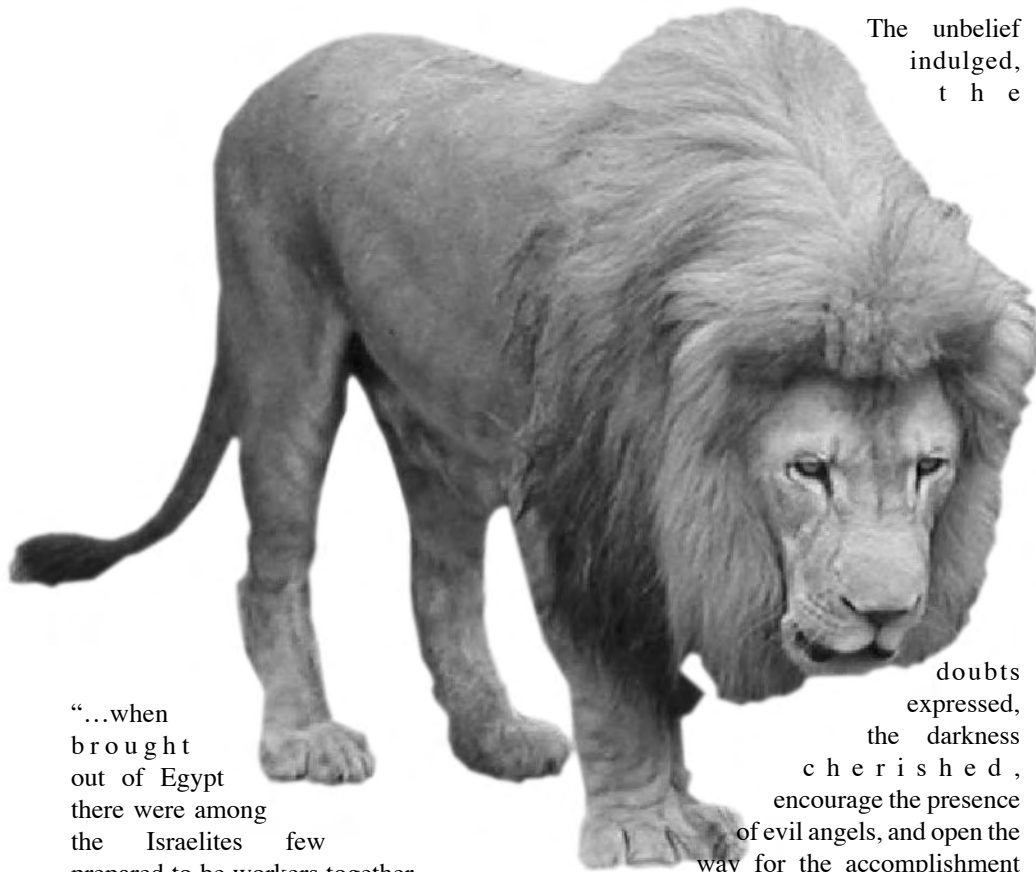
“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.” Prov 2:6 If we want to learn then we go to the source of all knowledge - God.

“The system of education established in Eden centered in the family. Adam was ‘the son of God’. And it was from their Father that the children of the Highest received their instruction. Theirs, in the truest sense, was a family school. In the divine plan of education as adapted to man’s condition after the fall, Christ stands as the representative of the Father, the connecting link between God and man; He is the great teacher of mankind and He ordained that men and women should be His representatives. The family was the school, and the parents were the teachers. The education centering in the family was that which prevailed in the days of the patriarchs.” P. 33 *Education.*

“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden.” Genesis 2:8,9. “Here, amidst the beautiful scenes of nature untouched by sin, our first parents were to receive their education.” *Ed 20.3*

“In His interest for His children, our heavenly Father personally directed their education. Often they were visited by His messengers, the holy angels, and from them received counsel and instruction.” *Ed 21.1*

But by sin man was shut out from God and now the education of the plan of redemption became necessary. God also had a method of education he desired to establish in Israel. We will now look at the Biblical history of education.



The unbelief
indulged,
t h e

of the times in which they lived. (Thus they became to the Israelites what ministers and teachers are to the people now, and this teaching and training the people in morality and religion was no doubt one of the chief reasons why they were set apart by God from the people, and yet among the people.)” *Smiths Bible Dictionary*.

“...when brought out of Egypt there were among the Israelites few prepared to be workers together with Him in the training of their children. The parents themselves needed instruction and discipline. Victims of lifelong slavery, they were ignorant, untrained, degraded. They had little knowledge of God and little faith in Him. They were confused by false teaching and corrupted by their long contact with heathenism. God desired to lift them to a higher moral level, and to this end He sought to give them a knowledge of Himself.” *Ibid*. P. 33.

If society has fallen into such a low state, all the more effort is required to ensure our children are educated as much as possible in the old paths. Let us not criticise any family we see protecting their children even from the influences at church.

“We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honor, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement!

doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan’s devices.” ISM 122 (1887).

“When the Word of God held its proper place in home and school, Israel was prosperous, and worldly nations said of them, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ Then we read that they would ‘forget the things’ of God, and fail to ‘teach their children’ the Word. These untaught children mingled among the heathen and learned their works, and they served their idols, which were a snare unto them... Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions... And He gave them into the hands of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them... Many times did He deliver them.” Ps 106:35-43.

“The history of modern Israel may be written in the same language as ancient Israel, substituting only modern terms and phrases to impress more vividly the comparisons.” *Christian Education by E A Sutherland p. 19-20*.

Let’s examine the history of Biblical education in ancient times. The Levites were educators: “The educational work which the Levites received for their peculiar duties, would tend to make them the teachers of the others, the transcribers and interpreters of the law, the chroniclers

When Gods plan of education was not carried into effect he provided other means. “God provided other agencies as an aid to parents in the world of education. The name Prophet was not only given to those who received direct inspiration, but also to those who not so directly inspired, were divinely called to instruct the people in the works and ways of God. For the training of such a class of teachers, Samuel, by the Lord’s direction, established the schools of the prophets.” P. 46 *Education*. “The pupils of these schools sustained themselves by their own labor in tilling the soil or in some mechanical employment.” P. 61 *Christian Education*.

In these schools the following subjects were taught; 1. Wisdom 2. Knowledge 3.Science 4.Manual labor 5.Music 6.Poetry 7.Temperance 8.Morals 9.Law 10.History 11.Reading 12.Writing 13.Numbers.

Daniel

“At the first siege of Jerusalem, 607 BC, Daniel was not over eighteen years of age; about the age of the prince Zedekiah, who afterward ruled in Jerusalem. Daniel had a godly mother who knew of the prophecy concerning the destruction of their city.



She repeated to her son the words of God, that some day Hebrew children must stand in the heathen court at Babylon. Carefully did this mother teach her son to read the parchment scrolls of the prophets. The history of Israel was studied; the story of Nadab and Abihu was told and retold. The effect of strong drink was impressed upon

the mind. The laws of his own being were studied. He knew that excess in eating and drinking would so dull the mind that the voice of God could not be heard. This education was not gained in the schools of the time, for they had departed from the plan of God; but holy mothers, living close to the everlasting Father, led their children by precept and example, by word and song, to form characters that would stand the test... It was the age when most of the young men in the capital of Judah were wild and reckless... God chose from their midst certain ones whom He could trust in a foreign land.... Now can be seen the results of the home training. They had not been educated in the schools of Jerusalem, much less in those in Babylon. On examination, these four passed as 'skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science....' God had fulfilled his promise in these children of the home school." pgs. 22-33 *Daniel the Prophet* – S Haskell.

"Daniel and his three companions were 'skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science.' This education was acquired in the college, or the school of the prophets, in Jerusalem." *The Bible in Education* – p. 83. AT Jones.

"The third feature of Daniel's education is that he understood science. But where did Daniel or his teachers find any formulated science? Solomon lived and taught four hundred years before Daniel's school days. Solomon 'was wiser than all men.' And what Solomon knew was not kept to himself, locked up in his own understanding; but he taught it to the people. It was so plain and simple that common people could understand it. Solomon thoroughly understood what is now called botany, zoology, ornithology, entomology, ichthyology, and meteorology. Solomon knew more of all these sciences than any man today knows of any one of them. And he taught them to all the people; for he spake of them all. " *The Bible in Education* A T Jones. p. 100-102.

"He did not give learned and high sounding discourses on these subjects; he spake of

the things themselves. Likewise also the beasts, the birds, the creeping things, and the fishes were studied and discoursed upon as they were alive and before his eyes." *The Bible in Education* p. 102.

Solomon did not dissect rats as I did in high school or as we see of human bodies in universities. He didn't pull flowers or insects to pieces, he studied them as they were in living form. No greater mistake can be made than the mistake that has been made in separating the fear of the Lord – religion – from science.

Jesus

"The childhood and youth of Jesus were spent in a little mountain village. Through the Holy Spirit the mother of Jesus received wisdom to co- operate with the



heavenly agencies in the development of this child." *Desire of Ages* p. 67

"From the earliest times the faithful in Israel had given much care to the education of the youth. The Lord had directed that even from babyhood the children should be taught of His goodness and His greatness, especially as revealed in His law, and shown in the history of Israel. Song and prayer and lessons from the Scriptures were to be adapted to the opening mind. Fathers and mothers were to instruct their children that the law of God is an expression of His character, and that as

they received the principles of the law into the heart, the image of God was traced on mind and soul." *Desire of Ages* p. 69.

The mother had a large part to play in Education. "Every child may gain knowledge as Jesus did." *DA* p. 70. "He was not exempt from temptation. Jesus was placed where his character would be tested." *DA* p. 71. By the time Jesus was 12, He knew his mission.

Moses

Moses was also taught in the home school until he was twelve years old. Another source of the present system of worldly education today came from Egypt. After Moses was educated in Egypt and fled to the plains of Midian in Arabia, it took another forty years to break the yoke of Egypt's education system and to understand the true science of education so they might have a place in Canaan. Christ is calling men away from the Egyptian system of education. "Moses had been learning much that he must unlearn. The influences that had surrounded him in Egypt-- the dissipation on every hand, the refinement, the subtlety, and the mysticism of a false religion, the splendor of idolatrous worship, the solemn grandeur of architecture and sculpture--all had left deep impressions upon his developing mind and had molded, to some extent, his habits and character. Time, change of surroundings, and communion with God could remove these impressions." {CC 86.3}

"It was not the teachings of the schools of Egypt that enabled Moses to triumph over all his enemies, but an ever-abiding faith, an unflinching faith, a faith that did not fail under the most trying circumstances." {CC 83.3}

Enoch

Enoch would labour among the worldly people before the flood but then he would withdraw from society for certain periods.

"In the midst of a life of active labor, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion

with God. The greater and more pressing his labours, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. He continued to exclude himself, at certain periods, from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, labouring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart. Communing thus with God, Enoch came more and more to reflect the divine image. His face was radiant with a holy light, even the light that shineth in the face of Jesus. As he came forth from these divine communings, even the ungodly beheld with awe the impress of heaven upon his countenance.” *PP* 86.4

There are some unbalanced ideas about how we should totally exclude ourselves from all worldly society and that we can not associate with anyone who we think is at all worldly. We need to be among worldly society to be a witness and at the same time have periods away from that kind of society not to be influenced by it. The other extreme is Lot and his wife who were living right in the midst of Sodom - we don't want that either. Nor do we want to hide our light under a bushel.

The origin of Education in the world today

“When Christianity began in the world, the Word of God was its educational book. However, there was a time in the world which claimed it to be education; and not only education, but the only education in any true sense” *The Bible in Education* – AT Jones p. 9.

The whole theory of Greek education, both in science and philosophy, was “doubt” a profound and consistent scepticism. The principal ideal of that philosophy is expressed in the word doubt. The history of philosophy is but the history of doubt.” *The Bible in Education* – AT Jones P. 15.

There were three educational centers in the world at the time. Corinth – the vanity fair of the Roman Empire. Ephesus – “the most magnificent cities of Asia” Athens – the mother of the worlds’ education.

The Apostle Paul spent eighteen months planting Christianity in Corinth and then wrote “After that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased

God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” 1 Cor 1:21.

“That which was accepted by the world as education was the means of their not knowing God” *The Bible in Education* – AT Jones P. 10.

“In Ephesus Paul established a Christian school which continued for 2 years. Many of the Gentiles became Christians.

Athens was the third of these great centres of the world’s education. That city was wholly given to idolatry, for it was full of idols of gold, silver and stone graven by art and man’s device expressing their ideas of God; and the time of this ignorance God endured but now calls every man to repent. The education of Athens culminated in art; that art was idolatry; and that idolatry was but the manifestation of ignorance. The world’s education, Greek education, at that time, was only ignorance. We see apostasy with the bringing in of ignorance creeping into the church. When the apostasy gained ascendancy under the Christian name, the original Greek philosophy and science – Greek ignorance – in the professed Christian church, we see the apostles had warned of this. They saw the consequences that must result from the seeds of apostasy being planted -- the beginnings of which were apparent, even in their day...

“Many recommended the study of philosophy and acquaintance with the Greek and Roman literature. It led teachers of it to involve in philosophic obscurity many parts of our religion, which were in themselves plain, and easy to be understood. It recommended to Christians various rites to nourish superstition, something we see religiously observed even today. Finally, it alienated the minds of many in the following centuries from Christianity itself. The result of all this is expressed in one word – the Papacy. To professed Protestantism today, the Bible is not held in any true sense as an educational book. The science of the unbelieving world, the philosophy and literature of ancient Greece and Rome, have a far larger place than has the Bible. The highest course in university is the classical.” *The Bible in Education* – AT Jones P. 13.

“The church of Rome, since its rejuvenation is literally alive with determined, enthusiastic, zealous soldiers who know

nothing but to live, to be spent, and to die for the church. She values that eternal principle and makes use of it ‘Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.’ Let me teach a child until he is twelve years old, say the Catholics, and he will always remain a Catholic.” *Studies in Christian Education*, E A Sutherland p. 13.

“The order of Jesuits found its special mission in combating the Reformation. As the most effective means of arresting the progress of Protestantism, it aimed at controlling education. ‘It developed an immense educational activity in Protestant countries’, ‘and earned for its schools a great reputation...’ More than any other agency it stayed the progress of the Reformation, and it succeeded in winning back territory already conquered by Protestantism...” (Painter, p. 166) *Studies in Christian Education* E A Sutherland p. 9.

1844

God tried to prepare the Protestant churches prior to 1844 to give the warning of the Three Angels Messages in Revelation 14. “When the truth for these last days came to the world in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angel’s messages, we were shown that in the education of our children a different order of things must be brought in:” *T Vol 6* p. 126.

There were many schools advocating reform prior to 1844, but some were influenced by the Papacy. “The curriculum of education in many universities was chosen for them.



The courses were arbitrary and were suited to the needs of the Papacy. The Lord, in order to prepare workers for the Midnight Cry, inspired the reformers to attack the course of study that held the students mind on the dim and musty past. God was endeavouring to arouse the popular churches to accept Christian education. This meant a reform in the location of their schools. A few years prior to 1844, many

educational reformers were influenced to establish schools away from the city and on the farm. The Methodists, as early as 1735, under the direction of the Wesleys and Whitefield attempted to carry out God's idea of education in Georgia." *Studies in Christian Education* E A Sutherland p. 45.

It's not always wrong to go to university; the Waldensian youth went to university. Today we need to find jobs and a course of study is not entirely wrong. "It was not uncommon for the Waldensian youth, after having completed all the education they could gain in their native land, to go to one of the universities in the surrounding countries. In these institutions of higher education, their purpose was two-fold. Not only were they able to extend their field of study but they quietly and with great care opened the truth to the other students as they showed an interest. Converts to the true faith were won, and from these centers of education, they took the seeds of truth back to their native lands. At times the principles of truth were found permeating the entire school, but try as they might, the papal leaders were unable to trace the teaching to its source." Wylie, *The History of Protestantism*, vol. 1, pp. 29, 30.

"The youth of today may bear a weighty testimony in favor of true temperance. These principles, cherished, would fit young men who are rooted and grounded in the Scriptures, to enter worldly universities, and while taking a course of study, disseminate the truths of the gospel, and at the end of their course, come forth unsullied. There were consecrated youth among the Waldenses who entered worldly universities, and, while gaining their education, scattered the seeds of the Reformation. The papal authorities could not, by the most careful inquiries, find out who had introduced the so-called heresy; and yet the work had been accomplished, bearing fruit in the conversion of many who became leaders in the cause of Protestantism." *Story of Daniel the Prophet* p. 30. – Haskell.

However, today many universities' courses require so much time be given for large amounts of study which can often leave little time for Bible study. "And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." Ecclesiastes 12:5.

Over the relation that the Word of God should sustain toward other subjects in the school curriculum, has been waged the war of educators for ages. The story of this contest between the two forces over the position of God's Word in the education of the young can be read in Bible history in Judges 2:17-19.

Degrees

"The granting of degrees, prizes, honors, is borrowed from the papal system of education. "In our institutions of learning there was to be exerted an influence that would counteract the influence of the world, and give no encouragement to the indulgence in appetite, in selfish gratification, pride, ambition, love of dress and display, love of praise and flattery, strife for high rewards and honors as a recompense for good scholarship. All this was to be discouraged in our schools. It will be impossible to avoid these things and yet send them to the public school." *R& H* Jan 9 1894.

Before 1844, God was endeavouring to do all for Protestant denominations. The education reform prior to the Midnight Cry proved a failure. Who can tell how much weight this failure had in reducing the Protestantism churches to the condition called "Babylon"? "Degrees develop class distinction, aristocracy and imperialism." In heaven will be the true graduation which we should be aiming for." *Studies in Christian Education* E A Sutherland p. 29.

"When E A Sutherland came to Battle Creek he opposed the system of granting degrees and all that went with it, (the cap and gown) the graduation, the show, the pride, because he knew that it was part of the papal system, which was then current in the USA. He called it 'making an image to the beast.' When Battle Creek College was moved to Berrien springs in 1901, God's messenger warned, get out of Battle Creek. In 1902, the Battle Creek Sanitarium was destroyed by fire." *Christian Education* D C Stewart p. 13.

They then began their work in order to begin a Christian school, which was not accepted by the leadership of the Seventh Day Adventist church at the time.

There is an award we should strive for however: Revelation 2:10. "10Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer:

behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Examples are given in the book by E A Sutherland where "The giving of prizes as rewards for scholarship was discarded," students completed their courses but did not attend the ceremonies for the granting of their degrees.

Psychology

"There are three great root sciences – mental, moral and physical science. Through a microscope a mind can study intricate things in the natural world. Through a telescope, the mind can study the planets. But how can a mind investigate the mind? Isn't this what we see in the world today with Psychology? It's physically impossible." *The Bible in Education* AT Jones pg. 109.

"With the mind we investigate other things, but in order to investigate and to know the mind itself we must have another mind. But the individual mind can find back of itself another Mind. That Mind is the original and ultimate mind; as such is the source of all knowledge and all true science. Who would find knowledge, the true science of the mind, let him ask of Him who is the source of the mind." *The Bible in Education* AT Jones P. 111.

Conclusion

"Above all other books, the Word of God must be our study, the great Text-book, the basis of all education; and our children are to be educated in the truths found therein, irrespective of previous habits and customs. In doing this, teachers and students will find the hidden treasure, the daily life." *T Vol 6* p. 131-132

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov 22:6. If we have not been trained correctly in childhood and regret our upbringing, we need not feel this way as this is why we now go to church, to re-learn in hospital –the church. **AMEN**



When you think of the colour grey, you think of something that is blurry or unclear. Grey is often associated with depressing situations. A 'grey day' is considered a day that is dull and cloudy. It would not be a day that you would want to go out on a picnic. When we talk about 'grey areas' in any situation, what we mean is that there is no definite answer or solution. It is neither yes, nor no. The solution is unclear.

Are there any grey areas with God? Some Christians like to think so. The vast majority of Christianity consider the requirements of God in such a manner. There is no definite creed or outline that must be followed. There is a variety of standards in the Christian world to suit different lifestyles, but all seemingly considered acceptable forms of worship to God, that will eventually result in eternal life.

For a person coming out of heathen religions it can be quite confusing. In their pagan cultures, there are such exact and specific requirements that they rigorously followed so that when they look into Christianity, they see only confusion. They see such a variety of standards in the different Christian organizations that they don't know which way to turn. Is this really better than their pagan religion where everything was so clear? It was all black and white?

No, this is not what God and true religion are all about. With God there are absolutely no grey areas – it is all

black and white.

He tells us, "let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." James 5:12.

Is it possible for us to attempt to make grey areas even in God's church? Yes it is very possible, especially in those areas of personal religion such as dress and health. We can easily be tempted to state that some of these areas are grey areas and therefore a variety of standards is acceptable according to one's experience with the Lord. Paul says, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Romans 14:5. With this verse some have stated that they do not need to be so strict as they see others in other churches, since they are not fully persuaded in that direction yet. Therefore they can live in the grey areas for now – until God reveals to them that they need to get out of the grey area and He points them the way.

While we understand that new believers coming to church have been in the grey areas for many years (due to the fact that the majority of Christianity is there today and we are tolerant with them) encouraging them to come up to a higher standard, however, there is no excuse for members who have been in the church for many years to still be living in the grey areas. We must be living in the full light of the truth. There is no variety of standards. God has one high standard that must be upheld in every area of life in order for salvation to be obtained. There are absolutely no

grey areas with God. If you are unsure of something, it will take much prayer and study to find out what God really wants from you.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16

You are either on one side or the other - either in darkness or light – there is no middle ground – no grey areas.

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Matthew 12:30.

The Laodicean message is a message concerning professed Christians who are living in the grey areas.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15,16.

There is no definition in the Christian lives of these people.

When God says something He means it. He keeps His promises. There are no grey areas in His Word.

He says, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" Deut. 30:19.

Either we are in the black or in the white – on God’s side or on Satan’s side. God has promised us blessings if we obey, and cursing if we disobey – and He means what He says. When He says He will do something, there is no question about it. When He says He will never do something, you can expect that it will never happen.

I want to mention a few things now that God has promised He will do and then some things that will never happen.

The word ‘always’ means that there is no chance that it will not happen. It is guaranteed and God gives us plenty of guarantees in the Bible. His yes, means yes and His no means no.

THOUGHTS

We are encouraged by Paul to “Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thess. 5:17. How many of us can honestly say we do this? We have heard it mentioned many times in sermons and studies, but putting it into practice is not easy. During our every day lives, sometimes we get so busy with the cares of this life that they completely consume all our thoughts and actions. How often have we arrived at the end of the day disappointed because we did not fully serve the Lord to the best of our ability as we should have.

I am sure also that at one time or another our mind wandered to other subjects during a sermon or Bible study and we lost some of the blessing that God intended for us to receive. Controlling our thoughts is one of the most difficult tasks to perform. While we may appear to be agreeable on the outside we may have rebellion in our minds.

Sometimes there is a strong desire to control one’s thoughts but the mind is so weak. God has promised to be our help in every time of need. He gave us some advice to help us. He said, “Commit thy works unto the LORD,

and thy thoughts shall be established.” Proverbs 16:3. This Bible verse says nothing about trying hard to control our thoughts. The Lord has promised that if we commit our works to Him then our thoughts will be established. How can this be? How can our thoughts be controlled by committing our works unto the Lord? For anyone who has ventured to do something for the Lord that seemed daunting to their human nature, they realized their human weakness and clung to the Lord for help beyond their human resources. Imagine Jonah going to the wicked, heathen city of Nineveh. It was such a daunting task for him that he even fled from the Lord and went in the opposite direction. When he was finally re-directed by the Lord I am sure he went with much prayer in his heart to do the Lord’s will. Also Elijah on Mt. Carmel, I am sure as he went to do the Lord’s work on this occasion his

quiet, one-on-one witnessing such as canvassing, Bible Study, or simply witnessing to a fellow student or fellow worker. Even in such cases, when a person commits himself to doing the work of the Lord, the thoughts automatically go to the Lord for help. Our thoughts will be established. It does not say, ‘maybe’ but it is a guarantee.

‘WILL’ OR ‘SHALL’ MEAN ‘ALWAYS’

How easy is the Christian walk? How hard? It all depends if you are trying to walk alone or with Christ. Some make Christianity appear too difficult and they give up. While we can’t drift into heaven and we all have a cross to bear that looks heavy, if we connect ourselves with Jesus, we will not fail. He has promised to be with us and help us with our struggles against self



prayers were constantly ascending to the heavenly courts for the Lord’s guidance and protection. Then there was Martin Luther when called before the great men of this earth. I am sure his thoughts were fully established on the Lord.

Perhaps it is not such a public duty that the Lord requires of us, but the simple,

and sin. Those that are failures in the Christian life are those that attempted to go on alone. They haven’t taken Jesus up on His promise.

Many promises made on this earth are readily broken. Marriage vows have almost become meaningless as so many divorces are occurring. To say you will

do something 'always' means never to stop. However this word is often misused. It is used to make a promise to someone, hoping for some favour and when that favour is received, it has happened that the promise of 'always' is broken. But God does not break His promises and nor does He expect us to break our promises to Him. He Has promised to be there for us always. "Io, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20. He will never leave us, although sometimes we have left Him and gone into the grey areas or into darkness.

"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:5. This is a promise for us. We can, and will, overcome if we commit our ways to the Lord. There is no grey areas of 'maybe' we will overcome. We need to trust and believe that God will bring it to pass.

"Through faith in Christ, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed." Ed 257. Again, we can overcome. There is no need to remain in any grey areas. The grey areas in Christianity say that it is an impossibility to ever become sinless so don't bother trying. So most don't try, but this is not what the Bible says. "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed

remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1 John 3: 8,9. There are no grey areas mentioned here.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6: 17,18. All who come to Christ will be accepted. There is no question about it. Salvation is offered to everyone. There is no mention of penance or large offerings required before the Lord sits down and considers whether He should accept us or not. All He asks is for us to repent and separate ourselves from sin. Come out of the grey areas and into the full light.

"Rejoice evermore." 1 Thess: 5:16. This means always. Who can rejoice in the midst of tragedy? "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:18. Who can give even thanks as well as rejoice in the midst of difficulty and tragedy? It can be done by the person who is connected with Christ. In everything they can see God's ultimate purpose being worked out. They see and understand that nothing happens by accident on this earth. Yes, tragedies often come, according to God's permissive will, however as we understand that God is in ultimate control, we can rejoice as we see the Great Controversy coming to a close. All that is happening on this earth is for the fulfilling of God's purpose in our lives. Therefore we can rejoice – always. Not just sometimes, when life goes along smoothly.

"Nothing tends more to promote health of body and of soul than does a spirit of gratitude and praise. It is a positive duty to resist melancholy, discontented thoughts and feelings--as much a



duty as it is to pray. If we are heaven-bound, how can we go as a band of mourners, groaning and complaining all along the way to our Father's house?" MH 251

"Those professed Christians who are constantly complaining, and who seem to think cheerfulness and happiness a sin, have not genuine religion. Those who take a mournful pleasure in all that is melancholy in the natural world, who choose to look upon dead leaves rather than to gather the beautiful living flowers, who see no beauty in grand mountain heights and in valleys clothed with living green, who close their senses to the joyful voice which speaks to them in nature, and which is sweet and musical to the listening ear--these are not in Christ. They are gathering to themselves gloom and darkness, when they might have brightness, even the Sun of Righteousness arising in their hearts with healing in His beams." MH 251.

There is bright sunshine in the lives of all true Christians. No greyness or melancholy.

"While the Christian's life will be characterized by humility, it should not be marked with sadness and self-depreciation. It is the privilege of everyone so to live that God will approve and bless him. It is not the will of our heavenly Father that we should be ever under condemnation and darkness. There is no evidence of true humility in going with the head bowed down and the heart filled with thoughts of self. We may go to Jesus and be cleansed, and stand before the law without shame and remorse. 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.' Romans 8:1." GC 477

"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things." 2 Cor. 6:10. In Christ we can be the

happiest people on this earth even though we go through difficulties and trials.

NEVER

The word 'never' is also often misused. People get angry and without thinking utter words that they regret later. The word 'never' is used more often than it should be. 'I will never forgive you.' 'I will never do anything for you.' Later the words are regretted and they are taken back. It is a dangerous word to use. Never means it will not happen ever. When people use never in the wrong manner, they are in darkness. But if we decide that we will never follow the world, it is then used in a positive sense. Never can either mean darkness or light in the Bible – it has nothing to do with grey.

"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psalm 55:22. The promise is that if we commit our ways to the Lord, we will never be moved. That means not ever. So those who say they simply cannot overcome – who are so spiritually weak, that overcoming sin is an impossibility – they have not cast their burdens on the Lord because He promised that they would never be moved. Do we believe God's promise? He tells us He will keep us from the grey areas and darkness if we cast our burdens on Him.

"Trusting in the blessing of God, the Christian is safe anywhere. In the city he will not be corrupted. In the counting room he will be marked for his habits of strict integrity. In the mechanic's shop every portion of his work will be done with fidelity, with an eye single to the glory of God. When this course is pursued by its individual members, a church will be successful." 4T 285

"In the humble round of toil, the very weakest, the most obscure, may be workers together with God and may have the comfort of His presence and sustaining grace. They are not to weary

themselves with busy anxieties and needless cares. Let them work on from day to day, accomplishing faithfully the task that God's providence assigns, and He will care for them. He says: 'Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.' Phil. 4:6." MH 199

What does Paul mean in the previously mentioned verse? Be careful for nothing? In Greek, careful means anxious. It means to worry. There is nothing we should worry about. If we are connected to Christ we will not worry. We will see that God is in ultimate control and we trust Him to take care of us.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." 2 Peter 1:10. This Bible verse follows the verses concerning the climbing of Peter's Ladder. If we climb Peter's Ladder we are promised that we will never fall. We will live in the full light of the gospel truth. We will not remain in the grey areas. We will rise higher and higher, past the grey storm clouds of this earth. But we must climb, higher and yet higher. Away from the darkness and the grey- into the full sunshine of the Love of Christ. And it is now that we have to commence and continue climbing.

"Now is the time to lay up treasure in heaven and to set our hearts in order, ready for the time of trouble. Those only who have clean hands and pure hearts will stand in that trying time. Now is the time for the law of God to be in our minds, foreheads, and written in our hearts." EW 57

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. Here are a few more counsels that we have to follow

if we want God to fulfil His side of the bargain. Our conversation is here mentioned. We must guard our conversation. Either it is of heavenly origin or of the devil. There is no grey areas in conversation. Also we are encouraged to be content with what we have, rather than coveting for more. If we follow these simple counsels, the Lord has promised that He will never leave us.

There is something that will never fail and that something is love or charity. "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8 "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." 1 Corinthians 13:8. Try showing charity in the face of an angry, upset or disturbed or discouraged person and you will not fail in reaping good results.

One of the greatest promises in the Bible is the promise of eternal life. It is dependant on our accepting Jesus into our lives and believing in His power to save us and to change our vile hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" John 11:26

This next Bible verse describes the majority of Religious teachers on earth today. They claim such superior knowledge of the Word of God, yet they are far from the truth. They refuse to come out of the grey areas. Christianity is made

to appear so mysterious. There is no solution or set pathway to follow. They claim that there are many different roads to heaven. They are "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Timothy 3:7. This 'never' is a large one. They keep studying their Bibles however they never seem to come to the truth. Could this be possible in God's church? Yes it could be. There will always be some who very studiously state that the standard is not so black and white as some say it is. They say that some are far stricter than is necessary for salvation. Try telling that to God.

"There is danger of even ministers in New York being of that class who are ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. They do not practice what they learn. They are hearers, but

"But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:" Mark 3:29. Imagine the thought that you will never be forgiven. What a dreadful thought, yet some have gone so far as to blaspheme the Holy Ghost and therefore they will never be forgiven. When God says never, He means never. There is no 'maybe' about it – no grey areas. It is all black.

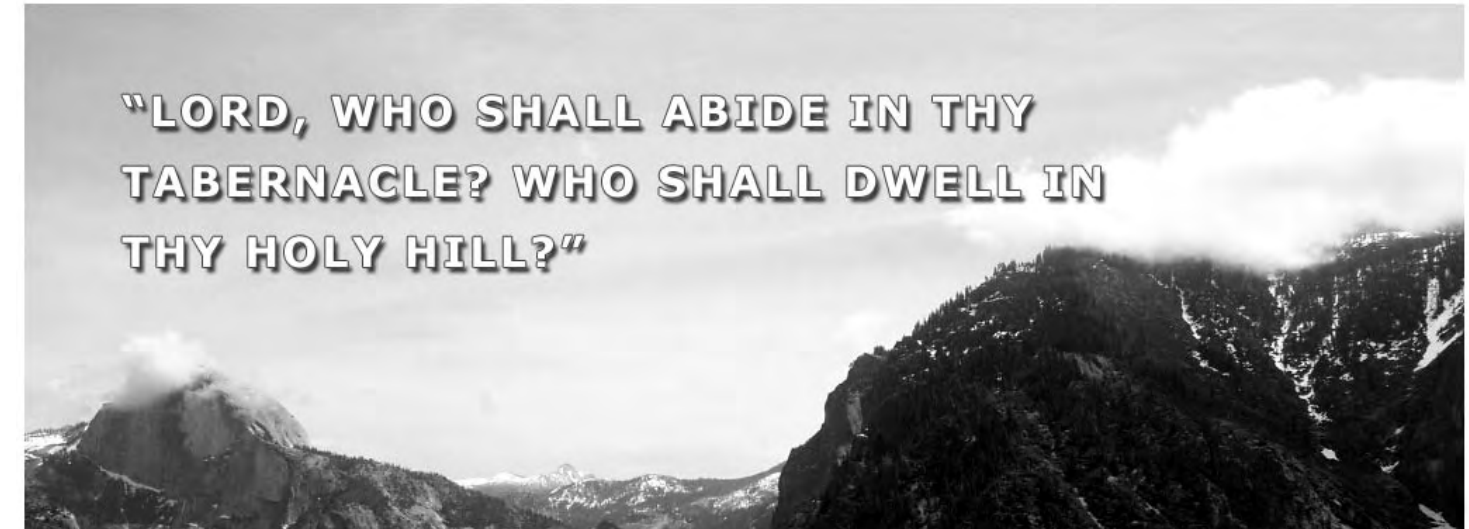
"Many have a name to live while they have become spiritually dead. These will one day say: 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.' Woe will be pronounced against thee, if thou loiter and linger until the Sun of Righteousness shall set; the blackness of eternal night will be thy portion. Oh, that the cold, formal, worldly heart may be melted! Christ shed not only tears for us, but His own blood. Will not these manifestations of His love arouse us to deep humiliation before God? It is humility and self-abasement that we need, to be approved of God." 5T 73

"A mere profession of discipleship is of no value. The faith in Christ which saves the soul is not what it is represented to be by many. 'Believe, believe,' they say, 'and you need not keep the law.' But a belief that does not

**"EVER LEARNING, AND NEVER
ABLE TO COME TO THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH."**



not doers. These ministers need an experience in the truth that will enable them to comprehend the elevated character of the work." 3T 53



**"LORD, WHO SHALL ABIDE IN THY
TABERNACLE? WHO SHALL DWELL IN
THY HOLY HILL?"**

lead to obedience is presumption. The apostle John says, 'He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.' 1 John 2: 4. Let none cherish the idea that special providences or miraculous manifestations are to be the proof of the genuineness of their work or of the ideas they advocate. When persons will speak lightly of the word of God, and set their impressions, feelings, and exercises above the divine standard, we may know that they have no light in them." MB 146. The law must be kept. God's requirements are clear as the day. There are no grey areas involved.

"And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you." Judges 2:1. God keeps all His promises forever. If we feel that we are far from God, it is we who have separated ourselves from God by sin.

"LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour,

nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved." Psalm 15. What a wonderful promise – we will never be moved.

Even though Jesus has promised to be with us always, this does not mean that life will always be easy. "Christ did not tell His disciples that their work would be easy. He showed them the vast confederacy of evil arrayed against them. They would have to fight "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12. But they would not be left to fight alone. He assured them that He would be with them; and that if they would go forth in faith, they should move under the shield of Omnipotence. He bade them be brave and strong; for One mightier than angels would be in their ranks--the General of the armies of heaven. He made full provision for the prosecution of their work and took upon Himself the responsibility of its success. So long as they obeyed His word,

and worked in connection with Him, they could not fail. Go to all nations, He bade them. Go to the farthest part of the habitable globe and be assured that My presence will be with you even there. Labor in faith and confidence; for the time will never come when I will forsake you. I will be with you always, helping you to perform your duty, guiding, comforting, sanctifying, sustaining you, giving you success in speaking words that shall draw the attention of others to heaven." AA 29

Let's get out of the grey areas in our spiritual life if we are finding our selves there and get into the light, the full light of God's presence. When God says, always, He means always. When He says never, He means never. While there is sure punishment for the wicked, there is an assured promise of eternal life for the repentant sinner who has come out of the grey areas into the light.

Jesus is coming soon and if we find ourselves lingering in the grey areas, it is time to make a move and get out before it is forever too late. **AMEN**

Wendy Eaton, Australia



PELORUS JACK

It is sometimes nearly impossible to make some of life's decisions without the guidance of experience, and at times only the Holy Spirit knows the way we should go.

Pelorus Jack was a dolphin—a Risso's dolphin, to be exact. He was perhaps the world's most well-known dolphin other than Flipper, of television fame. However, Flipper was a created character portrayed by many trained dolphins, while Pelorus Jack was a "wild" dolphin that lived in New Zealand.

In 1888, Pelorus Jack began his life's work as a pilot. No one trained Pelorus Jack, yet somehow he knew that he could guide ships through the swirling waters of the

treacherous 6-mile long channel between the two islands that make up New Zealand. For 24 years Pelorus Jack led steamships through that channel. So great was Jack's fame that Mark Twain and Rudyard Kipling, two renowned writers, traveled to New Zealand just to be on a ship going through that channel. They wanted to see the dolphin and to join in the shout "here comes Pelorus Jack!!"

To perform his task, Pelorus Jack would wait at the mouth of the channel until a ship approached. Then he would carefully swim ahead of the ship, leading it this way and that on a safe course. When he had guided the ship safely through the passageway, Jack returned to the mouth of the channel to await the next one.

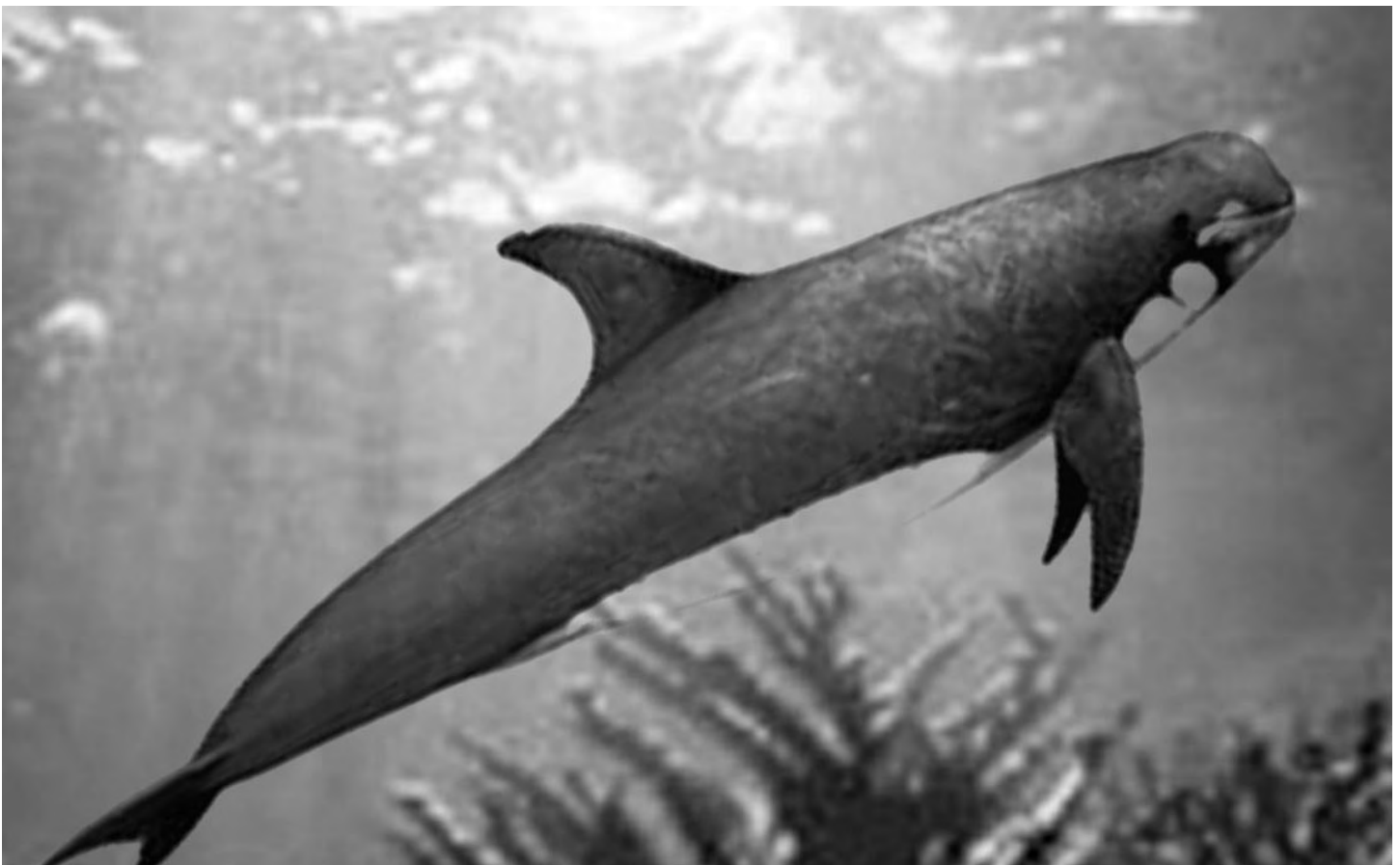
In 1904 the New Zealand government passed a law protecting Pelorus Jack.

The fine for harming the dolphin was set at 100 pounds. But in 1912 Pelorus Jack disappeared. No one knows what happened to him.

Pelorus Jack never once asked for wages, went on strike, or was late for work. He was completely dependable for 24 years! What an incredibly dedicated helper he was! The only other pilot as dependable as Pelorus Jack is the one whom Jesus made available to guide us through the treacherous waters of life: the Holy Spirit. He has been on the job for much longer than 24 years and will continue to guide us forever. You can depend on Him.

From Nature Quest

Submitted by *Kathleen Ross*
Alberta, Canada



DO YOU LOVE ME?



A

little girl was shopping with her mother and saw a string of 'pearls' for sale. They were cheap imitations of course, but the mother said to the girl, "you can have them if you earn the money by yourself." So the girl went to work, doing extra chores at home, and doing little jobs for the neighbors. Eventually she had enough to buy those 'pearls'. So she went back to the store and bought them. Oh how proud she was of those pearls. She showed them off to everyone who would look.

One day her daddy came home and, after telling her a bedtime story, asked her, "Do you love me?" The little girl was surprised! Of course she loved her daddy, and she told him so, too. So her daddy said, "Then give me those pearls." Now the girl was even more surprised, so she said to her daddy, "Daddy, you can have my new doll that I got for my birthday, but not my pearls." So the daddy said, "Never mind, it's alright." A few nights later the daddy asked her again, "Do you love me?" And the little girl said, "Daddy, you can have anything that I have, except my pearls." So Daddy said to her again, "It's ok." A few nights later her daddy came into the room again to tuck his little girl in, and as he did, her hand touched him. He looked down and there was that string of pearls. "Here daddy" the little girl said, "You can have them." Her daddy took

them, and then took a little purple velvet box out of his pocket. He opened it and took out a chain of real pearls and gave them to his daughter. He had those real pearls all along but had just been waiting for his daughter to give up her imitation pearls. So it is with Jesus. We scrimp and save to buy some sort of earthly treasures. But Jesus says to us, "Give them all to me." And if we do, then he will give us things that will really make us happy.

There is nothing too precious for us to give to Jesus. If we return to Him the talents of means He has entrusted to our keeping, He will give more into our hands. Every effort we make for Christ will be rewarded by Him; and every duty we perform in His name will minister to our own happiness. {The Faith I Live By (1958) p.245}

Nothing is too precious to give to Jesus. The little girl thought that the pearls were too precious to give to her father, and so she always offered something less valuable, something that meant less to her.

Shall we not consecrate ourselves to God without reserve? Christ, the King of glory, gave Himself a ransom for us. Can we withhold anything from Him? Shall we think our poor, unworthy selves too precious, our time or property too valuable, to give to Jesus? --No, no; the deepest

homage of our hearts, the most skillful service of our hands, our talents of ability and of means, --all are but too poor an offering to bring to Him who was slain and has "redeemed us to God by his blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." {Sons and Daughters of God p236}

Shall ingratitude be cultivated, and made manifest by our niggardly practices in giving to the cause of God?--No, no! Let us surrender ourselves a living sacrifice, and give our all to Jesus. It is His; we are His purchased possession. Those who are recipients of His grace, who contemplate the cross of Calvary, will not question concerning the proportion to be given, but will feel that the richest offering is all too meager, all disproportionate to the great gift of the only-begotten Son of the infinite God. Through self-denial, the poorest will find ways of obtaining something to give back to God. {Counsels on Stewardship p.200}

Jesus gave his life for us. He died an agonizing death just so that we can enter the pearly gates. The least we can do is to surrender everything to him. We should not make reservations about giving some treasured item to Jesus. He gave the glory of heaven for us. He gave his position on the throne of God. He took a huge risk for our salvation. Let us also surrender ourselves to him. Unconditionally.

BEN DAMMASCH, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

'Armageddon'



Jesus foretold the experience to his disciples in their time about how He would be arrested and they would be ashamed of Him.

Matthew 16:21. "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciples, how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."

Mat 20:17-19. "And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death, And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify [Him]: and the third day He shall rise again."

Matthew 26:31-35 "Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. Peter answered and said unto Him, Though all [men] shall be offended because of thee, [yet] will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee. Likewise also said all the disciples."

Matthew 26:40-41 "And He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak."

They denied this and claimed that they would stand by Him and be ready for whatever was to come to pass. He urged them to watch and pray lest they be caught unawares.

They failed and we must learn from their example. What happened in the time of the disciples? Why did they become ashamed of Jesus? They were not prepared for what was to come to pass and were found ashamed. The same can happen to us now in the time we are living in with the things shortly to come to pass.

We are living in the time of the last generation. We must be prepared for what is to come. How? By understanding what Jesus is saying and understanding the messages for our time.

Mark 13:28-33. "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, [even] at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."

One of the warnings of today if we do not want to be destroyed is to heed the warning and not to receive the mark of the beast. Otherwise we will be caught up in the wrath of God.

Revelation 14:9, 10. "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and

his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:"

The wicked will destroy themselves.

Psalms 9:16 "The LORD is known [by] the judgment [which] he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands."

The same thing that happened to the disciples applies for us today. We can be found with shame.

Revelation 16:15. "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

It directly relates to the time of Armageddon, being found ashamed.

Revelation 16:12-14. "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared." Rev 16:13 "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [come] out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet." Rev 16:14 "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, [which] go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

The aim of the three unclean spirits in all their activity is war. Satan is aiming toward that end.

Revelation 13:12-14. "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." Rev 13:13 "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men," Rev 13:14 "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."

War is an issue of the last days. If we don't watch and live up to what we believe, we will be deceived and caught up in this war. God's people are to be separate from war.

Isaiah 26:20,21. "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."

Zephaniah 2:1-3. "Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;" Zep 2:2 "Before the decree bring forth, [before] the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you." Zep 2:3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger."

We are to fully understand what the sixth plague is about otherwise we will be caught out.

Revelation 16:12 & 16. "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared." Rev 16:16 "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

One of the vials of the seven last plagues to be poured out is war. What is war a result of? Political strife.

TM page 444. "We hear now of earthquakes in divers places, of fires, of tempests, of disasters by sea and land, of pestilence, of famine. What weight do these signs have upon you? This is only the beginning of what shall be. If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God's people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? John sees the elements of nature--earthquake, tempest, and political strife-- represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God's church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads."

Jeremiah 25:15-16. "For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it."

Jer 25:16 "And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them."

Jeremiah 25:30-33. "Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread [the grapes], against all the inhabitants of the earth." Jer 25:31 "A noise shall come [even] to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them [that are] wicked to the sword, saith the LORD." Jer 25:32 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth." Jer 25:33 "And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from [one] end of the earth even unto the [other] end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground."

The three unclean spirits work to this end. The three unclean spirits are the dragon, the beast and the false prophet. Dragon = pagan religions, Beast = Papacy, False

Prophet = Apostate Protestantism.

7 BC page 967. "The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God's people shall be accomplished. The ministers of Jehovah, angels have skill and power and great strength, being commissioned to go forth from heaven to earth to minister to His people. They are given the work of keeping back the raging power of him who has come down like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. The Lord is a refuge for all who put their trust in Him. He bids them hide in Him for a little moment, until the indignation shall be overpast. He is soon to come out of His place to punish the world for its iniquity. Then the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain."

The river Euphrates.

Revelation 9:14-15. "Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates." Rev 9:15 "And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men."

The angels that were holding back strife in the river Euphrates loosened their hold and we see the fall of the east - Turkey.

Who is the river Euphrates? What do rivers and waters in the Bible represent? Peoples and Nations. But here the Bible is talking about one specific river. What does this mean? It is talking about those nations surrounding it.

Isaiah 8:7. "Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, [even] the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks."

When the Bible speaks about a specific river, it means the nations surrounding it. In this case, the Arab world. They will be dried up in the sixth plague.

None shall come to the help of the Mohammedan empire when they fall during the plagues.

Daniel 11:41-45. "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." Dan 11:45 "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

Another example of the Arab world coming to his end.

Isaiah 21:16. "For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Within a year, according to the years of an hireling, and all the glory of Kedar shall fail:"

Kedar shall fail. Who is Kedar?

Genesis 25:13. "And these [are] the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam."

Kedar is a son of Ishmael – the father of the Arabs. David always had trouble with the Arabs [Kedar] and it pained him.

Psalms 120:5-7. "Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, [that] I dwell in the tents of Kedar!" Psa 120:6 "My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace." Psa 120:7 "I [am for] peace: but when I speak, they [are] for war."

Revelation 16:16. "And he gathered them into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Brother will fight against brother.

Haggai 2:21-22. "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;" Hag 2:22 "And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother."

Zechariah 14:13. "And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour."

Welfare Ministry page 136. "Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations --trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes. As never before we need to press together, serving Him who has prepared His throne in the heavens and whose kingdom ruleth over all. God has not forsaken His people, and our strength lies in not forsaking Him. The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment." Ibid., Nov. 24, 1904. {WM 136.5}

Joel 3:9-17. "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:" Joel 3:10 "Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I [am] strong." Joel 3:11 "Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD." Joel 3:12 "Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about." Joel 3:13 "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness [is] great." Joel 3:14 "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD [is] near in the valley of decision." Joel 3:15 "The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining." Joel 3:16 "The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD [will be] the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel." Joel 3:17 "So shall ye know that I [am] the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more."

Revelation 14:17-19. "And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle." Rev 14:18 "And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe." Rev 14:19 "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast [it] into the great winepress of the wrath of God."

Ezekiel 38:3-7. "And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I [am] against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:" Eze 38:4 "And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts [of armour, even] a great company [with] bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:" Eze 38:5 "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:" Eze 38:6 "Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: [and] many people with thee." Eze 38:7 "Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them."

Jeremiah 25:18-33. "[To wit], Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as [it is] this day;" Jer 25:26 "And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which [are] upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them." Jer 25:27 "Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you." Jer 25:30 "Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread [the grapes], against all the inhabitants of the earth." Jer 25:31 "A noise shall come [even] to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all

flesh; he will give them [that are] wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.”

Revelation 19:11-18. “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.” Rev 19:15 “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

What is that sword? The Word of God. Everything the Word of God has said will come to pass.

Revelation 16:16-21. “And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”

Joshua 10:6. “And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us.”

Josh. 10:8 “And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.” Josh. 10:10 “And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.” Josh 10:11 “And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, [and] were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: [they were] more which died with hailstones than [they] whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.” Josh 10:12 “Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.”

P&P page 509. “At His own will God summons the forces of nature to overthrow the might of His enemies--fire, and hail; snow, and vapor; stormy wind fulfilling His word.” Psalm 148:8. When the heathen Amorites had set themselves to resist His purposes, God interposed,

casting down “great stones from heaven” upon the enemies of Israel. We are told of a greater battle to take place in the closing scenes of earth’s history, when “Jehovah hath opened His armory, and hath brought forth the weapons of His indignation.” Jeremiah 50:25. “Hast thou,” he inquires, “entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?” Job 38:22, 23. The revelator describes the destruction that is to take place when the “great voice out of the temple of heaven”

announces, “It is done.” He says, “There fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent.” Revelation 16:17, 21. {PP 509.4}

We are to watch and pray that we do not become involved. *AMEN*

John Thiel
Sabbath afternoon study

FRIENDS

If we keep uppermost in our minds the unkind and unjust acts of others, we shall find it impossible to love them as Christ has loved us; for there are few persons who do not on close acquaintance reveal unamiable traits of character. Even the best of us have these unlovely traits; and in selecting friends we should choose those who will not be driven away from us when they learn that we are not perfect. Mutual forbearance is called for.

We should love and respect one another notwithstanding the faults and imperfections that we cannot help seeing; for this is the spirit of Christ. Humility and self-distrust should be cultivated, and a patient tenderness with the faults of others. This will kill out all narrowing selfishness and make us large-hearted and generous.

Signs of the Times, vol. 1, p. 491 (3)

Submitted by *Kathleen Ross*
Alberta, Canada



STRUGGLING PATIENCE

Patience! We hear this word loosely used in our every-day conversation; yet, in a cursed, intolerant, warring world, a world that has no real meaning anymore, a world in which the spirit of truth and the spirit of freedom; the pillars of faith, and society, are being challenged and unmercifully undermined at attacked with a vengeance. In stark reality, man's patience in such a hostile environment is being severely tried and often overwhelmed by blasphemous forces of evil.

Patience! It can be a comforting word, a word of hope and joy... of inspiration. However, the word, patience, could easily mean... waiting; patiently waiting... without complaining. Waiting for what? Change? Simply for earthly things to happen? What things? A change in world events? A change in our relationships? A change in our economic or social position? A change in our spiritual life; waiting patiently for God's hand to work in our life, or, maybe you're just idly waiting and fretting... and for no reason?

But, patience means much more than "waiting". Patience also means forbearance; to control oneself, under provocation, to tolerate, to keep oneself under "check", but really stresses having oneself under control; under suffering caused by other people.

Another meaning, endurance and steadfastness; stresses patient endurance and steadfastness, though kept waiting for a long time by God, as for the Latter Rain, and the second coming of Christ. This idea of steadfastness, and endurance is faithfully brought out in the New Testament. (Lk. 21: 19; Rom. 5:3,4; 15:4,5; 2 Cor. 6:4).

In the Old Testament there are certain expressions for patience, such as, "I patiently waited for the Lord (Ps. 40:1);

and "patient in spirit" (Eccl. 7:8); "the Lord is slow to anger" (Num. 14:18; Jer. 14:18). All of this clearly indicates that since patience is exemplified or characterized in God, so it is expected in His children.

1. God's patient endurance of man's rebellion extends to all mankind, and is evident today in that He still withholds His final judgment, "not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." (2 Pet. 3:9). God's extension of His patience to Israel is expressed over and over again. (Ex. 34:6; Num. 14:18; Ps. 86:15).

2. Christ's patient endurance is the Christian's example. He must "run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame." (Heb. 12:1,2). Christ's patient bearing of the taunts of the chief priests and elders, and even the thieves on their crosses, is referred in the passage (Mat. 27: 38-44; Mark 15:28-32).

The believer is exhorted, encouraged, to "lead a life worthy of the calling... with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love" (Eph. 4: 1,2; Col. 1:11; 3:12). This is all possible only as a result of the Spirit-filled life (Gal. 5:22).

3. Christian's patient endurance. Importantly also, is the patience of the Christian to the many trials of life. One trial, for example, and a common one, is living among sinful men and seeing them prosper in spite of their wickedness. The answers are stressed in several reassuring verses (Ps. 37:1; 73; Pro. 3:31; 23:17; 24: 1; Jer. 12).

Patience is necessary also under divine chastenings, so as to develop the faith and

the character of those who He loves; God chastens and tests His servants (Heb. 12:5-13). This is all for the believer's profit and is a part of the "all things" that work for the good (Rom. 8:28).

So, we can see that patience has varied meanings, but namely suffering hardship with courage, without losing one's temper, irritation, restlessness, or annoyance. It means, further, to bear hardship with calmness, steadiness, quietness, and strength of character.

"Suffering must be met with patience; trials must be met with patience." (AA 465; PK 437). Patience and courage, too, has its victories, by meekness, boldness of energy and initiative to progress in the work with cheerfulness under trial and suffering (AA 465).

This is a heavenly patience, a struggling, and tender, saintly patience. "What Christ was on earth, the Christian should strive to be. He is our example, not only in His spotless purity, but also in His patience (GW 121). "Nothing could ruffle or dampen His patience toward His erring children. He displayed, also, a majestic patience towards His persecutors." (SD 151; DA 710).

Patience, however, you may be surprised to see, does not just consist in mere gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindness. These graces are essential, of course, but there is need of unshaken, sober courage, force, energy, and perseverance, also. "Many Christians are meek, nerveless, spiritless, spineless, easily discouraged. They lack push! They need the spirit and energy that kindle enthusiasm." (5T 404).

We need to sow a crop of patience... and love. We shall reap the harvest we are sowing. Our characters are now forming

for eternity. Here on earth we are training for heaven. (6T 268). However, we have to cultivate this crop, not only patience, but compassion, love, and true courtesy (7T 127). Furthermore, cultivate patience! How?

By practicing patience! Is your patience being tested and tried? God uses special annoyances to test men's patience. (4T 116) Do you make Christ first, last and best in everything? Are you beholding him daily? Your love for Him will become deeper and stronger as it is submitted to the test of trial. Are you encouraging your wife, your husband, your children, your friends, and your brethren, to fight the battles of life together? Are you advancing the happiness of each other? Are you as parents, learning and cultivating patience; teaching your children patience, most importantly, by your example of patience? (FE 155; CG 267-8). "...and the children's duty to manifest patience to parents?"(MYP 333) "By cultivating patience, true qualities will be developed that Heaven will approve." (AH 105)

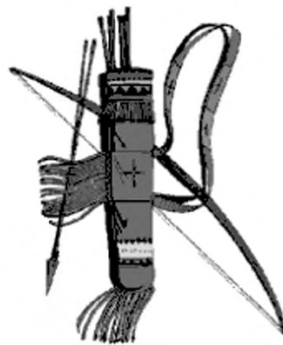
If patience is cultivated carefully, it will grow rapidly (ML 97). But, beware, for in your garden of tender patience, evil motives must be weeded out from the garden of the heart... and this, again, is done by patience itself. (CT 108)

Joseph's patience in adversity is left on record for the benefit of all who shall afterward live on this earth (SG 176). Paul's long confinement in prison was a clear example of longsuffering (AA 464-5). David learned lessons of patience as a shepherd in his wilderness life; but David's long trials exhausted his patience, although he learned in the school of affliction. David looked at outward appearances, and not the promises of God. God works out His plans, though to human eyes they are veiled in mystery (PP 672). God's patience has an objective. Moses needed to learn patience also, but his patience was tried by Israel's murmurings and rebellion. The results of this was brought to a sad conclusion. Elijah failed to exercise his patience when Jezebel threatened him (3T 290).

God's patience has an object in this life. Are you defeating it? God is allowing a state of things to come to you, that may be opposed or checked (neutralized) by and by, but it will be too late. Who knows

whether God will give up with you to the deception in life you love? The voice that once stirred the people to reaction, may one day no longer disturb their worldly slumber (5T 77). "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart" (Heb 3:15). "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still... for the time is at hand." Rev. 22:10,11).

Sadly, patience is lacking among God's people (AA 530); the lessons of patience must be learned in the school of Christ (SD 88); it's one round in the ladder of progress to attain for the Christian. (AA 530).



Patience is one of the sterner virtues of life (MH 391). Make patience part of your being. Make your patience be apparent to all (ML 5; Ev 400).

Manifest your patience in all emergencies (CSW 174). Remember, too, however, the most patient persons will be severely tested (AH 442; SD 88). When it happens, cheerfully accept it.

It's a fact, too, that those people needing most help often try your patience the most (6T 348). "They need your love" (CT 267; FE 289). But, although you often fail to reveal patience, do not give up the struggle (MYP 136). Trials will develop patience (AA 468). Those who are to live a patient, loving, cheerful life must... pray! (MH 393) Let these virtues keep sunshine in the heart, though the day may be cloudy and troubles invade your life.

The faith and patience involved in bearing trials deepens your experience and the trials themselves are, therefore, to be received and endured with joy (Jam. 1:2). So, then, "be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow." (Jam. 1:9.

Jesus says we are to observe and keep the word of patience... the word of His patience; like keeping the Sabbath day... His day. This means, also defending His patience; watching over it, watching over devouring things. There are so many things in this abundant, wretched life that for many, it seems much better and easier to be impatient about... isn't that so?

Let's explain this further. The best and clearest illustration is that of an archer. He pulls the string further and further away from his bow with the arrow fixed. Then when it is adjusted with his eye on the mark, he lets it fly. The Christian's life is like that. How?

Well, God is the Archer, much like God is the Potter (and we are the clay). Jer 18: 6. He takes the saint like a bow, which He stretches, and we get to a certain point and say, "I can't stand it anymore, I can't stand this test of patience any longer," but what does God do? Stop?

NO! He goes on stretching! He is not aiming at our tiny, aimless mark, but at His own mark for us. So, the patience of the saints is that we hold on until He lets the arrow fly straight to His goal.

So, the patience of the saints, also like the patience of the Lord Jesus, brings the Supreme Authority, the power of God over all of the saint's ruling life, and because the love of God is poured out to our hearts by the Holy Spirit, we then choose by our own free will to be held together by the mind of God, the Father, the mind of Jesus, the Son, the mind of the Holy Spirit, and the mind of the saint; a oneness of personal power and worship... DEVOTION.

This is the passionate loyalty, the deep affection of the saint. Who, then is the saint? "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Rev. 14: 12).

The days that lie ahead of us; the work that lies before us, is one that will stretch every power of the human being, every power of the saints imaginable, on the Archer's Bow of Life! "...let the Archer bend his bow"! (Jer. 51:3). PATIENCE, brethren, until the coming of the Lord! **AMEN.**

John Theodorou, USA



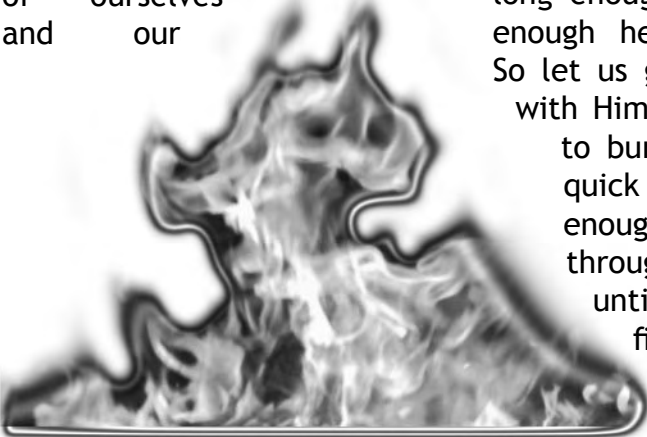
LIGHT-BEARERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters (IMS):
Greetings on a sunny Sabbath morning.

Whenever an individual will fulfill in his very soul the antitype of the typical "whole burnt-offering, that is, wholly surrender himself to God, place himself and all he has upon the altar, to be consumed in God's service, as He directs, that individual... will be covered with the fragrant incense of Christ's righteousness..."

Paraphrase: If you and I will place ourselves on the altar of God, to let our lives and possessions be consumed as He directs, we will become a light-bearer in this earth.

The faster we let go of ourselves and our



possessions, to let them and us be consumed to save souls, the faster God's work will be done in this earth.

God is waiting for us.
Are we waiting for God?

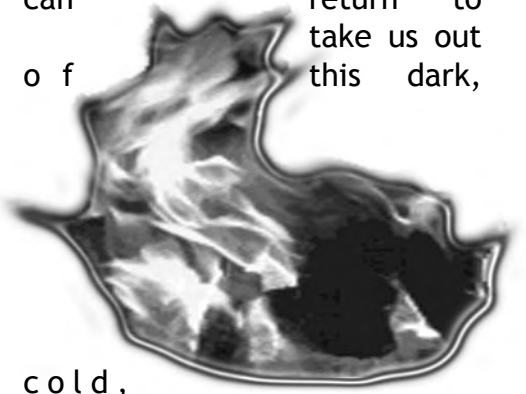
Strike the iron; make a move, and keep moving. Let's learn to walk by faith. Let's experiment with God's promises and find out if He really means what He says. Matt. 10:9-11

If God's people will remove the obstructions God will pour out His Holy Spirit upon us. Then the work will go like fire in the stubble.

Sometimes I put a nail in the fire to make it hot so that I can pierce through plastic. Then nail has to be held in the fire long enough so that it retains enough heat to do the job. So let us go to God, and stay with Him until his fire begins to burn. Don't leave too quick or you will not have enough fire to pierce through anything. Stay until you are thoroughly fired up. Then go quickly to work until you cool

off, then return to your source of heat, and get thoroughly fired again.

When all of God's little children learn to do this, the world will be so warned... and our Saviour can return to take us out of this dark,



cold, lonely place.

Your sister in Christ,
Kathleen Ross
Alberta, Canada

Let us choose rather to suffer affliction... than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin. Hebrews 11:25; 12:1-4,8-13, 14-29.

Health reform... teach the people. Isaiah 62:7.

A LOVER OF ANIMALS



CHILDRENS CORNER

Sister White was a lover of animals. She respected them as creatures that God had created and she took good care of her animals, although not all of those around her did so. One day she came out into the yard and found her hired hand lashing her horse with a whip. She employed him to help manage her business affairs and to take care of her livestock at Sunnyside in Cooranbong, Australia. It was not the first time she had seen the man mistreating an animal. She knew that he had done it many times before. Whenever he worked with animals or young people, he tended to be unkind and severe. Probably he excused his actions with the idea common many years ago that children and animals were not human and had no rights.

Seeing Sister White standing a few feet away, he stopped, stunned that he should ever be caught. His arm was still poised in midair, ready to slash the whip across the horse's back. Slowly lowering the whip, he tried to hide it behind his back, and then nervously fidgeted with it. Kindly, but indignantly, she quietly began to lecture him. If he had the tenderness and love of Christ he claimed to worship, would he treat an animal the way he had just done? Animals, she continued, have a dignity of their own. God uses such creatures as the horse, the cow, and the dog as His agents to do well in the world. Each living creature has its purpose. God would judge anyone who mistreated them. The angel who stood before Balaam, who had unjustly abused his donkey, now stood before the hired man, she said, watching and recording his cruelty.

Sister White's words pierced to the man's conscience. God had revealed his true character to her. One night while travelling on the island of Tasmania, she had seen the man in vision. In her dream the employee

travelled with a group of people having several teams of horses and wagons. Annoyed because several wagons passed him in a cloud of dust, he lashed his horses and shouted and screamed at them. But the tired animals could go no faster. Whipping them did not help. All the man did was to frighten them.



tall, dignified man suddenly appeared in front of the horses. They reared up to avoid running him down. Grabbing the bridles, the stranger stopped the horses and began to stroke them to calm them. Turning to the driver, he demanded, "What is your name?" Sister White's hired hand answered, the tall man wrote it down in a book. Glancing up from the book, the stranger – actually an angel, Sister White knew – inquired, "Do you remember Balaam?" Understanding the reference

to the Old Testament prophet, the wagon driver nodded. The angel repeated the warning that had come to Balaam, then added, "A merciful man is merciful to his beast." This ended the vision.

Thus Sister White knew what to say to her employee when she caught him abusing her horse. He could make no excuses. God had shown her his cruelty, and she wanted to be sure he never mistreated anything again.

But not always did she have a chance to do something about the cruelty to animals she saw about her.

In 1896 she often journeyed from Granville to nearby Sydney. The route went past a large stockyard containing thousands of sheep and cattle waiting for slaughter. One day as she and some friends drove along the road, they came upon a herd of cattle milling across it. An enormous ox, noticing the approaching carriage, loomed suddenly and defiantly in the middle of the dust cloud, ready to charge the vehicle.

A cowboy galloped to the front of the herd and reined his horse to a stop beside the ox. Tossing its long horns wildly about, the creature flashed anger, bewilderment, and fear from its eyes.

"Keep to the right," the Australian cowboy yelled to Sister White; "Drive past as quickly as possible. He may not charge then." Cautiously her driver edged the horse and carriage along the side of the road and passed the bellowing cattle. The huge ox stood watching them, making no move. Sister White believed that an angel had held the animal back, preventing it from harming them. The driver clucked to the horse, snapping the reins, and the animal broke into a trot.

Seeing the ox grieved Sister White. She saw in the event more than just God's protection from an angry beast. She knew that

heat and thirst had enraged it. His nature revolted against the men's cruelty, and he would not allow anyone to control him. He felt an intense, unreasoning hatred toward all men.

Sister White knew that animals did not naturally hate mankind. They could have great love for human beings. "The intelligence displayed by many . . . animals approaches so closely to human intelligence that it is a mystery," she wrote. "The animals see and hear and love and fear and suffer. They use their organs far more faithfully than many human beings use theirs. They manifest sympathy and tenderness towards their companions in suffering. Many animals show affection for those who have charge of them, far superior to the affection shown by some of the human race. They form attachments for man which are not broken without great suffering to them." Ministry of Healing, pp. 325,316.

But no animal could learn to love the men herding them to the slaughterhouse. The cowboys cared little for the sheep and cattle except for the money they would get when they sold the animals to the slaughterhouse. Many of the creatures became injured, yet the men paid no attention to the wounds. Sister White saw a steer whose horns had broken off close to the skull. Blood flowed down its head. Other cattle hobbled along, lame.

On a different trip to Sydney she counted eight sheep dead on the road, overcome by the exhaustion of the journey, the terrible heat, and the cruelty of the cowboys. Once she passed men picking up heavy sheep unable to travel any farther and bouncing

them into the wagons, the sheep landing on their backs. When some died from the treatment, the drivers tossed the bodies out along the side of the road. At the slaughterhouse the animals remained in open corrals until fattened for the butchering. Then the butchers knocked them unconscious, slit their throats, and bled them to death. Working in a slaughterhouse soon made men indifferent to suffering.

Seeing in such cruelty ample reason for not eating meat, Sister White wrote, "What man with a human heart, who has ever

with which we should regard these creatures of God." Ibid., p. 215.

Besides the cruelty to animals, God also showed Sister White many dangers to one's health that come from eating flesh.

Not only did she urge others to be kind to animals, but also she was kind to them herself. Climbing aboard a wagon, she and two nurse-companions – Emily Campbell and May Walling – drove out to a nearby orchard to pick oranges. Stopping beside the orchard, the three women picked up

baskets from the back of the wagon and walked among the trees to gather fruit. The return journey was even slower than the trip to the orchard.

The fat old mare would not hurry. She plodded along, each step stirring up little puffs of dust, the wagon creaking behind her. But Sister White did not push or hurry the horse.

While wanting to get home quickly, she reconciled herself to the fact that she would have to wait awhile.

"We then drove home as fast as this elephant of a horse would walk, for trot she would not," she commented later with a note of humour. The horse pulled the wagon as best she could and that satisfied her.

We too should have similar care for the creatures that God has created.

as a sweet morsel?" Ibid., p. 316

"Think of the cruelty to animals that meat-eating involves, and its effect on those who inflict [death to the animal] and those who behold it. How it destroys the tenderness



cared for domestic animals, could look into their eyes, so full of confidence and affection, and willingly give them over to the butcher's knife? How could he devour their flesh

Family religion consists in bringing up the children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Every one in the family is to be nourished by the lessons of Christ, and the interest of each soul is to be strictly guarded, in order that Satan shall not deceive and allure away from Christ. This is the standard every family should aim to reach, and they should determine not to fail or to be discouraged. When parents are diligent and vigilant in their instruction, and train their children with an eye single to the glory of God, they co-operate with God, and God co-operates with them in the saving of the souls of the children for whom Christ has died. {AH 317.1}



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