

PUT YOUR TRUST IN

GOD



No one has so many enemies as a child of God. No one is so hated as the follower of Christ. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Tim. 3:12. The greatest persecutors of God's people have been the false brethren in the church. The leader of God's people hunted David like a wild beast. The prophets were persecuted and killed by the people of Israel. Jesus was hated and crucified by the leaders of His own church.

"And one shall say unto Him, what are these wounds in Thine hands? Then He shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends." Zech. 13:6. Yet Jesus loved his church. He wept when He saw their unbelief and hatred towards Him. He said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not!" Matt. 23:37.

Has God at times lost the control of His church? Has Satan taken over the little

flock of Jesus? No, certainly not, but the Lord permits these things to happen for a purpose. Jesus said, "It must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh." Matt. 18:7. Jesus also said, "The brother shall deliver up the brother to death." Matt. 10:21. This kind of hatred we can expect more of in the last days than ever before.

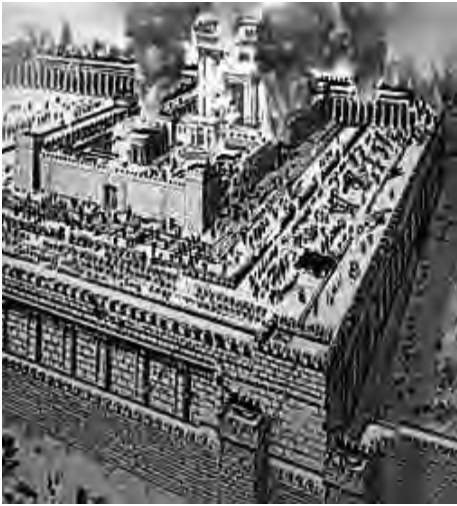
Sister White wrote, "We should be the last people on the earth to indulge in the slightest degree the spirit of persecution against those who are bearing the message of God to the world. This is the most terrible feature of unchristlikeness that has manifested itself among us since the Minneapolis meeting. 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.

Sister White was not fully accepted by the leaders until after her death. Often she was not permitted to speak to the people because the leaders hated her message. "Our whole interest and life have been interwoven with the rise and progress of

the third angel's message. We are bound up in it, and when it does not prosper, we experience great suffering of mind.

"About this time, my husband, as he reviewed the past, began to lose confidence in almost everyone. Many of those whom he had tried to befriend had acted the part of enemies, and some whom he had helped the most by his influence and from his own scanty purse, were continually trying to injure him and cast burdens upon him. One Sabbath morning, as he was going to our place of worship, such an overpowering sense of injustice came over him that he turned aside and wept aloud, while the congregation waited for him.

"From the commencement of our labours we have been called to bear a plain, pointed testimony, to reprove wrongs and spare not. And all the way there have been those who have stood in opposition to our testimony, and have followed after to speak smooth things, daub with untempered mortar, and destroy the influence of our labours. The Lord would rein us up to bear reproof, and then individuals would step right in



between us and the people to make our testimony of no effect. Many visions have been given to the effect that we must not shun to declare the counsel of the Lord, but must occupy a position to stir up the people of God, for they are asleep in their sins. But few have sympathized with us, while many have sympathized with the wrong and with those who have been reprov'd. These things crushed us, and we felt that we had no testimony to bear in the church. We knew not in whom to confide. As all these things forced themselves upon us, hope died within us. We retired to rest about midnight, but I could not sleep. A severe pain was in my heart; I could find no relief and fainted a number of times." Test. Vol. 1, p. 247.

Sister White said that only few have sympathized with her and her husband, while the false brethren criticized and condemned them. Brethren who had no love for souls, did not care if they stayed or left the church. The false brethren have love for power; they want to control the church and use favoritism and manipulation to gain their desire.

For 6000 years this kind of persecution has continued. Sister White writes that Satan brings into the church of God members who will cause disturbance and discouragement in the faithful members, and we cannot avoid it from happening. It is part of the fire that is to purify us and prepare us for heaven. It is a part of God's method to rebuke and chasten the faithful ones. All who are weak in the faith will be offended and leave the church of God. "Many a star that we have admired for its brightness will then go out in darkness." Test. Vol. 5, p.81.

Since this persecution is part of a Christian's life, we must learn to face it and to live with it. The first lesson to learn is not to trust a man, not even the leaders. "Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm." Jer. 17:5.

"Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother." Jer. 9:4.

"Put not trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help." Ps. 146:3.

The Bible is clear that our best friend can deceive us. Our closest brother can betray us. Then in whom can we trust? The Bible is clear on this question also. "O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee." Ps. 84:12. "Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he." Prov. 16:20.

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes." Ps. 118:8, 9.

"Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe." Prov. 29:25.

"They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." Ps. 125:1.

To further illustrate this, a vision was shown to Sister White. "I was shown a cluster of trees, standing near together, forming a circle. Running up over these trees was a vine which covered them at the top, and rested upon them, forming an arbor. Soon I saw the trees swaying to and fro, as though moved by a powerful wind. One branch after another of the vine was shaken loose from the trees, except a few tendrils which were left clinging to the lower branches. A person then came up and severed the remaining clinging tendrils of the vine, and it lay prostrated upon the earth.

"Many passed and looked pityingly upon it, and I waited anxiously for a friendly hand to raise it; but no help was offered. I inquired why no hand raised the vine. Presently I saw an angel come to the apparently deserted vine. He spread out his arms and placed them beneath the vine, and raised it so that it stood upright, saying: 'Stand toward heaven, and let thy tendrils entwine about God. Thou art shaken from

human support. Thou canst stand, in the strength of God, and flourish without it. Lean upon God alone, and thou shalt never lean in vain, or be shaken therefrom.'

As I saw the neglected vine cared for, I felt inexpressible relief, amounting to joy. I turned to the angel and inquired what these things meant. Said he: 'Thou art this vine. All this thou wilt experience, and then, when these things occur, thou shalt fully understand the figure of the vine. God will be to thee a present help in time of trouble.'" LS 176.

Paul was persecuted from outside and inside. Some of the brethren never forgave him that he had once persecuted the church. But he learned to live with it. "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ." 2 Cor. 1:5. "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." 2 Cor. 6:10.

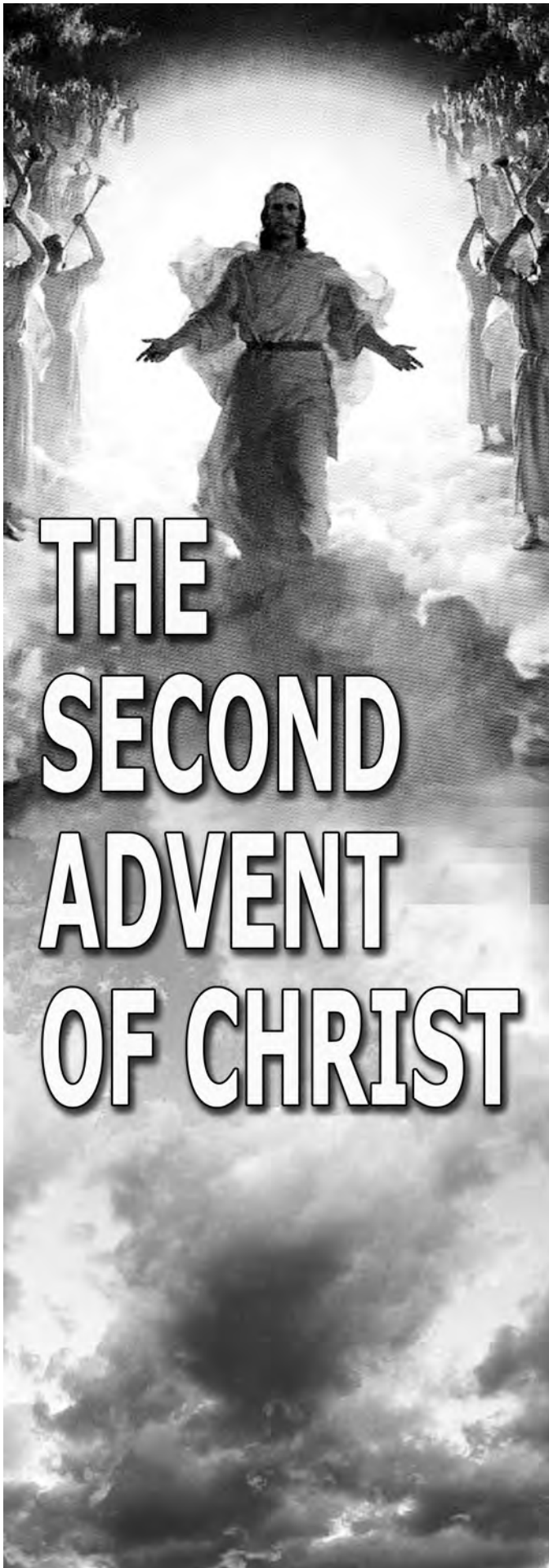
"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor. 12:10.

The greatest sufferer of all was Jesus. Even His own disciples abandoned Him at the moment when He was suffering the most. But He did have a comfort, He said, "Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave Me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me." John 16:32. The Lord will never forsake us even though our friends and brethren may leave us alone.

The time is nearing when all the false brethren will be shaken out. The church will be purified. Yet for a while we need the patience of Job, and endure the trials of our faith. The Comforter which Jesus promised to give us will carry us through every trial and offence, and instead of losing our faith, it will grow stronger, so that we may remain faithful even unto death.

May the Lord help each one of us to depend more and more on the Lord and seek His help daily, and trust man less and less. The Lord is a mighty helper in the time of need. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada



THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

Soon the world will witness the literal, personal, viable, audible and unimaginably glorious return of the Lord of hosts to this earth. Jesus Christ will come again. This always has been, always will be, the blessed hope of God's people.

Belief in the precious promise of Christ's personal return is the cornerstone of our message. If we do not believe in the coming of our Lord we cannot believe in the Advent Movement. If Christ is not coming again, our global commitment and global assignment are senseless and meaningless.

We would need no publishing houses, for there would be no worthwhile message to publish. The blind would never escape from their darkness, the lame would never hope to "leap as an hart," the dumb would forever remain mute, the deaf could never expect to hear, and those who go down into the grave would never live again. If we yield our faith in the blessed hope of Christ's personal return, we destroy ourselves.

The darkest human experience seems to be death. Paul instructed, "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep... for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so then also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him... for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." (1 Thess. 4:13-16). From gloomy, hopeless Patmos comes the blazing hope of John: "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." (Rev. 1:7). The distress of his personal experience in that lonely penitentiary only made him cry out plaintively, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Suffering is a minister of God to make us disenchanted with this world and long for the freedom of the world to come. Through trials our characters are refined and polished. The trials of this life only make us homesick for heaven. We long for Christ to come and put an end to all the misery with which we are surrounded.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward... for yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." (Heb. 10:35-37). How do we know that Christ will return to this earth? We know because He said He would.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3).

The Angel's Promise

When the anxious disciples stood straining their necks and eyes, peering into the sky on the day Christ ascended to His Father so long ago, two angels repeated the promise Jesus had only recently enunciated. Said they, "This same Jesus... shall come in like manner as ye have seen Him go." (Acts 1:11).

The disciples had understood Christ when He spoke to them, but now there is a new word emphasized that causes them to hurry down from Olivet and get about His work. They journeyed far without script or purse, they endured cold and heat, hunger and thirst, jailings, torture,

and death. They were fired by the promise that this same Jesus shall come. They had no delusions about death being the Second Coming of their beloved Christ. They expected the same Jesus! Should Rome have abolished oppression and granted them perpetual amnesty, this would not have been the Second Coming of Christ to them. They never held the notion that better politics, the cessation of hostilities, improved human relations, or any other social event could be interpreted as the Second Coming of Christ.

They looked for the same Jesus to come. The same Jesus who had ordained them, who preached with His voice full of tears calling the lost to salvation. The same Jesus meek and mild, gentle and kind; the same Jesus with the easy smile and kingly bearing. The same Jesus who cleansed lepers, healed disease, silenced storms, dispatched demons, touched children, raised the dead, saved sinners, and died for the lost, will come. The same Saviour who had destroyed the works of the devil, burst the bonds of the tomb, and led the captives from captivity will return for His people. He who sits at the Father's right hand pleading for us, who answers prayers and sends his winged ministers on errands of mercy, who loves as no other can love, and who delays His return only because He is not willing that any should perish—this same Jesus will come again.

Christ's coming shall be utterly visible and public, for "every eye shall see Him." (Rev. 1:7). It shall be extremely audible, for He shall descend with a shout and with the trumpet's peal. (1 Thess. 4:16). The earth shall be rent, mountains shall stagger out of their places, casting down their ponderous peaks before Him. The seas shall wail and whine and roar, cities shall be thrown down in cataclysmic dissolution. Men who mocked and scoffed and put off salvation shall run screaming in terror, craving death. (Rev. 6:14-17). He comes because He said He would. He comes in triumph, in power and great glory, attended by a bright and matchless retinue of dazzling angels, with the perfect pageantry conceived in a divine mind that shall thrill and amaze not only the inhabitants of the earth, but also those unnumbered worlds beyond, who celebrate with Christ the end of the reign of sin.

What should be our attitude who receive this unalterable promise from God's word?

Said John, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is, and every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." (1 John 3:2, 3).

The Pure in Heart Shall See God

How comprehensive is the counsel. If the great truth of Christ's Second Coming is brought home to the heart through His grace, then there is the responsibility both solemn and sensible to do something about it. Everyone that hath this hope purifieth himself. Here is rationale enough for health reform, dress reform, clean morals, the sanctity of marriage, love of one another (for there is no guile or vermin more revolting than hatred), and all the other high and lofty ideals that are held in common by sanctified hearts. So let all contaminating human rationalizing be put aside! Let human philosophy and vain deceit that call for laxity on all moral issues be generally discounted, though it be couched in high-flown polysyllabic rhetoric. Everyone that hath this hope purifieth himself. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8). "Go to your rest at night with every sin confessed. Thus we did when in 1844 we expected to meet our Lord. And now this great event is nearer than when we first believed." Test. Vol. 9, p. 48.

All around us are the harbingers of the end. War and violence and crime and immorality are so common as to require no documentation in this brief article. Spiritism and fascination with religious paganism are unfolding the Revelation. We feel the incessant fear, the perplexity, the horrors of society, while at the same time learning to live complacently with our own savagery. This is a terrible damnation that is overtaking us. We ought to reread Matthew 24, Luke 21, 2 Timothy 3, 2 Peter 3, and all the other related warnings and counsels so graciously given that the day of the Lord come not upon us as an overwhelming surprise. To become careless and indifferent is to become immoral.

Recently I spent several weeks in Siavonga, Kaoma and Mongu. The people in all those lands knew almost immediately that I was a Christian of the Reformed SDA Church.

My speech betrayed me, my dress signified it, my choice of food and the many customs that I did not heed all marked me as a Christian. It must be so with the spiritual pilgrim who waits on his inheritance. His dress, his manners, his food, and all his living must indicate to those about him that he belongs to another commonwealth and that he is happy about his prospects.

Waiting and Watching

In vision, Sis. White saw those who were waiting on the Lord's return. She wrote, "The waiting ones were represented to me as looking upward. They were encouraging one another by repeating these words: the first and second watches are past. We are in the third watch, waiting and watching for the Master's return. There remains but a little period of watching now... The coming of the morning... is right upon us." Test. Vol. 2, p. 192-4. "All heaven is astir. The judge of all the earth is soon to arise and vindicate His insulted authority." Test. Vol. 5, p. 451.

Not long ago, in June 2002, I flew across the continent of Africa in a plane. I was a bit disquieted by the announcement that we would be ten and one-half hours in space. After hours of flight, at 5 a.m., I spied a tiny light. Soon there was another light, then another. The lights became more and more frequent. Our destination was Amsterdam. We must have been approaching it, for more and more lights appeared. In a little while the edge of the city was ablaze beneath. The journey was almost over. More and more lights were telling me so. I rejoiced in the message of the lights. Soon I would be safely among loved ones in joyous reunion.

The closer we get to our destination, the more the signs will appear. For those who follow the light there is sufficient evidence that we are almost home. This is the time to be absorbed with our blessed hope until it affects every aspect of our lives. Our Lord will come! **AMEN.**

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia



How often, in a fit of anger, we see one person getting angry at another one for a minor offence and then calling that person a name. Usually it is a derogatory name, implying that the person is dull of understanding – foolish. Sometimes the word “fool” is used, but there are many other names that are used, however, they all have a similar meaning.

What does the Bible say about calling someone a fool?

“But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.” Mat. 5:22. In a moment we may use those words, however they have fearful consequences. The Bible does go on to say that, “For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” Mat. 12:37. Often we don’t think before we speak, but we should learn to guard our tongue.

Going back to Jesus’ words about calling someone a fool, reading from *Mount of Blessing* page 57, “The literal translation of Raca is good for nothing, stupid. It is an expression of strong contempt. The Christian will treat even the most ignorant and degraded with respect and tenderness.” This is the difference between the true Christian and false Christian. Just watch how they treat the unlearned and ignorant, or how they react in a crisis.

“Thou fool – Dull or stupid. This word is used in Greek to show contempt for one’s motives also. In the first case the person is called ‘stupid’, in the second, ‘scoundrel,’ implying malicious intent. If Christ refused to bring a ‘railing accusation’ against the devil (Jude 9) we should refrain from doing so in regard to our fellow men. We are to leave with God the work of judging and condemning a man because of his motives. According to the Talmud a man who became guilty of slandering another by using the word ‘slave’ was to be excommunicated from the synagogue for 30 days and a man who called another ‘bastard’ was to receive 40 lashes. In the case of a man who called another ‘wicked,’ the one offended could ‘strive against,’ or ‘touch’ his life.” BC5, p. 335

We never saw Jesus getting angry and calling people names. However, in Matthew we can read of a description that He gives of the Jewish leaders, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.” Matthew 23:27. You could argue that He called them names. He called them ‘whited sepulchres.’ Actually, He was simply giving a description of their spiritual condition. He didn’t call any of the individual Jewish leader’s names.

What about the time He called Herod a fox? Was He not name-calling? “The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.” Luke 13:31,32. Herod was a very crafty man and Jesus was simply exposing his craftiness and this is the best example He could think of to compare his character with, so that the people would understand the kind of person he was. “Though he was reckless in expenditures, his craftiness enabled him to keep peace in Galilee, and thus avoid the rebuke of Augustus, who understood his treacherous tendencies. Jesus



read his character rightly when he called him ‘that fox.’” 5 BC 64.

People also say that Jesus was angry when He drove out the buyers and sellers in the temple, however, if you read closely, He never uttered one word in anger. He could have called them “fools” because that is exactly how they were acting, but He never called any person a name.

If we read in the book of Proverbs we see the words “fool” used many times. So why can God use the word ‘fool’ in describing certain people and we are in “danger of hell fire” if we do likewise?

First of all, what the world considers foolish and what God considers foolish are two completely different groups of people. The world often labels Christians as weak and foolish while the wise men of the earth are the scientists and philosophers. God looks at it the opposite. He takes what the world considers foolish and with them, He will confound those that the world considers wise. Paul wrote, “But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:” 1 Cor. 1:27,28 Those that the world views as wise, God looks as foolish and those that are foolish in the eyes of the world are wise in God’s eyes. In God’s eyes, the world has it backwards as far as wisdom is concerned. “Those who would have that wisdom which is from God must

become fools in the sinful knowledge of this age, in order to be wise. They should shut their eyes, that they may see and learn no evil. They should close their ears, lest they hear that which is evil and obtain that knowledge which would stain their purity of thoughts and acts. And they should guard their tongues, lest they utter corrupt communications and guile be found in their mouths.” AH 404. When Jesus comes, where will the wise men of this world be? “They became fools in the eyes of God and His heavenly angels, while men of worldly ambition thought them wise. Now their supposed wisdom is all foolishness, and their prosperity their destruction.” 2T 42.

“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.” 1 Cor. 3:18 The wisdom of the world is valueless in regards to salvation. Let him submit to be guided by the Holy Spirit even though the world thinks of him as a fool. If he does this he’ll obtain true wisdom which comes from God. Fools parade their wisdom and depend on their own learning.

“The one lesson most essential to learn is that goodness alone gives true greatness. May God deliver us from the philosophy of worldly-wise men. Their only hope is in becoming fools, that they may be wise indeed.” 4T 541.

We can’t deny the fact that the word “fool” is used in the Bible to describe the actions of some people, but this does not justify us in calling people fools. We can, in sorrow, describe the actions of someone who has

wandered away from God, that they are acting foolishly. We pity them, we are sorry for them because they are giving up Jesus. They are giving up their happiness in this world and in the future world. How terribly sad. But it is quite a different thing to be angry at someone and call them names

How did David describe a foolish man?

“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.” Ps. 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.” Ps.53:1

It is interesting that this Psalm is repeated twice. It must have a very important message. The one who denies God is considered a fool.

The dictionary definition of “Fool” is: a person deficient either morally or intellectually or both. One who lacks wisdom, a knowledge of moral values, spiritual insight--materialist--judging values by size and power.

But we don’t say there is no God. We don’t lack in wisdom, a knowledge of moral values, spiritual insight. The fact that we are reading this magazine tells us that we believe in Jesus. Yes, we may say with our words that we believe in Jesus, but we may deny Him in our actions. Our actions may say that there is no God.

Here are three quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy regarding Christians who deny Christ. They overlap a little, but each has a few unique points.

“Men may deny Christ by evilspeaking, by *foolish talking*, by words that are untruthful or unkind. They may deny Him by shunning life’s burdens, by the pursuit of sinful pleasure. They may deny Him by conforming to the world, by uncourteous behavior, by the love of their own opinions, by justifying self, by cherishing doubt, borrowing trouble, and dwelling in darkness. In all these ways they declare that Christ is not in them. And ‘whosoever shall deny Me before men,’ He says, ‘him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.’” DA 357

“In our character we may deny Him by loving our ease, by shunning the duties and burdens of life which someone must bear if we do not, and by loving sinful pleasure. We may also deny Christ by pride

of dress and conformity to the world, or by uncourteous behavior. We may deny Him by loving our own opinions and by seeking to maintain and justify self. We may also deny Him in allowing the mind to run in the channel of lovesick sentimentalism and to brood over our supposed hard lot and trials.” 3T 331

“We deny Christ when we speak evil one of another. We deny him in foolish talking, in jesting and joking. We deny him when we have a selfish spirit, criticising our brethren. We deny him in seeking to be first, seeking honor one of another. We may deny Christ in outward appearance by gratifying a proud heart, by lifting up the soul unto vanity, and by uncourteous behavior.” BEcho, Mar. 1.

Many Christians are such in name only – by their characters they deny Christ as verily as did Peter during the trial of Jesus. “Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.” Mat. 26:74 Peter was not converted and therefore denied Jesus. May God help us not to do the same. How do we react when we are in the company of unbelievers who are mocking religion? Do we have the moral courage to stand up for Jesus, or will we be like Peter, fearful of professing His name? It takes great courage to be a Christian. The vast majority of the world, and false Christians lack this courage. They only follow the mob onto the wide road to destruction. Few ever make an effort to find the strait and narrow way.

“O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.” Ps. 92:5,6. A foolish man is one who does not know or understand the Lord. Into this category fit many of the scientists and philosophers of this world. They feel they are too intelligent to believe in God. Everything that has ever happened on this earth and is happening today is all scientifically proven, they say. This is similar to the previous section. Many Christians don’t know God. They don’t want to study the Bible. They feel they have enough knowledge.

How Solomon was inspired to describe the foolish man:

There are many more verses in Proverbs that describe a foolish person and I will

list a few here. It would do well for us to contemplate each of these to make sure that we are not classed with the foolish in the eyes of God.

“He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.” Pro. 10:18 The one who slanders another person – who calls another person a name, whether it be “fool” or something else, he is the foolish one in the eyes of God. To have anger in your heart, while showing a pleasant face is telling a lie. “The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.” Ps 55:21. These people are deceivers and liars.

“The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall. He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known. He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.” Pro. 10:8-10. There are many professing Christians who do not believe they need to keep the commandments. Some say they worship God every day so they have Sabbath every day. They are above the law. But in God’s church we keep the commandments, do we not? Yes, we may keep the letter of the law as did the Pharisees in the days of Jesus, but what about the spirit of the law? We see the law expounded in the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy where the Lord is speaking through His servant Ellen G. White. Oh, some of those writing are extreme and old fashioned – that was then, today things are different. Have we not heard those excuses before? Yes, we are in danger of not receiving the commandments. And to receive them in love – this is what Jesus wants – loving service. “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” Ps. 40:8

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.” Pro. 12:15 “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.” Pro. 28:26 .Oh, how many Christians I’ve met who have not done anything wrong in their eyes. They know it all – you can’t tell them anything. How hard it is for them to be told that they are wrong. Ask yourself if you are this kind of fool. To “hearken unto counsel” means that there is something we

are not doing correctly, or something we don’t know and we are being counseled about what we need improving on in our lives.

“A fool despiseth his father’s instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.” Pro. 15:5. Children and youth come to a certain age when they feel they don’t need to listen to their parents any more. They reach the imaginary age of adulthood – whether it be 18 or 21, or the time they leave home - they no longer need to hearken to their parent’s counsel. No, there are no conditions in this Bible verse. It does not read that you should hearken to your father’s counsel when you are living at home. No conditions at all, implying that it is a never-ending instruction. Until the dying day of your father and even after that day, his instructions should be in your heart and mind, and you should be following them.

The Prodigal son falls under this condemnation. He thought himself very wise. He felt he was wise enough to make it on his own, therefore he asked that his inheritance be given him prior to his father’s death. He thought himself wise enough to manage his own affairs. “Having obtained his patrimony, he goes into ‘a far country,’ away from his father’s home. With money in plenty, and liberty to do as he likes, he flatters himself that the desire of his heart is reached. There is no one to say, Do not do this for it will be an injury to yourself; or, Do this, because it is right. Evil companions help him to plunge ever deeper into sin, and he wastes his ‘substance with riotous living.’

“The Bible tells of men who ‘professing themselves to be wise’ ‘became fools’ (Rom. 1:22); and this is the history of the young man of the parable.” COL 199. Are there not young people today who feel themselves wise like this young man? Far wiser than their parents? Wise enough to manage their own affairs at a young age? It would do well for them to heed the instructions of their parents, beyond the days of their youth only.

“It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling. Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.” Pro. 26:3-5 To walk

away from an argument or a challenge to fight isn't always easy. To the world this person may appear foolish, but before God he is the strong person. It is difficult to walk away without the help of Christ and few are able to do so, but in the Bible it says it is an honour to be able to do this. Fools are also always meddling. Have you met a meddling person? They want to be in the middle of everything. They want to know everything and they get involved in other people's business. They are busybodies and gossipers. They are foolish. We are encouraged here not to speak to foolish persons in their folly – we may become like them and it also will embolden them in their foolishness. You can't talk reason to them – best to leave them alone.

“Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.” Pro. 26:12. Here is a man who thinks he is all wise. This is what God thinks of his wisdom. God is the source of all wisdom and it would do well for us to acknowledge the source of the wisdom and we will receive more.

“The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh.” Eccl. 4:5. The foolish man is lazy and has brought himself and his family to extreme poverty.

WORDS:

“A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.” Pro. 29:11. Some people just can't stop talking. When they are angry, frustrated, upset, when things go wrong in their lives, they keep on talking, talking and talking. They just don't know when to stop, and often their talk gets to be nonsense, unreasonable, full of selfish hurts. When angry, a wise man waits until tempers have cooled and then quietly presents his case. It would do well for these talkers to take their case to the Lord first and then go and softly sort out any differences they may have with others.

“The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness. A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?” Eccl. 10:12-14 The wise man or foolish man are often revealed by the words they speak. A wise man controls his

speech and is willing to listen to instruction and accept direction. Fools talk idly, boasting of their own deeds and speaking evil of others. Since he's too busy talking to listen to counsel, he will fall and come to ruin. The prating fool represents a silly, self-exposing sinner who quickly comes to grief.

“In the use of language there is perhaps no error that old and young are more ready to pass over lightly in themselves than hasty, impatient speech. They think it sufficient excuse to plead, ‘I was off my guard, and did not really mean what I said.’ But God's word does not treat it lightly. The scriptures say: ‘Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.’ Pro. 29:20.” Ed 236.

“In one moment, by the hasty, passionate, careless tongue, may be wrought evil that a whole lifetime's repentance cannot undo. Oh, the hearts that are broken, the friends estranged, the lives wrecked, by the harsh, hasty words of those who might have brought help and healing!” Ed 236/7

TREASURES:

“But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” Luke 12:20 Those who are living for the things of this world – laying up treasures on earth only, are called fools. Who knows when their last day will be, but it will be sad if they don't have any money in the bank of heaven. They are foolish people. When we feel we can't give much to the Lord – our offerings are meager – not sacrifices – when we feel no lack by giving our offerings, we are foolish. Our offerings should be a sacrifice just like the widow who put in two mites into the Lord's treasury. If we have enough means that we live a luxurious life – have all the best clothing, the latest entertainments, a

fancy car and house, and are able to only put a few small coins into the offering plate – we are like this foolish man in the parable that Jesus told. While we are not expected to give so much that we are in poverty, we are encouraged to live a simple life – economizing as best we can, so that we have more to offer the Lord. Then we can trust Him to take care of all our needs (not luxuries – needs). *“The glitter and tinsel of earth fascinated them, and in their supposed wisdom they became fools. They exulted in their worldly prosperity as though their worldly advantages were so great that they could through them be recommended to God, and thus secure heaven.” 2T 42.*

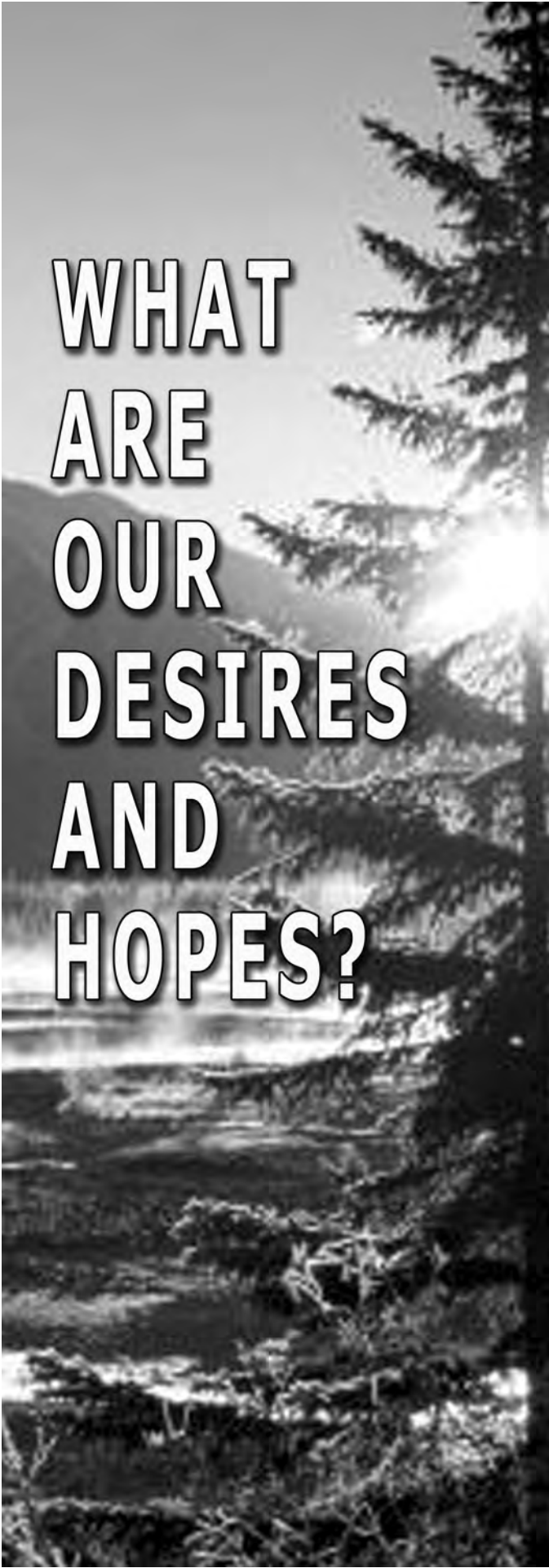
Back to David's description of the fool in the books of Psalms. *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.” Ps. 14:1.* They deny God – they doubt God's existence. Why? Is it because there is no evidence? Or the evidence is sketchy or obscure?

“Disguise it as they may, the real cause of doubt and skepticism, in most cases, is the love of sin. The teachings and restrictions of God's word are not welcome to the proud, sin-loving heart, and those who are unwilling to obey its requirements are ready to doubt its authority. In order to arrive at truth, we must have a sincere desire to know the truth and a willingness of heart to obey it. And all who come in this spirit to the study of the Bible will find abundant evidence that it is God's word, and they may gain an understanding of its truths that will make them wise unto salvation.” SC 111

May God help us not to doubt or disbelieve any of His commandments. Heed the counsels of the Bible and don't become a fool in the eyes of God. Be a fool to the wise men of this world. The sincere “wise” men of this world will appreciate the wisdom they see in God's people, as King Darius and Nebuchadnezzar saw in Daniel. However, the foolish “wise” men will see God's people as fools, just like Pharaoh thought of Moses. And never fall into the same trap as those insincere ones of calling others “fools” or some other similar name, bringing upon us the condemnation of God. What really matters is not how the world views us, but how God views us. Let's be wise unto salvation. True wisdom comes from God. **AMEN**

Wendy Eaton, Australia





WHAT ARE OUR DESIRES AND HOPES?

In Everyday Life

From the beginning of their lives, human beings have desires which they hope to have fulfilled. If someone does not have any future hopes, his life is empty and without goals. Life is interesting when we have set goals that we are trying to reach, and we are glad and thankful when they are fulfilled. Then we see a purpose in our lives.

We also notice that man is inclined to set new goals in life in order to gain something new and better. Our life is pleasant when all goes well, but often it happens that we have disappointments, when our dreams are not fulfilled. On the other hand, even though a man has reached all that he has desired in his life, there can still be emptiness in his heart.

“Then I looked at all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.” Eccl. 2:11. How many people today experience something similar to Solomon!

Satan has hypnotized the minds of the people to think that they will have true happiness when they have gained much riches and high goals in this life. In the end they will see that they have been deceived because they did nothing to save their souls!

Worldly Accomplishments Can Never Satisfy the Spiritual Needs and Desires of the Soul

The experience of Solomon proves that in this short life there is something more important and precious to reach than just material goods. In this life we can reach a treasure that has eternal value, and that is what I am longing to have! And that is a Christlike character. We need to be clothed in the white garment of His righteousness.

Desires of the Heart

“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?” Ps. 42:1-2.

Do we have similar longings of the heart as David? Do we desire the presence of God in our lives? Are we longing for revival and holiness? It takes place when we invite Jesus into our hearts.

He is “the Author and Finisher of our faith.” Heb. 12:2. we don’t need to fight against sin alone, even that we may feel that way sometimes; no, we have help available, always.

While on the earth, our Saviour fulfilled the desires of the people, when they sincerely sought His help. “And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.” Luke 5:12.

In the life of faith, the Lord knows our longings and needs, but before He sends us help, He expects us to ask for it and also He waits for the right time. Often we think, why does the Lord not fulfill our desires according to our timetable? There may be many reasons for it, which are hidden from us, but later we will understand that the Lord did that which was best for us.

The Fulfillment of Our Hopes and Desires Gives Us Great Joy and Encouragement!

“And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” Luke 2:25-32.

Can we imagine how happy Simeon was when he could hold in his arms the Saviour of the world? Now his desire was fulfilled, and his joy was great! I believe that this was the happiest moment to him in his life. Worldly accomplishments can never give

such joy and happiness. He was old and saw no purpose to live any longer, therefore he prayed, “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant to depart in peace, according to Thy word: for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.” Luke 2:29-30.

Are we longing to have the same kind of joy and happiness as faithful Simeon? If so, then we must also live as he lived. May the Lord help us in this.

Fulfillment of the Desires of God’s Children

We are waiting for the Lord’s return! Every day the signs of the times show us more clearly that the most important event on our planet will soon take place. Oh, our hearts start beating faster when we think of this event!

“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.” Isa. 25:9.

Then our last desire will be fulfilled. The battle against sin will end for ever, and to us begins eternal joy and happiness.

“Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man’s hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a ‘Man of Sorrows,’ to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. ‘Faithful and True,’ ‘in righteousness He doth judge and make war.’ And ‘the armies which were in heaven’ (Revelation 19:11, 14) follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—‘ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.’ No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendour. ‘His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light.’ Hab. 3:3, 4. As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head; but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. ‘And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords.’ Rev. 19:16.” GC, p. 640, 641.

May the Lord have mercy on us, and help us to prepare for this great event. **AMEN.**

Your brother, V. Marinov, Finland





“And Jesus said unto them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”

This is a universal question for many, when He said, we must eat His flesh and drink His blood. They ask, “how can this be?” But first let’s read from 1 John 5:13, “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; That ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” The key word in this verse is “believe.” But, we will expound on this further, in answer to the above question from John 6.

But first, let us return to that magnificent event in the miraculous feeding of the 5000 by Jesus, with just five barley loaves and two little fish. (John 6:1-14). What happened the following day? The masses of people went looking for Jesus. When the people found Jesus, He told them that they didn’t look for Him because of the miracle they had just experienced. But, they came looking for Him because they wanted some more food. (v.26). Then He told them not to labour for the meat that perishes but for the meat which would give them everlasting life. Jesus said He would give it to them.

Then the people said, “What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?” Jesus said to them, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.” (v.29). The people’s hearts were hard and selfish. They said, “What sign shewest Thou then, that we may see, and believe Thee? What dost thou work?” Here now, only a day before He performed that huge miracle before them, and they totally ignored it saying, “Show us something so we’ll believe you.” They did not believe Jesus, as so many also do not believe today.

The discontented people, then, went on to mention how their fathers, the Israelites, ate manna in the desert. (v.31). Recall now, how God fed them out there for 40 years! Now, the people wanted Jesus to feed them all the food they wanted their entire lives!

Jesus went on and told them, that God is giving them the “true” bread from heaven. Jesus told the, “The bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world.” (v. 32-33). Jesus is the bread, therefore, that gives “nourishment” to the world. What kind of nourishment could this be? The answer will be forthcoming.

Then the unreasonable and restless masses of people asked, “Lord, evermore give us this bread.” (v. 34-35). Jesus, again, responded by saying to them, “I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.” We all know now, that no physical bread can make us full for the rest of our lives and no physical drink can quench our thirst for the rest of our lives. Then what did Jesus mean? We shall understand this as we proceed.

Jesus then, plainly tells the people that even though they had seen Him they did not believe in Him. Jesus tells them once again, “And this is the will of Him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life.” (v. 36-40).

Jesus said if we come to Him and “believe” in Him we will get everlasting life, just like eating physical bread gives us physical life. The reflective people were talking about physical life. Jesus, in turn was talking about the spiritual life... where we will spend eternal



life. The thoughtless people, at this point now, didn't want to hear this "believing" business because they did not, in the first place, believe in Him! They murmured at Him, much as their forefathers did, because He said that He was the bread that came down from Heaven. They started thinking back about His supposed family (Joseph, they said, was not His father). They basically said, "We know His mother and father. How can He say He came down from heaven?" (v. 41-42).

Jesus then told the people, that anyone who hears and learns from God the Father will come to Him, others won't. He told them, furthermore, what they needed to do and they ignored it and even got indignant about it. Once again, Jesus tells them what to do, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." (v. 43-47).

Now, Jesus breaks it all the way down again. These selfish people were just concerned with having their fill of bread, in essence, gluttony, so Jesus spoke wisely to them at that level which seemed to be the only way they could understand. He basically told them, "Your fathers ate manna and they are dead. I am the living bread, eat of Me and you will live forever. My body is the bread I will give for the life of the world." (v. 48-51). But, what did Jesus mean by "eat of me?" Remember, He told them that the works of God was to "believe" on Jesus.

What does it mean, however, to "believe"? Well, to believe is to accept, internalize, absorb, and assimilate, which is what eating is—allowing an outside substance to come inside of you. But, unlike

physical bread which is eaten and cast out through the gastro-intestinal system, the spiritual bread, the word of God, is eaten/internalized through belief and never cast out. It remains inside of us! Jesus clearly explains this again, that when we eat of Him, it is "not as your fathers did, eat manna and are dead." It is not the same kind of eating or consuming. It is, internalizing, accepting, "believing" Him... all of these.

Jesus was crucified on the cross to pay for our death penalty... this is eternal death. If we believe that this happened and confess Him, we will not experience spiritual death. We will go to heaven... this is eternal life! Believing, internalizing, "eating" this fact gives us eternal life. We need physical bread to stay alive, we need belief in His sacrifice (spiritual bread) so we can live forever.

Now, what about the blood? The shedding of blood is required to forgive our sins. The blood forgives our sins and washes them away forever so that we can live with a Holy and Just God who never sins and can't live with sin. Hebrews 9:22 says that blood is required in order to get forgiveness of sins/remission. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Once again, if we accept Jesus, internalize Him, yes, eat of Him, we have eternal life. The people were talking about physical life, Jesus was talking about spiritual life. Remember, when asked what we have to do, to do the works of God, Jesus said, "He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." When we believe on Jesus Christ, He actually lives inside of us, never to

be purged like physical bread like the eucharist (el caliz de la eucarista—Christian sacrament of the Lord's Supper), which is eliminated from the body. Yet, Catholics consider the receiving of the sacrament of communion a critical element of their lives. (AP—Cassta—4/5/05—Wash. U.S. Nat.). Remember, again, because I believe, Jesus lives in me! (v. 48-51).

Well, this all caused the unbelieving Jews to say, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" They are still thinking about physical life and physical bread. Jesus is talking about spiritual life and spiritual bread. He has told them over and over again, that the work of God is to "believe" on Him, and they repeatedly refused to believe on Him and persisted in seeking physical bread.

Jesus said, "My flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed." Many people were offended at the thought of what they perceived as cannibalism. Because of their unbelief, they were still thinking in the physical realm. (v.55).

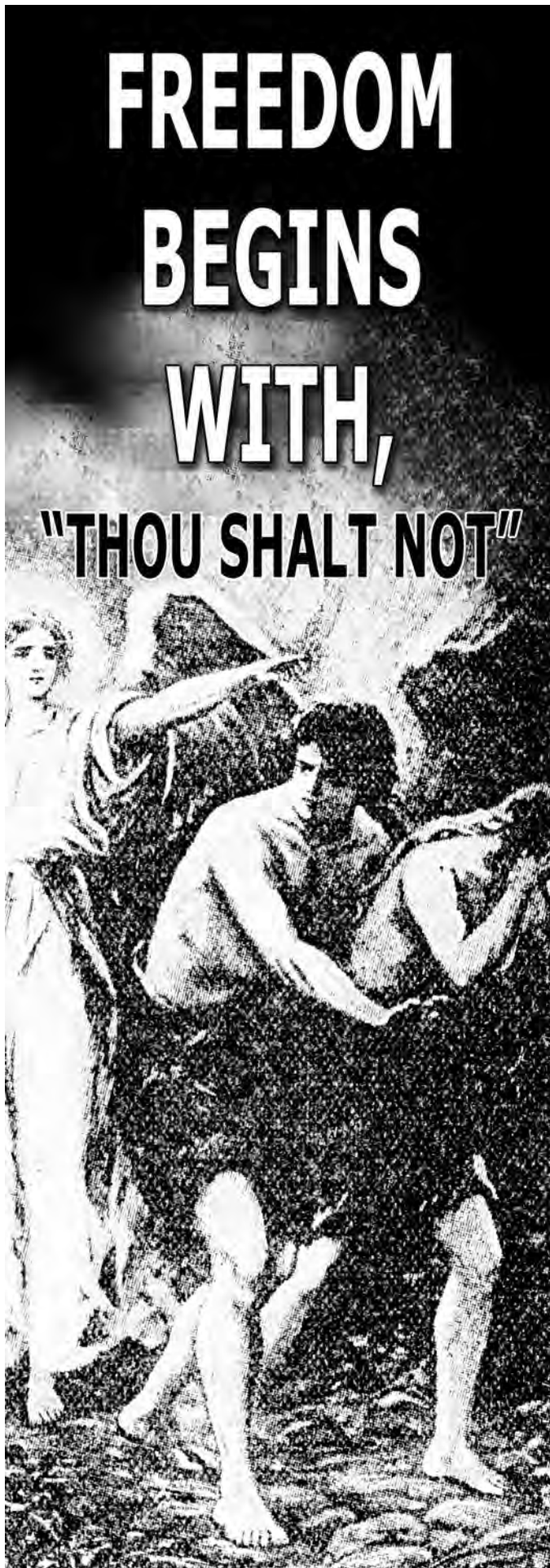
Now, what about the disciples that left Him? Was it because they had to literally eat of His flesh and drink His blood? No! They left because they did not believe the claims that Jesus made, just like the materialistic people who didn't believe either. Because they did not believe, they could not understand what Jesus was saying. (1 Cor. 2:14).

Jesus, in fact, asked the disciples that murmured, "Doth this offend you? It is the spirit that quickeneth (gives life); the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (v.63). He told them plainly that He was not talking literally. He said, "...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit." He also told them here that the physical flesh profiteth nothing! Nothing!

Interestingly, the word "eucharist" is not even in the Bible. There is no concept of the eucharist in the Bible—but there is in pagan religion. Many are still trusting the eucharist for their eternal life instead of trusting the real Jesus who inexpressibly loves them and cruelly died for them.

This is the answer to, "Eat His flesh and drink His blood?" **AMEN.**

John Theodorou, USA



Freedom is the highest goal of every individual and nation. Everyone strives for freedom. All along the history of humanity, much blood has been shed to obtain it. Our spiritual freedom was not achieved without the shedding of blood. The Scriptures tell us, "...without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

Sometimes, countries that have been oppressed for a long time under a foreign power, after having conquered their independence, end up under a painful local dictatorial regime. The greatest dictatorial power, after we have been taken from the grip of Satan, is our own ego. The intellectual knowledge of the truth without the experience of "Jesus our righteousness" unfortunately makes us obnoxiously self-righteous.

It is commonly said that every nation has the government it deserves. In most countries, every four years there are elections and people freely choose their leaders on whom they set all their hopes for peace and righteousness; but very soon afterward they are disappointed and wait for the next election to vote for the opposite party, since their candidate did not meet their expectations. Sometimes, they cannot even wait for the four years to pass by, and in an act of violence or betrayal turn over the government.

The people of Israel were also a nation ruled directly by God through one of His chosen servants: Moses, the humblest man who walked upon the earth. Moses would not take a step without consulting God and due to his faith and obedience, God worked many miracles through him. He accomplished the great deed of leading God's people out of Egypt and the people were able to see wonders in the course of their deliverance, wonders performed by a man holding a simple rod that was moved by his great faith in the almighty God who loved His children.

When they were out in the wilderness, the Lord tried to bring His people back to obedience to His law, and that after so many generations among the heathen had been erased from their hearts, He began with the hardest trial for man: a change of diet that meant to prepare their heart to accept the divine holy law.

God Himself fed His people with manna, the food of the angels. He wanted them to partake of the blessings of heaven. But, what was the people's reaction? They protested against it. They wanted freedom, righteousness and peace without a reformation. Their natural reaction was complaining and murmuring against their leader. But Moses says, "*Your complaints are not against us, but against the Lord*" (Ex. 16:8). Not only did they complain about the food itself, but they disobeyed the Lord's command and although the Lord said to them "*today you shall not*", they ventured unto the fields to look for manna.

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, presents some thoughts of great significance, "*(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end [is] destruction, whose God [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.*" Philippians 3:18-20. There is an invisible thread that connects these two verses. Our belly seems

to be the greatest impediment to have our citizenship in heaven, to accept the law of God in our hearts. We just need to follow the history of the people of Israel. All their murmuring against the diet the Lord had appointed them and their craving for the “delicacies” of Egypt led them to build an idol and worship it while their leader was communing with God and receiving the law they were to commit their lives to.

The God of love had given the first creatures freedom to eat from all the trees in paradise. In Genesis 2:16 the word “freely” appears for the first time in the Bible. This term is followed by a “but”, “*but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat you shall surely die.*” The Lord provided man with a great variety of what would preserve him both physically and spiritually healthy and warned him about the terrible consequences of disobedience. He did not put an angel with a flaming sword to guard the tree and prevent his beloved creature from falling, although He knew how man was going to use his freedom. He had endowed man with intelligence and a free will and He was by no means going to interfere with his choice. He had set before man two ways, two trees; two possibilities: Life or death, obedience or disobedience. And death took its toll both in paradise and in the wilderness.

God did not force His people to eat the bread of heaven, the symbol of Jesus. Does God force us to accept Jesus, to receive His grace, to put in practice his teachings? No, He gave us a free will.

The Lord provided His people with what they wanted: meat. Flocks of quails flew over the camp in abundance and those who followed the craving of their heart perished. But the ones who remained, the ones who obeyed, who trusted the Lord and acted by faith, the ones who did not complain against Moses and did not ask for something else to eat, continued their journey toward Canaan with their faith strengthened. Soon the test became harder. Now they lacked water and it was their turn to murmur against Moses, but their leader turned to His God, to the One who had chosen him to lead His nation, to the One who had saved him from the waters when he was a baby and asked Him, “*What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me*” (Ex. 17:4). And the Lord performed

another miracle. Thus, with one miracle after another, with “*grace upon grace*”, the people reached mount Sinai and they were given the Ten Commandments, ten simple statements, nine out of which imply a prohibition: “*Thou shalt have no other gods*”, “*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... thou shalt not bow thyself to them*”, “*Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God in vain*”, “*But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work*”, “*Thou shalt not kill*”, “*Thou shalt not commit adultery*”, “*Thou shalt not steal*”, “*Thou shalt not bear false witness*”, “*Thou shalt not covet*”. This is the law of freedom James speaks about, the law by which we shall all be judged. Indeed, freedom begins with, “**Thou shalt not.**” Is that the good news? Has that anything to do with the gospel? It all depends on whether we understand the letter or the Spirit of the law.

The law was given with great manifestation of God’s power (Ex.20:18). The almighty God who had opened the Red Sea for them to cross from slavery to freedom, who had provided them water in the dryness of the desert, showed that He was also a devouring fire and the people trembled, but not for long. When Moses came down from the mountain, he found them worshipping an idol. What did he do? We know very well what happened. Over and over again the stiff-necked people of Israel complained against Moses although they saw his face shine after communion with God.

Korah and his men rebelled against him and accused him of exalting himself above the assembly. “*And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown.*” Numbers 16:3. The people of Israel did not want to follow any rule, they considered themselves holy and would not accept any leader, even if chosen by God Himself.

As they advanced on their way toward the Promised Land, they did not stop complaining, although they experienced so many miracles! “*Now when the people complained it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and His anger was aroused*” (Numbers 11:1). In His anger, the Lord sent a punishment with a corrective purpose, but soon the people went back to their old

way and once again they craved for the food they ate in Egypt. “*And the mixed multitude that [was] among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic*” (Numbers 11:4-5). They rejected the manna, the bread from heaven, the food of the angels, God’s grace, and Moses’ heart was extremely burdened and asked the Lord: “*Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldst say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat. I am not able to bear all this people alone, because [it is] too heavy for me*” (Numbers 11:11-14). And the Lord answered his prayer and gathered 70 elders, gave them of His Spirit to bear the burden of the people together with Moses.

Nothing made the Israelites happy, their views were upon this earth and its “goodies” and they continued rejecting the manna and asking for Egypt. “*And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for [there is] no bread, neither [is there any] water; and our soul loatheth this light bread*” (Numbers 21:4, 5). And the Lord, who until then had protected them from the serpents in the wilderness, withdrew His hand, and those who complained were bitten by the poisonous reptiles. What was the problem again? Food and water. And whom were they against? “*And the people spake against God, and against Moses*” (Numbers 21:5). What was their attitude toward the “bread of heaven”? “*Their soul loathed it.*” Their flesh hated it. They hated to be reformed, they hated Jesus, the bread of life and what He represented, they hated the law; they actually hated freedom. Does our flesh love Jesus? Does our flesh love the law? Does our flesh love the Health



Reform? Does our flesh love freedom, that real freedom that begins with “*Thou shalt not*”?

“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members” (Romans 7:23). There is no sanctified flesh, even if we are in the process of sanctification, even if we have been taken out of Egypt and are on our way to the heavenly Canaan. It is our daily choice whether we shall be brought into captivity to the law of sin again, or we shall bring “*into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*” (2 Corinthians 10: 5). “*Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak*” (Matthew 26:41), warns Jesus to His disciples of all times.

But let us go back to the people of Israel in the wilderness, where we left them: Those who complained and loathed the manna were bitten by serpents, but the God of mercy did not abandon them and as soon as they acknowledged their sin, the antidote was given to them. “*Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and*

against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live” (Numbers 21: 7, 8). The plan was ready. The miracle of a new life by just beholding sin crucified and believing in it was presented to them and those who accepted it, those who obeyed without asking for a reason that would satisfy their mind, without doubting, were healed. The man in Romans 7:23 who acknowledges there is another law in his members, and in his misery asks, “*Who shall deliver me from this body of death?*”, looks up and sees the cross and exclaims with great relief and gratitude, “*I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord*” Romans 7:25.

When we are bitten by the serpent, we just need to lift our eyes to the cross, but if we turn our eyes from it after we have been healed, we shall be bitten again, therefore the great evangelist of the New Testament urges us to run “*... with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus...*” (Hebrews 12:1, 2).

Christ was with His people in the wilderness, not only as a cloud that protected them from the burning sun, or as a pillar of fire to lighten their way at night, not only as the bread of life represented by the manna, symbol of the Health Reform, but He was also crucified, died for their sins, so that they might die to sin. In likewise manner, He reveals Himself to us today, and through faith in His constant presence at our side and His power, we can overcome.

Our victory does not depend on our leaders, on whether we live under the leadership of a man whose face shines because of his communion with God, or under the advice of judges or the rulership of a king chosen by ourselves against God’s better judgment. Our victory has nothing to do with an

outside ruler or leader, but with whether we are controlled by our flesh or by the Spirit, whether we surrender to the law in our members or we look and live, whether we accept the fact that freedom begins with “*Thou shalt not*”.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is still planted in the garden of our heart and the serpent is still coiled in one of its branches making us doubt whether God requires strict obedience to His law, the law of the Spirit. But we should know, and not doubt, that the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus makes us free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2.

May the Lord, in His infinite grace, grant us opportunities to grow in faith and to strengthen our will power so that we can totally surrender our flesh to the holy influence of the Spirit and be able to sincerely pray for our leaders. **Amen.**

Teresa Corti



Saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees...till we have sealed the servants of our god in their foreheads. Rev. 7: 3

John writes, "I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels around about the throne," Angels were united in the work of Him who had broken the seals and taken the book. Four mighty angels hold back the power of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for the conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.

Angels are surrounding 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 sights 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 great power and great strength, being commissioned to go forth from heaven to the 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 for a little moment, until the indignation shall be over. 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.

All these heavenly beings have one object above all others, in which they are intensely interested. His church, in a world of corruption. All these armies are in the service of the Prince of heaven, exalting the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world. They are working for Christ under His commission, to save to the uttermost all who look to Him and believe in Him. These heavenly intelligences are speeding on their mission, doing for Christ that which Herod and Pilate did against Him. They confederate together to uphold the honor and glory of God. They are united in a holy alliance, in a grand and sublime unity of purpose, to show forth the power and compassion and love and glory of the crucified and risen savior. 7BC 967-968; Lt 79, 1900, 89c, 1887.

How few bear in mind that the tempter was once a covering cherub, a being whom God created for His own name's glory. Satan fell from his high position through self-exaltation; he misused the high capabilities with which God had so richly endowed him. He fell for the same reason that the thousands are falling today, because of an ambition to be first, an unwillingness to be under restraint. The Lord would teach man the lesson that, though united in the church capacity, he is not saved until the seal of God is placed upon him... The Lord has a work for all of us to do. And if the truth is not rooted in the heart, if the natural traits of character are not transformed by the Holy Spirit, we can never be co-laborers with Jesus Christ. Self will constantly appear, and the character of Christ will not be manifested in our lives. Lt.80, 1898

Missionary agencies are greatly needed in every branch of God's

work. Our institutions need converted, devoted men, who will make the Lord their dependence. God will reveal through such workers the power of His grace. His servants are to be distinguished from the world by the seal of the living God; their words and their action and their works are to reveal that they are laborers together with God.

God can use the human agent just to the extent that he will be worked by the Holy Spirit. To men who accept positions of responsibility as presidents, ministers, physicians, or workers in any line, I am bidden to say; God will test every man who enters His service. He does not ask, Do they possess learning and eloquence? Have they ability to command and control and manage? He asks, Will they represent My character? Will they walk in humility, that I may teach them My way? The soul temple must be without spot and wrinkle. The Lord will use humble men to do a great and good work. Through them He will represent to the world the ineffaceable characteristics of the divine nature.

Those who come out from the world, stand distinct from worldlings in words and works, those who realize that it is an honor to bear God's sign, will receive power to become His sons. The Lord will have men who can be depended on. No one will enter the courts above who does not bear the sign of God. Those who in this sin-cursed earth bear this sign in holy boldness, looking upon it as an honor, will be recognized and honored by Christ in the courts above. "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is a child of God will have His seal placed upon him." O that it may be placed upon our foreheads! Who can endure the thought of being passed by when the angel goes forth to the seal the servants of God in their foreheads. Only those who receive the seal of the living God will have the passport through the gates of the holy city. But there are many who take upon themselves responsibilities in connection with the work of God who are halfhearted believers, and while they remain thus cannot receive the seal of the living God. They trust in their own righteousness, which the Lord accounts foolishness. Many will not receive the seal of God because they do not keep the commandments or bear the fruits of righteousness. The great mass of professing Christian will meet

with bitter disappointment in the day of God. They have not upon their foreheads the seal of the living God. Lukewarm and halfhearted, they dishonor God far more than the avowed unbeliever. They grope in darkness, when they might be walking in the noonday light of the Word, under the guidance of One who never errs. 7BC969-970; Lt 80,18198; Lt 125, 1903; R&H May 28, 1889; MS 27, 1899; Lt 121, 1903.

Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth and to cause them to waver. As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.

SAYS THE GREAT DECEIVER: "We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; they will lead many to see the claims of the law of God; and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and shows that the last work for man's salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in darkness till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also. The Sabbath is the great question which is to decide the destiny of souls. We must exalt the Sabbath of our creating. We have caused it to be accepted by both worldlings and church members; now the church must be led to unite with the world in its support. We must work by signs and wonders to blind their eyes to the truth, and lead them to lay aside reason and the fear of God and follow custom and tradition. I will influence popular minister to turn the attention of their hearers from the commandments of God. That which the Scriptures declare to be a perfect law of liberty shall be represented as a yoke of bondage. The people accept their minister's explanations of Scripture and do not investigate for themselves. Therefore, by working through the ministers, I can control the people

according to my will.

"But our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbath keepers. We must excite popular indignation against them. We will enlist great men and worldly wise men upon our side, and induce those in authority to carry out our purposes. Then the Sabbath which I have set up shall be enforced by laws most severe and exacting. Those who disregard them shall be driven out from the cities and villages, and made them to suffer hunger and privation. When once we have the power, we will show what we can do with those who will not swerve from their allegiance to God. We led the Romish church to inflict imprisonment, to torture, and death upon those who refused to yield to her decrees; and now that we are bringing the Protestant churches and the world into harmony with this right arm of our strength, we will finally have a law to exterminate all who will not submit to our authority. When death shall be made the penalty of violating our Sabbath, then many who are now ranked with commandment keepers will come over to our side. But before proceeding to these extreme measures, we must exert all our wisdom and subtlety to deceive and ensnare those who honor the true Sabbath. We can separate many from Christ by worldliness, lust, and pride. They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passion, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall.

"Go make the possessors of lands and money drunk with the cares of this life. Present the world before them in its most attractive light, that they may lay up their treasure here and fix their affections upon earthly things. We must do our utmost to prevent those who labor in God's cause from obtaining means to use against us. Keep the money in our ranks. The more means they obtain, the more they will injure our kingdom by taking from us our subjects. Make them care more for money than for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom and the spread of the truths we hate, and we need not fear their influence; for we know that every selfish, covetous person will fall under our power, and will finally be separated from God's people.

"Through those that have a form of godliness but know not the power, we



can gain many who would otherwise do us harm. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God will be our most effective helpers. Those of this class who are apt and intelligent will serve as decoys to draw others into a snare. Many will not fear their influence, because they profess the same faith. We will thus lead them to conclude that the requirements of Christ are less strict than they once believed, and that by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings. Thus they will separate from Christ; then they will have no strength to resist our power, and ere long they will be ready to ridicule their former zeal and devotion.

“Until the great decisive blow shall be struck our efforts against commandment keepers must be untiring. We must be present at all their gatherings. In their large meetings especially our cause will suffer much, and we must exercise great vigilance, and employ all our seductive arts to prevent souls from hearing the truth and becoming impressed by it. I will have upon the ground, as my agents, men holding false doctrines mingled with just enough truth to deceive souls. I will also have unbelieving ones present who will express doubts in regard to the Lord’s messages of

warning to His church. Should the people read and believe these admonitions, we could have little hope of overcoming them. But if we can divert their attention from these warnings, they will remain ignorant of our power and cunning, and we shall secure them in our ranks at last. God will not permit His words to be slighted with impunity. If we can keep souls deceived for a time, God’s mercy will be withdrawn, and He will give them up to our full control.

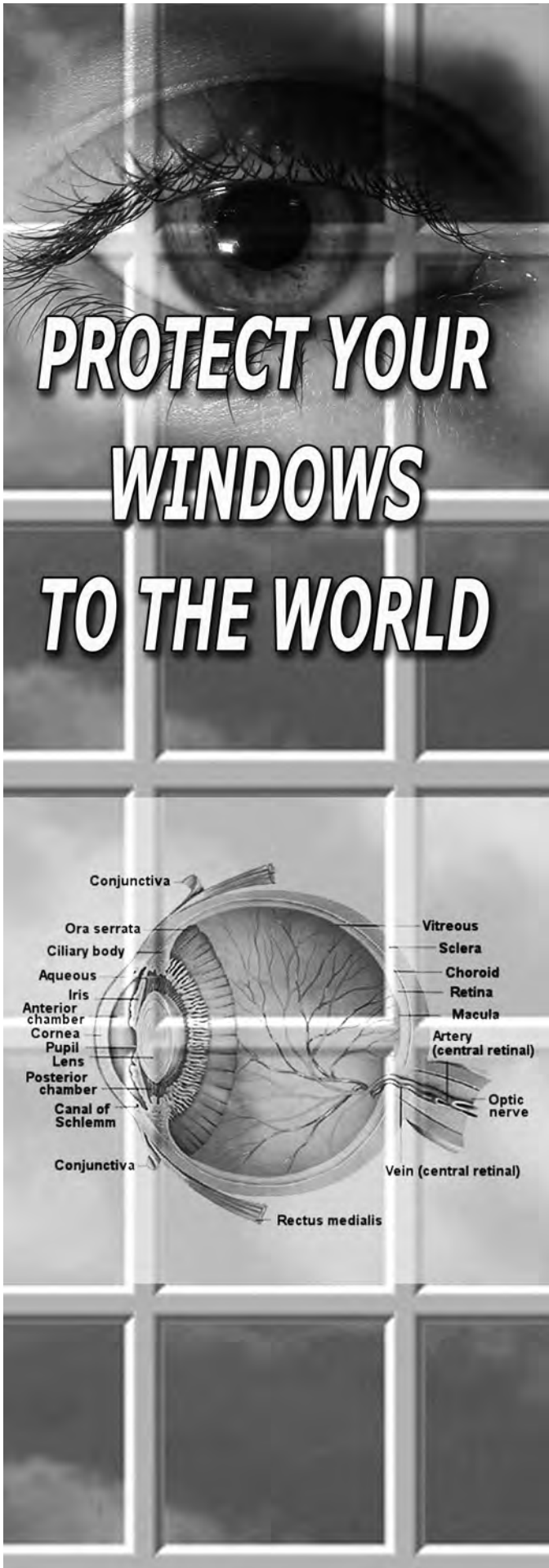
“We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety, and cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence; and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate.” TM 472-475.

So, therefore, brother and sister in Christ, the Lord is so good because He revealed to us the wiles of the great deceiver through the help of the Holy Spirit in order that we can be aware of it. Our own safety is in always putting our trust and hope in our great Redeemer. We must not fear the fear of the wicked; that is, fear what they fear, and reverence, what they reverence, but be bold and valiant in the truth. Could our eyes be opened, we should see the forms

of evil angels around us, trying to invent something new to annoy and destroy us. And we should also see angels of God guarding us from their power; for God’s watchful eye is ever over Israel for good, and He will protect and save His people, if they put their trust in Him. When the enemy shall come in like a flood the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

Said the angel, “Remember, thou art on the enchanted ground.” I saw that we must watch and have on the whole armor and take the shield of faith, and then we shall be able to stand, and the fiery darts of the wicked cannot harm us. EW 58. The time has come when we must expect the Lord to do great things for us. Our efforts must not flag or weaken. We are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God’s people is finished, we shall receive the outpouring of the Spirit of God. Angels from heaven will be in our midst. The present is a fitting-up time for heaven when we must walk in full obedience to all the commands of God. Lt 30, 1907 God bless us, and go forward, no retreat, no surrender, death first before transgression. **AMEN**

*Your sister in Christ,
Edeline P. Cosby, Detroit, USA*



PROTECT YOUR WINDOWS TO THE WORLD

Could you exercise your eyes like you exercise the rest of your body and just throw away your glasses? Behavioural optometrists believe that you can improve your vision, need less correction in your lenses, and make your eyes healthier through a series of exercises like the ones that follow:

- **Palming** is a method of resting your eyes in total darkness. Rub your palms together briskly to warm them, and place them over your closed eyes without pressing on them. Relax your mind and concentrate on the darkness before you.

- **Sunning** uses natural light to trigger essential physical processes in your body. It is best done for two to five minutes a few times a day before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m., so you can avoid the hours of brightest sunlight. With your eyes closed, face the sun and slowly move your head from left to right. After about three minutes, stop for a brief session of palming. The contrast between these two actions helps make your pupils more flexible.

- **Blinking** is a natural action that rests your eyes, stretches your eye muscles, massages your eyeballs, and forces your pupils to dilate and contract. Many people don't blink enough, and this can be harmful to your eyes. To do this exercise, make dozens of quick blinks as you turn your head slowly from side to side for about 20 seconds.

- **Watching a ball** improves the shifting of your eyes. Toss a tennis ball into the air and watch it while blinking frequently. Or you can watch a live tennis match, focusing on the back-and-forth motion of the ball.

- **Thumb zooming** exercises your figure and ground focusing. Place your arm out straight in front of you with your thumb up. Relax, breathe, and blink frequently while you focus on your thumb, noting its clear outline against a fuzzy background. Shift your focus to something in the background, at least 10 feet away, and you will see two thumbs. Move your focus back and forth several times between your thumb and the background.

- **Edging** helps your eyes sweep the visual field with rapid shifts and discourages staring. Pick out an object beyond your clear range of vision and use your nose as a pointer to trace the edges of the object. Move your head naturally as you trace the outline, then repeat the process and trace in the opposite direction.

- **Eye stretching** helps the coordination of your eyes by moving them in a systematic manner, as well as stretching the eye muscles and improving circulation. For these exercises, you need to relax, breathe, and blink frequently:

1. Squeeze your eyes tightly shut and hold for a few seconds, then open them suddenly. Repeat several times, closing your eyes as you exhale and opening them as you inhale.
2. With your eyes open, look up as far as you can, then look down as far as you can. Do this without straining, keeping your head facing forward and your neck and shoulders relaxed.
3. Do this exercise only if it doesn't strain your eyes. Look way up while inhaling, then down while exhaling. Do 20 quick blinks. Look as far to the right as you can, then as far to the left as you can, repeating 10 times. Do 20 more quick blinks, then look up to the right, down to the left, up to the left, and down to the right. Repeat 10 times.



Good Nutrition Clears Up Cloudy Vision

Remember when you were a child, and your mother told you to eat your carrots because they were good for your eyes? Well, it turns out that she was absolutely right. A recent study has shown that eating vegetables high in carotenoids, a yellow pigment found naturally in some fruits and vegetables, can reduce your risk of developing blindness later in life.



Sunning



Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of irreversible blindness in people over 65 years old in the United States. It occurs when the retina and other parts of your eye begins to deteriorate and gradually decrease your ability to see. Once it occurs, there isn't much doctors can do to help.

Zooming

Vitamin A is an essential nutrient for the normal function of the retinas of your eyes. One of the first symptoms of vitamin A deficiency is the loss of your ability to see well at night. Eventually, a severe lack of vitamin A can cause complete blindness.

Palming



However, it now seems clear that eating lots of healthy vegetables containing carotenoids can help prevent AMD. The theory is that carotenoids prevent the damage that would be caused by scavenging free radicals (cell-damaging particles) within the structure of your eyes.

Scratch that Urge to Rub your Eyes

It may feel good at the end of a long day to rub your eyes, but it's actually a bad habit that can hurt your eyes. A tiny muscle, the levator, raises and holds your upper eyelid in place. It is held in place by a tiny band of tissue that can deteriorate with age. Rubbing your eyes can strain this tissue and speed up the process, causing your eyelids to droop.

In the study of 876 people, those who ate the most vegetables containing carotenoids had a 43 percent lower risk of developing AMD. Carrots, sweet potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, and winter squash are high in carotenoids, but dark green, leafy vegetables, such as broccoli and brussels sprouts, seem to provide the best protection of all.

Eye rubbing is dangerous for people who are near-sighted or who have had cataract surgery. Vigorous rubbing can put pressure on your eyeball and cause detachment of your retina. A detached retina can only be repaired with delicate eye surgery.

If you feel that you must rub your eye, rub just under your eyebrow, or the skin over your cheekbone and under your eye. This should provide relief from itching or irritation of your eye. Eye-rubbing may be a tough habit to break, but it's worth the effort to take care of your "windows to the world."

Blinking

Eye-opening News about Vitamin A Deficiency



REVIVE

US

AGAIN

Part 2

I saw that it is no light thing to be a Christian. It is a small matter to profess the Christian name; but it is a great and sacred thing to live a Christian life. There is but a little time now to secure the immortal crown, to have a record of good acts and fulfilled duties recorded in heaven. Every tree is judged by its fruit. Everyone will be judged according to his deeds, not his profession or his faith. The question will never be asked, How much did he profess? but, What fruit did he bear? If the tree is corrupt, the fruit is evil. If the tree is good, it cannot produce evil fruit. {1T 454.2}

God calls for us to be trees of righteousness. There are many fruits the child of God is required to display to the glory of God; Galatians 5:22, 23 comes directly to mind. Are there other fruits, equally as lawful as love, joy, peace, longsuffering etc to be displayed on the person that indicates the inner condition of the Christian tree?

Was there a visible change in the outward appearance of Adam and Eve after they had sinned? What did this visible change represent? Does this outward representation still have significance and meaning today? Let us explore the scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy to find out exactly how connected the leaves and fruit on the Christian tree is to the inner condition of the heart.

Genesis 2:25 “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” Adam and Eve were not clothed with the cloth or skin type of garments that man covers himself with today; they were covered with light. How do we know this? In Genesis 1: 26 we hear God say : “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”

Does the Bible tell us that God was clothed ? If so, what was He clothed in?

Psalm 104:1,2 “Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.”

The garment of innocence, a covering from God, which surrounded them, departed; and they supplied the place of this heavenly garment by sewing together fig-leaves for aprons. {1BC 1084.4} This passage explains that the light that clothed God was like a garment. Adam and Eve were clothed in a garment of light because it says that they were not ashamed.

In Genesis 3 we find that Satan beguiled Eve and she coveted something that was not her's. She turned her trust away from the words of God and let herself be influenced by another master. The lovely character of Jesus she was given as a covering was marred and immediately disappeared. When the garment of light had left them, they realized their nakedness and felt ashamed.

Although Adam and Eve were wearing their fig leaf aprons, they still considered themselves naked. The SDA Bible dictionary says that the word “apron” comes from the Hebrew word “Chagorah,” which comes from “Chagar,” to gird oneself with a belt. How much of the body does a belt or woman's girdle or even an apron cover? Whatever it was we can be certain that it was only a small piece of covering that left the majority of the body still naked. This type of covering fitly symbolizes the inadequacy of man's works to right his condition before the Lord.



This is the covering that the transgressors of the law of God have used since the days of Adam and Eve's disobedience. They have sewed together fig-leaves to cover their nakedness, caused by transgression. The fig-leaves represent the arguments used to cover disobedience. When the Lord calls the attention of men and women to the truth, the making of fig-leaves into aprons will be begun, to hide the nakedness of the soul. But the nakedness of the sinner is not covered. All the arguments pieced together by all who have interested themselves in this flimsy work will come to naught. {RH, November 15, 1898 par. 11}

The Lord Jesus Christ has prepared a covering, the robe of His own righteousness, that He will put on every repenting, believing soul who by faith will receive it. Said John, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Sin is the transgression of the law; but Christ died to make it possible for every man to have his sins taken away. A fig-leaf

apron will never cover our nakedness. Sin must be taken away, the garment of Christ's righteousness must cover the transgressor of God's law. Then when the Lord looks upon the believing sinner, he sees, not the fig-leaves covering him, but his own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. {RH, November 15, 1898 par. 12}

Let's continue reading: **Genesis 3:21:** *"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them."*

How are we going to find out how much of the body these coats covered? Is it important to know? Yes indeed it is, for God is very accurate throughout His Word to portray in symbols exactly what He means. You will find it is His character to be very specific in every detail, and equally so in this passage.

The coats of skin were symbolic of the Righteousness of Christ. In order to have this covering an animal had to be slain. The slaying of the animal represented the death of Jesus in order that the reflection of His character, which was lost in Eden, can be restored in us.

When God made the coats for Adam and Eve, they were completely covered, literally, even as the death of Christ completely covers us spiritually. His sacrifice is a complete work of restoration.

Jesus did not half save us, He did a complete work for our redemption. He wants to completely renew our minds to reflect the character of Christ and to restore all things that were lost.

What is the dress code of heaven like? We saw earlier that God is clothed in light. As God and Jesus are one, they would both be wearing the same kind of clothing, don't you think? When the apostle John, in Revelation 1:13, looked into heaven through a vision He saw Jesus standing amongst the golden candlesticks and we are told that he was clothed with a garment down to the feet.

In Early Writings page 16 and 17 we find that the 144,000 are similarly clothed. ***"And they were all clothed with a glorious white mantle from their shoulders to their feet."***

In Isaiah 6 we see that as the Seraphim come to the throne of God to worship Him, they cover their faces and even their feet as they sing Holy, Holy, Holy. Complete covering is a sign of worship and reverence to the Most High. Thus we can see that the dress code in heaven is from shoulders to the feet as it is verified in the sanctuary services of the Old Testament. The earthly sanctuary was a copy of the heavenly, down to every last particular detail. So, as we look at the garments of the priests we know they were a copy of the style of dress in heaven.

Therefore when God made them coats of skin they would definitely have to have been from the shoulders and arms to the feet. That is the way all dress in heaven above. Jesus is coming to re-clothe us into His image.

It is very significant to note that the first purpose of clothing in Eden was not to keep warm, nor for adornment but in order to cover nakedness, and now their sin was instantly displayed on their person.

To be continued

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HAVE YOU COUNTED THE COST?



CHILDRENS CORNER

Ann Hasseltine was so excited she nearly dropped a plate and the big dish of potatoes when she set the family dinner table on a special day in 1810. A certain young man whom she heard was so handsome, so eloquent, and so just-right in all ways, was coming for dinner with three other college men. Her Christian father had invited them, especially as it was generally known that all these visitors intended to go abroad soon as America's first foreign missionaries.

The name uppermost in Ann's pretty brown head that day was Adoniram Judson. When he arrived he appeared to be as distinctive as he had been verbally pictured. But she did not expect him to be so timid! Although she served at the table, during the entire meal he did not say a word to her. Nearly all the time he looked intently at his plate. Of course, she could not read his thoughts, or she would have known at that time he was composing a poem about her!

About a month later he wrote her a long letter in which he told about his call to be a missionary. And not the least exciting part of that letter was a proposal of marriage. Ann's heart said "yes", immediately, but her mind said, "Don't be so hasty."

Not having received an immediate reply, young Judson pressed his case with verbal visits. Yet he was honest enough to tell Ann how difficult being the first American woman in foreign mission fields would be.

She knew she loved Adoniram, but she prayed earnestly to find God's will for her life. Then she was subjected to many

pressures from family and friends to stay at home. "It's out of the question... Absurd... Judson should have his head examined," she was told.

Even Ann's father said, "I would tie my daughter to a bedpost before I would let her go to Burma." But finally he gave in and gave the young couple his

Rangoon. About three months later the first convert, Maung Nau, was baptized. Soon two more people were won to the Lord, and finally the church was built to a membership of ten – nine men and one woman.

A tropical fever affected Ann's health to a point where she was forced to return to America. She remained in her homeland for about two years, speaking in churches often about missions, and longing for the day when she could return to her husband. By the time she did return, in 1823, the church in Rangoon had grown to eighteen members.

Soon the Judson's left this church in charge of another missionary and went with Dr. Price to Ava, and the capital of Burma, to start another mission.

By that time a new viceroy had acquired power in Burma. He was extremely unfriendly toward Americans, especially as they reminded him so much of Englishmen, who were then at war with Burma. Any white person was closely watched by government officials.

blessing. Their love for God and for each other triumphed. On February 5, 1812, they were married, and two weeks later, with Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Newell, they sailed from Salem, Massachusetts, in the Caravan, for Calcutta, India.

In addition to these pioneer missionaries' experiencing extremely primitive living conditions and severe diseases, local governmental forces frequently opposed them.

The Judson's worked, prayed, and studied languages for nearly seven years before Adoniram preached the first sermon in

One day twelve uninvited guests barged into the Judson's dining room at Ava. A man with a spotted face was one of the intruders. His face was hideously spot-painted. He was frequently called "son of prison," and was commonly known to be the ruler's executioner.

"You are called by the king!" shouted the commanding officer, who held the black book of doom in his hand.

The Judson's quickly assured them that they were not English spies, that they were not interested in war or politics, only religion.



Adoniram Judson

“You are called by the king. Bind them both,” commanded the officer.

Adoniram pleaded for his wife to be spared, so finally they bound him only, with ropes, and dragged him from the house, despite Anne’s offer of silver for his freedom.

The missionary was taken to a dungeon that served as a prison. There he was bound with heavy chains, and his hands were fastened to a bamboo pole that could be suspended. Other prisoners were also shackled to poles. Often the vicious prison guard would suspend the bamboo poles until the prisoners’ toes would barely touch the ground. They would be forced to remain in this strained position for hours. They were fed only enough to keep them alive.

Immediately Ann went to see the governor. She pleaded for Adoniram’s release, but he sent her to see another official. That crafty man demanded money and cloth before he would even permit Ann to see her husband.

The first visit was heart-rending. He was shackled so heavily he could only crawl, and there seemed to be little hope for his release. They had talked for only a few moments when the guard forced her to leave.

Ann did everything within her power to secure her husband’s release, but it seemed impossible. Occasionally she was

permitted to visit him and bring food. Once she brought him an old rag pillow, which the guard let her pass. Within that pillow were the sheets from a manuscript, material for translating the Bible into Burmese. Judson had been working on that project just before his imprisonment. Now he could continue translating.

For months the missionary was in one prison or another. War between England and Burma became fiercer, and apparently England would win. But shortly before the war ended, Adoniram Judson was released to become an interpreter for the Burmese government. Six weeks later he was permitted to go home.

When he left prison he was not permitted to take anything with him, not even the ragged pillow. What would become of the priceless Bible translation? The pillow, considered worthless, was tossed onto a junk pile, where a convert found it and returned it to Judson.

So in December, 1825, husband and wife were together again with their little Maria whose health was poor.

They returned to America so that Adoniram could recuperate from his imprisonment. Once his health had been restored, Adoniram was eager to start another mission. He left America with the intention of bringing his wife and daughter in a few months time to join him, once he had settled and organized a place for them to live. However, not long after he had left, he received a letter from home, edged in black. He knew it was a death message, and when he opened the letter he fully expected to read about Maria’s death. Imagine his dismay and shock when he discovered Ann had died. Heartbroken he rushed home to be with Maria. Ann had lived only thirty-six years, but those years were filled with faithful service to, and devotion for, her God and her husband.

Less than a year later little Maria went to her rest, and Adoniram Judson was apart from the people he loved most. But still he loved God and needy souls. And resolutely he continued serving them.

When Ann decided to marry Adoniram, many people were encouraging her to “count the cost.” Marrying Adoniram meant joining him in his missionary work



Ann Judson

in foreign and dangerous lands. Ann, however, was not deterred. She decided to follow the leading of the Lord in her life, leave the comforts of home, and travel with her husband to bring the message of salvation to souls living in darkness. Ann had counted the cost. I am sure she had no regrets at the end of her life for the decision she had made; the decision to follow the Lord and marry Adoniram Judson and join him in his missionary work.

May God help each one of you to seek the Lord, asking Him the direction you should take in your life. Count the cost of the direction you have already chosen and ask yourself if this direction will lead you closer to God or further away? Is your course in life according to God’s will? “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?” Luke 14:28 “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” Mark 8:36

