



The Reformation Messenger

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

"For the time
is come that judgment
must begin at the
house of God" 1 Peter 4:17



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- Tel: 416-252-1197 Fax: 416-252-6625
- Email: timom@sympatico.ca
- Web: www.ims.truepath.com

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SELF DENIAL OF JESUS



At the cross of Calvary, love and selfishness stood face to face. Here was their crowning manifestation. Christ had lived only to comfort and bless, and in putting Him to death, Satan manifested the malignity of his hatred against God. He made it evident that the real purpose of his rebellion was to dethrone God, and to destroy Him through whom the love of God was shown. {DA 57.2}

At the cross we see love and selfishness unveiled. Satan demonstrated selfishness. Christ demonstrated love. Christ lived only to comfort and bless others. He lived a life of total selflessness.

Roman 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

15:2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

15:3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

We cannot afford to live simply to please ourselves, and to seek our own will. "Even Christ pleased not Himself." He lived a life of self-denial and sacrifice. {RH, June 12, 1888 par. 6}

Christ did not live to please Himself. He

lived a life of self-denial and He has said if anyone is going to follow Me then let him deny himself.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

We can live to please ourselves. We can seek our own will but for the followers of Christ there is a different path we need to take.

All who imitate the life of Christ, and conform their character to His, and engage in active, useful labour in self-denying benevolence, will have happiness. "For even Christ pleased not himself." He said, "I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me." {HR, June 1, 1873 par. 4}

A life of self-denying benevolence actually will bring happiness. Many people think that in serving themselves they'll find happiness but that is not necessarily true.

Christ denied Himself... He lived a life of self-sacrifice and self-denial... {ST, June 1, 1891 par. 3}

Self-denial is to do good to others where inclination would lead you to serve and please yourself. {4T 521.2}

Inclination will lead you to please yourself and Christ pleased not Himself. Is it possible that Jesus had to resist the inclination to please Himself? Jesus had His own will. In the Bible He says "Mine own will." So Jesus could have pleased Himself. He could have done His own will and as a man He was subject to temptation. His own will was there.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Was Jesus tempted to please Himself? I'm tempted like that all the time. I'm always tempted to think it's all too hard. Jesus was tempted in all points and He had self to deny. So self must have been there with Jesus as a temptation.

In temptation, inclination must be overruled by reason. Self will clamour

for indulgence, but inclination must be resisted, and temptation overcome. {YRP 356.1}

In temptation self will clamour for indulgence. That is not a sin, that's temptation. But if we give in and we indulge self, that is sin. We have pleased ourselves. Jesus must have been tempted to please Himself. The Bible could not say that Jesus pleased not Himself if there was no self to be pleased. I believe that Jesus went against something in His human nature in order to obey His Father and stay on that path of His Father's perfect will. When it says that Jesus denied Himself, self must have been there otherwise He had nothing to deny.

Young men and young women will often be brought into positions where they are uncertain what to do. Their inclination leads them in one direction, and the Holy Spirit of God draws them in another direction. Satan presses his temptation upon them, and urges them to follow the inclinations of the natural heart. But those who desire to be true to Christ, will listen to the voice that says, "This is the way, walk ye in it." They will decide to take the course of the righteous, although it is more difficult to pursue, more painful to follow, than the way of their own heart. But they will also realize the fulfilment of the promise: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: ..." We need to receive divine wisdom in the daily concerns of life, in order that we may display sound judgment, and choose the safe path because it is the right one. He who acts upon his own judgment will follow the inclination of the natural heart; but he whose mind is opened to the word of God, will prayerfully consider every way of his feet, so that he may honour God, and keep the way of the Lord. He will remember that "even Christ pleased not Himself," and he will consider it a great privilege to follow in His steps. {YI, September 19, 1895 par. 2}

He [Jesus] knows how strong are the inclinations of the natural heart, and He will help in every time of temptation. {SW, February 19, 1907 par. 11}

Jesus fought all our battles during His life upon earth, and in that He was tempted, He knows how to succour those who shall be tempted. {BEcho, December 1, 1892 par. 1}

The Christian is to realize that he is not his own, but that he has been bought with a price. His strongest temptations will come from within; for he must battle against the inclinations of the natural heart. {BEcho, December 1, 1892 par. 4}

Our strongest temptations come from within; this is our greatest battle. Now if Jesus fought all our battles during His life upon earth did He fight our greatest battle? Some people say that Jesus didn't have the inclinations of the natural heart. But what are the inclinations of the natural heart? The companion statement below tells us they are simply our own inclinations. Our own inclinations are always there and if we go against them we are lifting a cross. We are doing exactly what Jesus did, lifting a cross.

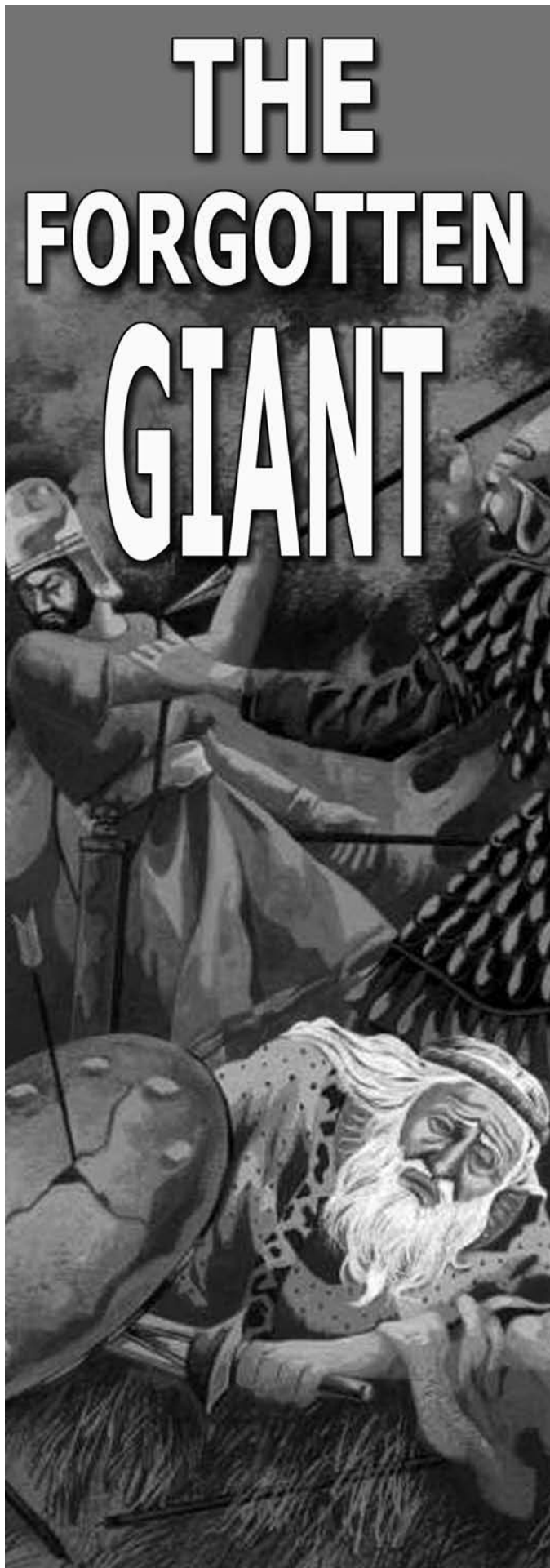
The Christian is to realize that he is not his own. He will have temptations to resist, and battles to fight against his own inclinations; for the Lord will accept no half-way service. {RH, June 16, 1896 par. 5}

It is never difficult to do what we love to do, but to take a course directly against our inclinations is lifting a cross. {5T 94.2}

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. **AMEN.** ims

Glendon Higgins, Australia





2 Sam. 21:15-17

Everyone, no doubt, knows the story in the Bible about David and Goliath, the giant, some 4 meters in height (1 Sam. 17). But, did you know that there was another giant in David's life? His name was Ishbi Benob, a relative Goliath, and a Philistine, whom David was not able to kill. His spear weighed 300 shekels of brass; 4 kilograms.

David bravely faced him, but it proved too much for the King. It took Abishai, David's nephew, who had a blood-thirsty spirit, to rescue him from certain death. The love for David by his men led them to refuse to allow David to fight again.

Let us learn a few important lessons from this story of the forgotten giant. There are three points I want to cover regarding this. For one thing:

1. God Does not Always Do the Miraculous

God directed David's sling to its certain deadly target. In the case of Ishbi Benob, God directed Abishai's swift sword. Sometimes God does the unusual but more often, He uses the means that are available. For example, He sends others to you, i.e. angels, people or circumstances you never expected, and at just the proper time. Another thought to consider:

2. Giants Have Ways of Coming Back

We never really outgrow temptations and trials. Alluring temptations are used by Satan to separate men from God. (GC 610) They are brought to bear on God's people and will be stronger as the end draws near (3T 571), and will be new and unexpected (GW 257). Many trials are before God's people, which many of us have not anticipated (4T 633), and even Christ's disciples in time of trial were found unprepared (GC 594).

Yes, as a young man, David killed Goliath, but as an older man he now faced Goliath's monstrous relative.

Sound spiritual counsel is to watch and pray. (Matt. 26:41) You never know when there is another giant around the corner. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (1 Cor. 10:12)

When Nehemiah summoned his people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, from heaps of rubble, the surrounding "enemies became angry and plotted together to fight Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it," (Neh. 4:1-9) but, we find the secret of Nehemiah's victory over his enemies in v.9, "but we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat." Again, watch and pray!!

The New Testament picked up this secret and made it a living motto in the lives of many. Let us go on further and see its practical application in our lives today.

A. Watch and pray—for a secret victory over the world! In Mark 13, 2 Tim.3, and Matt. 24, we see clear signs of the end of the age; the last days. many conditions and events of the world are tending to pull many believers away from the Lord. Let us turn together to our Bible and read Matt. 24:33, "Even so when you see all these things,

you know that it is near, right at the door.” In Mark 13:33 we read, “Be on guard, Be alert, You do not know when that time will come.” Brethren, pray with your eyes open wide (Col. 4:2-4), that the world will not seduce you and draw you away from your loyalty to Jesus.

B. Watch and pray—for a secret victory over the flesh! In Mark 14:38, we find Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, and His disciples, Peter, James, and John. Jesus returned to find them sleeping, and warned them, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” (Matt. 26:41) What happened? Peter did not pray with his eyes open and walked into terrible temptation and sin!

C. Watch and pray—for a secret victory over Satan! Paul describes to us here in Eph. 6:18 how to “take a stand against the devil’s schemes,” (v.11) by putting on the armour of God, to face the enemy of God with the right equipment, and he tells us again, “be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (v.18) Don’t go to sleep, but pray!

D. Watch and pray—for a secret to finding open doors to witness in your ministry. God calls us to be His witnesses in the world today (PK 487) Heavenly intelligences are witnesses to all that we do or say (SD 37). Are you witnessing more distinctly and decidedly than ever before? (8T 55) If your heart is fixed to God and to serve Him, opportunities to bear witness for Him will appear no matter where you are or what the circumstances are, in your conversation, conduct, attitudes, acquaintances, giving impartially, and unselfishly. Let us proceed further to the third point in this lesson:

3. You Can’t Always Win the Battle Alone


Years before, David was the sole hero when he killed Goliath. Next, however, David faced another giant and needed help. His nephew, Abishai, was a fiery, stubborn youth (kid). David did not agree with him, but with all his faults Abishai was the man God used to save David’s life.

It may surprise you when you get to heaven, to discover those good Christians, and perhaps others on earth that God used to help you along your long journey of life.

You are never alone! What kept Moses going? In Deut. 31:6-8, “...the Lord himself goes before you and will be with you, he will never leave you nor forsake you... Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged.” Heb. 13:5 What kept Joshua going? In Joshua 1: 1-9, “...be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” There was a difference in years and circumstances for Joshua, the new leader of Israel, but he remained faithful. Moses’ Egyptian education and culture he was exposed to didn’t sustain him, but the personal strength he drew from God. He was sustained by a promise. Moses tried to quit two times, because of the load he had to carry in leading Israel. The Lord told Joshua, “...as I was with Moses, so I will be with you, I will never leave you or forsake you.” They were both sustained by this promise. After Moses died, Joshua had the same promise. The promise helped Moses carry the burden, and the same promise helped Joshua carry the battles. This promise, this same promise, is for everyone... the obedient ones. What is this promise again? “... I will never leave you or forsake you.” Josh. 1:5.

As a man grows older, there are more burdens to carry, and battles to fight. It is hard to be both Moses and Joshua in our own places of responsibility. They both had the same promise, because they trusted in God and His word. We, too, can have that same promise... when we heed the words of the Lord in Heb. 13:5, “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have,” because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Let us read together the last words of the Lord to His disciples in Matt. 28:20. “...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” These are comforting words, sure words, inspiring words.

A child of God is never alone, no matter what the burdens are, or the battles one has to fight. Is there a giant in your life, a forgotten giant? The Saviour is always by your side. Yield! Give in to Him, and accomplish His purpose in and through you. Beware of the Forgotten Giant! **AMEN. John Theodorou, U.S.A.** 

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- **HEALTH** - Mental, Physical, Emotional & Spiritual.
- **REFORM** - History & Need for Reform.
- **SPIRITUAL** - Spiritual Education for new & advanced Bible students.



LOVEST THOU ME?

“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me.” (Matthew 15:8) was and is the Lord’s complaint about His people in all times. The only reproach the One who holds the seven stars in His hand (Jesus Christ) has against the church of Ephesus, is that it has left its first love. (Rev. 2:4).

The heart is considered the seat of our feelings and the Lord expects us to love Him with all our heart, “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” (Deut. 6:5)

Love is not only very important in our relationship with God, but also with each other. Only love (agape), that heavenly principle, can keep us together in spite of difficulties, misunderstandings, disappointments, diversity of opinion and character.

The Lord, who “searcheth the reins and hearts” (Rev. 2:23) allows us to go through trials so that what is in our hearts may be revealed to us and to the whole universe, since we are a spectacle to the world. (1 Corinthians 4:9) Our salvation depends on our attitude to this revelation.

As human beings, we all need love and thirst for it because we know that love (and not money) is the power that makes the world go around and our life worth living.

“Do you love me?” is a question that we often hear addressed to ourselves or to others. Generally, this question is followed by a demand. “If you love me...” How many precious things have been sacrificed in the name of love! How many principles have been put aside in our attempt to prove that our love for someone goes beyond our love to ourselves!

“If you love me you will eat what I offer you,” and there go the health reform principles, temperance, and possibly our salvation. How many young girls have lost their purity and started on a path of sin, experiencing one disappointment after another in their attempt to prove that they love someone else more than themselves?

In Judges 16:15, we hear again this question, “And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart [is] not with me?”

From his mother’s womb, Samson was chosen by God to fulfil a very important mission: to free the Israelites from the Philistines. He was given a great responsibility and all his life, from the cradle up, he had to be prepared for this commission. Surely his God-fearing parents faithfully followed the angel’s instructions and brought up the child within the norms of health reform and temperance.

The Lord had promised His divine power to Samson if he did not cut his hair. He was a Nazarite, consecrated to God from birth. “The child grew and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol” (Judges 13:24, 25). These incursions into the enemy’s territory brought him in contact with the daughters of the Philistines and as it had happened before the flood, “that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they [were] fair; and they took them wives” (Genesis 6:

2), Samson met a woman of the daughters of the Philistines that pleased him well and married her, against his parent's better counsel.

Finally the wedding feast takes place and it lasts seven days. His bride lived in an area well-known for its vineyards and without a doubt good quality wine was served at the table in abundance. Under the effect of alcohol man's behaviour is changed, therefore the Word of God warns us, "Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh... Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things" (Proverbs 23:20, 33).

Samson starts being the center of attention, playing games and making promises which he cannot keep. He puts forth a riddle to the Philistines, which is impossible for them to guess. His bride induces him to confess to her, as a proof of his love for her, the answer of the riddle that would benefit her people and she tells him, "Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not" (Judges 14:16), when he refuses to reveal the mystery. Love is used as a bait to catch the imprudent young man. Although he incautiously fell into this trap, the Lord delivered him. But the use of alcohol and the continuous interaction with a heathen nation in whose heart dwelt hatred for the people of God abased Samson's morals in the same way that Lot's and his daughters' moral standard was abased due to the fact that they lived among the impudent inhabitants of Sodom. After the tragedy of his marriage, "then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her," (Judges 16: 1) and he fell into the hands of the Gazites who intended to kill him, but the grace of God was still upon him and he could make use of the power of God.

"And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name [was] Delilah," (Judges 16: 4) and again the Philistines used her as a bait to entice him to reveal where the secret of his power was hidden. "Tell me, I pray thee..." (Judges 16:6, 10) was Delilah's tender approach to her lover, and Samson gave her a very misleading answer. Every answer Samson gave her was being tested to see whether he was speaking the truth or not, but Samson had already started the game and could not retrace his steps. What a lesson and a warning for young men and women who so often quite unaware begin

to play dangerous games!

Delilah insists by accusing Samson of mocking her and lying and asks him a third time to reveal her the secret of his strength. This time Samson comes closer to reveal her the truth and tells her, "If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web..." (Judges 16:13). He has entered the way of no return. Now the irresistible proof comes, "And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart [is] not with me?" (Judges 16:15).

Samson had been chosen by God, from his mother's womb to fulfil a great mission. He was given a great responsibility and the Lord was going to deliver His people through the power He had given to Samson. Delilah, a woman without scruples, was the bait the Philistines used to rob him of this power. She had to use all her womanly charm to seduce him and entice him to reveal the secret of his power and she would be richly rewarded. She was not a professional harlot, but "her love" had a high price.

"How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart [is] not with me?" The magic word was pronounced again. "If you love me..." It was not easy for Samson to betray His Lord and reveal to his enemies the secret of his power, thus losing the chance of ever fulfilling God's plan for him. But Delilah had no compassion; she knew she was dealing with a man whose will power was so weak that he had become a toy in her hands, "And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, [so] that his soul was vexed unto death" (Judges 16:16). Samson could not offer any resistance any more; deep down he knew what he was doing, but had come to the point that he could not do otherwise. He had given in too often to the desires of the flesh for his spirit to be able to rule upon His will. He had closed all the avenues of the soul to divine influence by satisfying his senses with what the world had to offer him. He followed the lust of his eyes and chose a woman according to his superficial evaluation of beauty; he listened to her tender words promising irresistible sweetness, "For the lips of a strange woman drop [as] an honeycomb, and her mouth [is] smoother than oil, but her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword" (Proverbs 5:3). He satisfied his palate with the flavour of

wine and unclean food, contrary to the instruction given to his parents at birth, and he became one flesh with a daughter of Belial. He had blocked the way to the influence of the Spirit of God upon his soul, therefore, "he told her (Delilah) all his heart" (Judges 16:17).

The greatest pressure was put upon his soul in the name of love. Certainly, the greatest emotional blackmails have been made in the name of love. This human, carnal love robbed him of the power that would make him capable to fulfil his mission, to carry a great responsibility.

"Lovest thou me?" was the question that Jesus asked Peter after His resurrection. Peter had denied his Lord and cried bitterly as he understood how far his carnal heart could lead him and he surrendered his heart to the Lord.

Jesus' question, "Lovest thou me? is very different from the question Delilah asked Samson. Jesus' love is not demanding; He does not want to rob us of anything, His love does not make us cripple. On the contrary, He wants to grant us His power, the power of His love and make us able to carry great responsibilities.

Jesus knew that Peter loved Him and therefore He made him responsible for his brethren, "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17). In the power of God's Spirit, Peter would fulfil the work the Lord had appointed him and in his speech to the Jews, three thousand souls were gained for the kingdom of God.

Samson had succumbed to the weakness of his character and "his strength went from him... the Lord was departed from him" (Judges 16:19, 20).


"But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house... Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand" (Judges 16:21). How sad it is to know that the weakness of character of the children of God helps to strengthen the heathen in their heathenism! Now Samson became a sport in the hands of the enemy. His physical eyes were darkened, and in the process of that

painful humbling experience he had time to meditate and “see” how far his own ways had led him. Hatred for the enemies of God’s people started to grow in his heart. Those uncircumcised people from whom he had chosen his partners, ignoring thus the virtuous young women among his brethren, were a deceitful, false, cruel people. Surely his soul was grieved and his heart broken, and, “The Lord [is] nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” (Psalm 34: 18). But, nobody had noticed that “the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven” (Judges 16:22).

There were three thousand men and women in Dagon’s temple, but they were not converted by hearing the powerful speech of a child of God imbued with the Holy Spirit. They were watching how Samson was being made a sport, mocking and making fun of the heavily built, powerful blind Israelite who had fallen totally into the hands of his enemies and had been humiliated and denigrated in excess. Samson pleaded from the bottom of his heart to his God who had followed him with His loving and merciful eyes to the pit to which his sinfulness had sunk him, “O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once...” (Judges 16:28).

The Lord is faithful. He accepted Samson’s contrite heart and His salvation was accomplished through His appointed servant, as it is done today and will be done until the end of time through His chosen vessels.

“Lovest thou me?” When this question is asked by God it is always meant to exalt us and entrust to us a responsibility; when asked by men it may mean to debase us and make us unable to bear responsibilities.

May the Lord give us discernment to be always able to tell what is the motivation hidden behind the question, “Lovest thou me?” **Amen.** 

Teresa Corti



ANTICHRIST



The word, “Antichrist”, refers to a person who is against Christ, or against the teachings of Christ. It also refers to a person who assumes the place of Christ.

Satan is the original antichrist who started his rebellion in heaven against Christ, and now he has continued his role as antichrist for 6000 years on earth. One third of the angels in heaven joined with him in his war against Christ. On the earth, almost everyone has joined with him and very few have remained faithful to the true Christ.

Satan assumes the place of Christ. Paul writes, “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” 2 Cor. 11:14. Millions of professed Christians follow him without realizing that they are worshipping antichrist.

True Christ uses human beings as instruments to advance the work of His kingdom. Satan does the same. He uses people to do his work on the earth.

In Revelation chapter 13, we learn of a beast to whom Satan gave great power and authority. “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.” Rev. 13:2.

Martin Luther writes, “Already I feel greater liberty in my heart; for at last I know that the pope is antichrist, and that his throne is that of Satan himself.” D’Aubigne, B.6, ch. 9.

Paul writes, “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” 2 Thes. 2:3, 4.

Quoting this Bible text, Sis. White continues to comment, “The man of sin was to arise, and do his work of exaltation and blasphemy, before the brethren could look for the coming of Christ. The great event was to be preceded by a falling away. There would be revealed a form of Antichrist, and the leaven of apostasy was to work with increasing power to the end of time.” R.H., July 31, 1888.

The purpose of antichrist is to do away with the law of God. By changing the Sabbath to the first day of the week he exalts himself above God and makes it appear that God is fallible, and that His law had to be amended. Also that he tries to convince man that the Bible is not a reliable guide.

Sister White quotes Dr. Hopkins, “A treatise on the millennium declares: There is no reason to consider the antichristian spirit and practices to be confined to that which is now called the Church of Rome. The Protestant churches have much of antichrist in them, and are far from being wholly reformed from... corruption and wickedness.” GC, p. 384.

By accepting Sunday as the day of rest, the Protestant churches participate in the antichristian spirit, joining with Satan in his rebellion against the law of God.

“The soul that has light in regard to the Lord’s Sabbath, His memorial of creation, and to save himself from inconvenience and reproach has chosen to remain disloyal, has sold his Lord. He has dishonoured the name of Christ. He has taken his stand with the armies of antichrist; with them at the last great day, he will be found outside the city of God, not with the loyal, the true and righteous, in the heavenly kingdom.” 2 Sel. Mess., p. 401.

It is a terrible blindness to be a professed Christian and go to church, and sacrifice money and time for it, and yet in the end realize that it was all in vain. Instead of serving the true Christ, they served the antichrist.

John writes to us, “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.” 1 John 2:18.

Although in the time of John, Christianity was yet in its infancy, various false teachings had already gained ground



and were making inroads on the young church. This gives us the understanding that the very church of God is not free from antichrists.

It is Satan’s plan to introduce false teaching into the church of God, and this he does through members and even through leaders who are not established in the truth.



These false teachings will cause shaking and separation in the church. God will not tolerate these antichrists to remain in His church.

“God will cause His people; if other means fail, heresies will come among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat.” Test. Vol. 5, p. 707.

This is a prophecy that heresies will come among us; therefore we must keep our eyes open and watch for them. Our publications must present the truth to the people so that when any false teaching appears, then they would reject it and stand for the truth.

There are members who do not study the Bible, neither the Spirit of Prophecy books; therefore they can easily be confused by these heresies, because they may seem logical to the human mind, but they are not the truth.

Some of the heresies that we must watch for carefully are, that sin cannot be overcome, therefore, perfection is not possible. Also that God overlooks the small sins; as long as we keep the great commandments, we will be accepted in the judgment. Some may believe that it is not

necessary to do missionary work, we need to leave it to the ministers. Was Jesus in His humanity on the earth tempted from inside and outside, did He have an holy flesh? Is the Holy Spirit a person or is He the power of God? Is church membership necessary, can we be saved without it? Is righteousness of God also His love and mercy?

Many different understandings may come up in practical religion in regard to health reform, Sabbath-keeping, proper clothing and hairdo. Also, through judging others, especially their motives,

many have a wrong understanding. “Christ is the only true standard of character, and he who sets himself up as a standard for others is putting himself in the place of Christ. And since the Father ‘hath committed all judgment unto the Son’ (John 5:22), whoever presumes to judge the motives of others is again usurping the prerogative of the Son of God. These would-be judges and critics are placing themselves on the side of antichrist, ‘who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.’ 2 Thess. 2: 4” Mount of Blessing, p. 125, 126.

In many other areas the heresies may come, therefore we cannot be too careful watching for them.

We all must examine ourselves carefully, that no one of us might be on the side of antichrist. The truth is precious that the Lord has given us, therefore we must guard it carefully, so that we will not be shaken out when the heresies will be introduced among us, is my wish and prayer. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada 



YOU BE THE JUDGE

1 COR. 4:1-5; 5:12; 6:1-3

A few weeks ago, three to be exact, my mother and I invited a guest to our place. We both enjoy entertaining, and we have a system—I clean house, and Mom cooks.

Well, our friend came to supper, and as our guests sometimes do, she brought a little gift—some rice crackers and cream cheese. We enjoyed our visit. She is a lover of animals which is good, since two dogs, five cats, and two kittens share my home.

Now, to come quickly to the point of this essay; we opened the crackers and the cream cheese. The crackers were very good, so I sent them home with Mom; but the cream cheese was loaded with black and white pepper. I thought to give it to the animals; but then decided it was not healthy for the stomach of any warm-blooded mammal—so I hid it in the refrigerator.

Now, please understand, my mother is extremely frugal. She doesn't believe in throwing anything away. And her children and her friends have never gone hungry. Well, after the cream cheese had sat in my fridge for two and a half weeks, one day I decided to put it in the fire. I hoped my Mom had forgotten about it by now.

The morning after the fire, Mother said to me something like, "I should get that cream cheese from you that Liz left here. I don't suppose you will eat it."

My countenance fell. I felt ill. Quickly deciding that I had work to do, I left my mother's house and went to my own in agitation and poured out my troubles to God. Sometimes it seems to me that my life is one trouble after another, I am truly trying to do God's will as best as I know—but I do have a tendency to rashness, and I'm often coming into conflict with my dear Mom, or someone. (James 5:16)

After time spent in prayer, the idea came to my mind to simply tell my Mom when she came for the cheese, that I had consumed it. (Please understand, my mother has a very hot temper. She is an excellent person, with a fine sense of justice and judgment, but she can sometimes be unreasonable, at least from my viewpoint). I'm trying to avoid conflicts whenever I can, I believe this is God's way. But I do not want to lie, I'd rather get in trouble. Moreover, Jesus said to be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. (Matt. 10:16)

So Mother did come over and requested the cheese, and I said cheerfully, "I consumed it."

"What?" she said, "You ate it!"


"Yes," I said, "I consumed it."

Now, I did not mean to say, "I ate it." I meant to say, "I consumed it."

A judge and jury may convict me of lying. Did I? Given the circumstances, you be the judge. And I refer my judgment to God. I don't mind telling my dear old Mom that I put the cheese in the fire; but that would cause her to feel bad, would make her angry unnecessarily; and would not do any good, in my viewpoint.

Well, it is an interesting life. Never a dull moment. But I want to be on God's side of the question every time. Do you find yourself in perplexing situations sometimes? (MB 101)

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

"They that are abiding in Jesus have the assurance that God will hear them, because they love to do His will. They offer no formal, wordy prayer, but come to God in earnest, humble confidence as a child to a tender father and pour out the story of their grief and fears and sins, and in the name of Jesus present their wants; they depart from His presence rejoicing in the assurance of pardoning love and sustaining grace." OHC, May 21. AMEN. 

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada

JOURNEY TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Rev. 2-3



Ephesus-Hadrian Temple

of textiles, cottons and agricultural products.

Jesus was their beloved King, nothing could make them to bow and worship the emperor before the altar of the temple of those semi-gods. Jesus did not find one spot in them, and they will be given the crown of life, for they endured until the end.

Polycarp, the successor of Paul was one of the early members of the Christian

Ephesus

Before entering the huge area of ancient Ephesus, we had lunch upon a beautiful hillside with many evergreen trees, shading us from the heat of the midday sun. We were given lunch parcels for the several tours from our hotel, water and fresh tomatoes, cucumbers prepared in containers, kept cool in the storage of the bus. On this hill we were told is located the Mary-house, where apparently Mary, the mother of Jesus lived, when John brought her with him to live in Ephesus. We did not go there. Finally we came to the site of the vast excavations.

Ephesus was already established in 1000 BC by the Greeks, who brought their own goddess Artemis with them. The Romans called her Diana, and for a thousand years this goddess with her temple, entirely built of marble, was the focal point of religion and culture. It was one of the Seven World Wonders. (Today hardly one stone is left from this vast temple, only one pillar still erect can be seen).

Tour 2: Smyrna and Ephesus

Smyrna

The old Smyrna is today the modern city of Izmir on the shore of the Aegean Sea. Our tour bus did not take us to any ancient sites there (except to one Catholic church from the 6th century, which was beautiful inside), it would not work out with the time, because we had a long drive down to Ephesus.

Smyrna, like the other six places was established long before Christ, founded by the Greeks. It was the birthplace of Homer, the blind Greek writer of Illias and Odysse. It was one of the richest cities and a centre of commerce. Romans, Lydians, Arabs, Byzantines, Crusaders, etc. were here, too. It was known for the production of Myrrh. The city was destroyed several times by earthquakes, always rebuilt again and is today a flourishing city with a population of 3.5 million, and a world wide exporter

church in Smyrna and bishop from 115 to 156 AD. The letter to Smyrna was probably written to the church six years before his martyrdom. In his last year, persecution began for the Christians, when eleven believers were thrown to the lions during a festival. Polycarp was betrayed and arrested, forced to deny his faith, but refused. The crowd demanded to throw him to the lions, but the games were over. They refused to release him and were only satisfied after succeeding in burning him at the stake. It was the beginning of what would follow for ten years of persecution.

Polycarp was a preserver of the purity of the Gospel, and Eusibius reported regarding what the angry crowd had shouted against him: "He is the teacher of Asia, the destroyer of our gods, he is the father of the Christians."

Many were martyred, but the faithful did not count their lives dear to their souls.



Lunch-Suan and Yuel Kang, Smyrna

Ephesus was very beautiful in its bygone days, fascinating every visitor with her magnificent sites of edifices and temples. At first it was directly at the sea and had a very important harbour for the shipping of goods; the ships could dock in front of the Artemis temple. But the river Meander constantly pushed silt into the ocean, which in time made the area marshy, and today, after 2000 years, Ephesus is 5 km away from the ocean.

It became one of the wealthiest cities in the 7th century BC, and had a population of 200,000 inhabitants in the first century BC. From the time of Caesar Augustus onwards were constructed the buildings we admire today. The city suffered severe damage from an earthquake in 17 AD. After that time Ephesus became a very important centre of trade and commerce. It was also a gold and copper centre.

The ruins are many and their stories are many, we cannot name them here. The long marble street leads over the remains of many shops and beautiful fountains, a large hospital, apothecary, and several temples, to a side street, where a most interesting toilette system was located. Very modern, and very sufficient, with constant rushing water beneath the carved-out toilette seats, and copper pipelines for the city water system. The facade of the library of Celsus, a former consul of Ephesus, has been nicely restored by an Austrian team of archaeologists years ago, and is one of the most magnificent witnesses of the great past. Intricate carvings in the marble structure and statues give a glimpse of the superb architecture and artwork so skilfully displayed in those days. The building was attacked by Galatians and burned 260 AD, but the facade suffered no damage.



St.Johns Cathedral

From there northward is the great theatre leaning against the slope of Mt. Pion, and was one of the largest theatres in the Aegean world, with dimensions of 60m from the stage to the top galleries. 25,000 spectators could be seated. Festivals are still being held there today.

In this theatre the spectacle of the rioting mob stirred up by the silversmith Demetrius against Paul took place, where the people shouted for two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians". The 19th chapter of Acts tells us about the time of almost three years that the apostle Paul spent



St.Johns Cathedral

in Ephesus, as he boldly proclaimed the word of God, teaching first in the Jewish synagogue, and when they hardened their hearts and believed not, he left them and taught daily in the school of one named Tyrannus. The fear of God fell upon the people, many believed, and those who exercised magic confessed and those who owned books of the occult brought them and burnt them openly. Then as the people turned to Jesus and left Diana, their former goddess, the sale of crafted silver shrines for Diana went down, and enraged Demetrius, fearing for his income stirred up the people; the whole city was in an uproar and filled with confusion. They caught two of Paul's travel companions, rushing to the theatre. When Paul heard of this he wanted to go there, but the disciples suffered him not. However our guide said that according to local historians, Paul came to the theatre

but had to flee from there through the tunnel beside the stage leading to the street towards the harbour, where he wanted to enter a ship. But near the harbour the people warned him he would be killed if he continued to go there, so Paul had to escape over the hillside south of the city (the place where we had lunch). He realized he had to leave, and calling the believers together he encouraged them in the faith and left for Macedonia (Acts 19:28-20:1).

There is one tradition that tells us that at about 40 AD, the apostle John came with Mary to Ephesus to live there. The Church Fathers testify that he looked after the churches of Asia in the later years of his life, after he returned to Ephesus from Patmos. He died a natural death almost 100 years old. He was buried in the Church of St. John, upon a hill where later the Byzantine

A mighty earthquake in 1895 hit the area and destroyed it. Today some of the fallen columns have been set up again to giving the place some idea of its vast design.

There is one more interesting story to tell about the hill where Mary was supposed to live her last years. The house she lived in is today a much visited place by over 100,000 pilgrims each year, many of them are Muslims who revere her. There is a sacred spring where they drink from, pray and meditate. Pope Paul VI celebrated mass there, and Pope Paul II, prayed there and in the Double Church of Mary in Ephesus itself, November 1979.

The Double Church of St. Mary was a former secular building in the ancient city and was converted into a church in the 4th century. Here the third Ecumenical council took place in 431 AD, at which the divine character of Christ and the Virgin Mary being the mother of God was debated. Nestorius, bishop of Constantinople held the view Mary was the mother of a human being, while Cyril, bishop of Alexandria contested that she was the mother of God. The controversy caused great disturbances and the matter was to be settled in this council. Nestorius was excommunicated and exiled. The people of Ephesus with great enthusiasm rushed that night after the

Emperor, Justinian built a cathedral, the seventh longest church building in the world, also called the Basilica of St. John.




Ephesus Royal Street

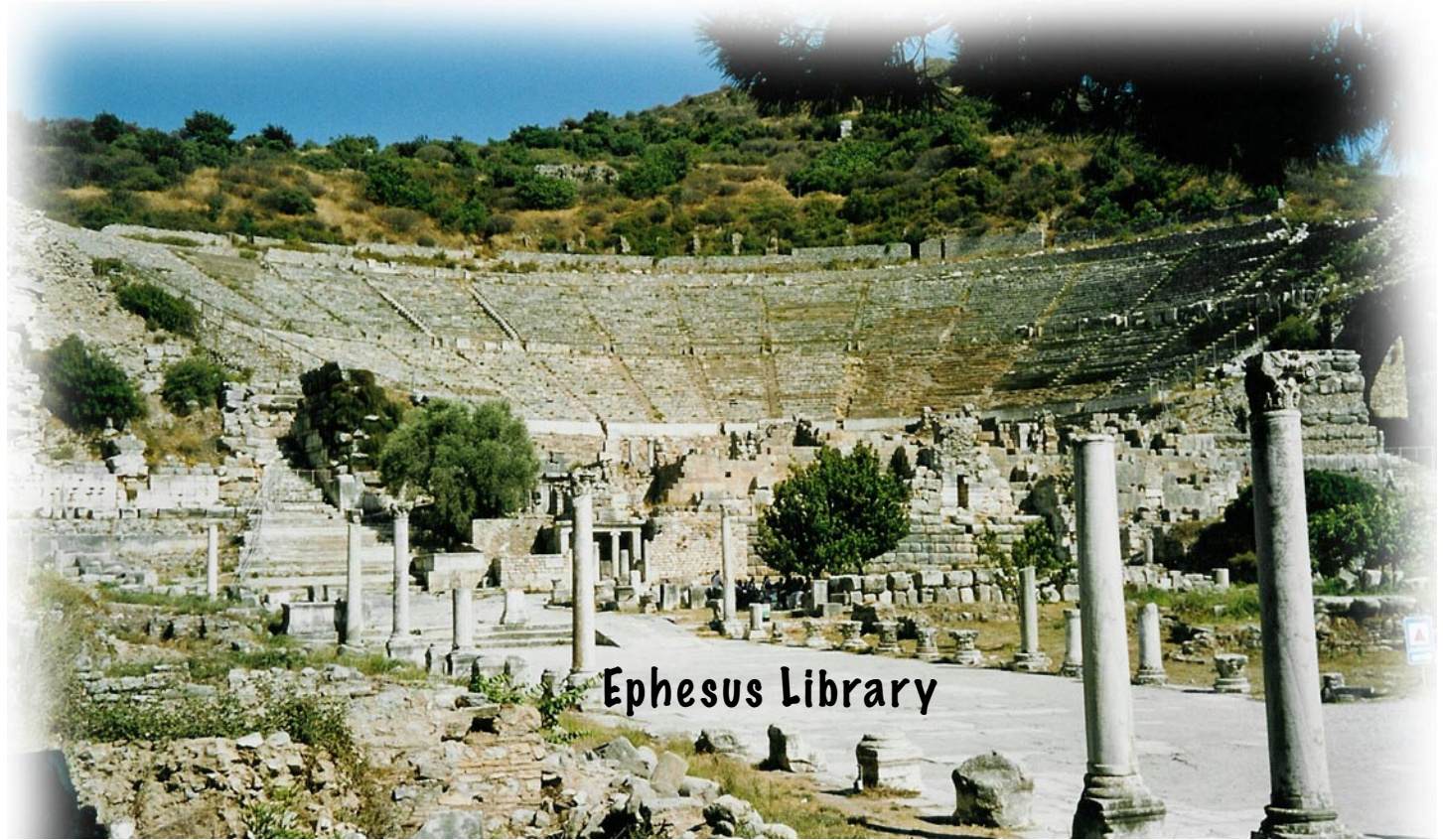
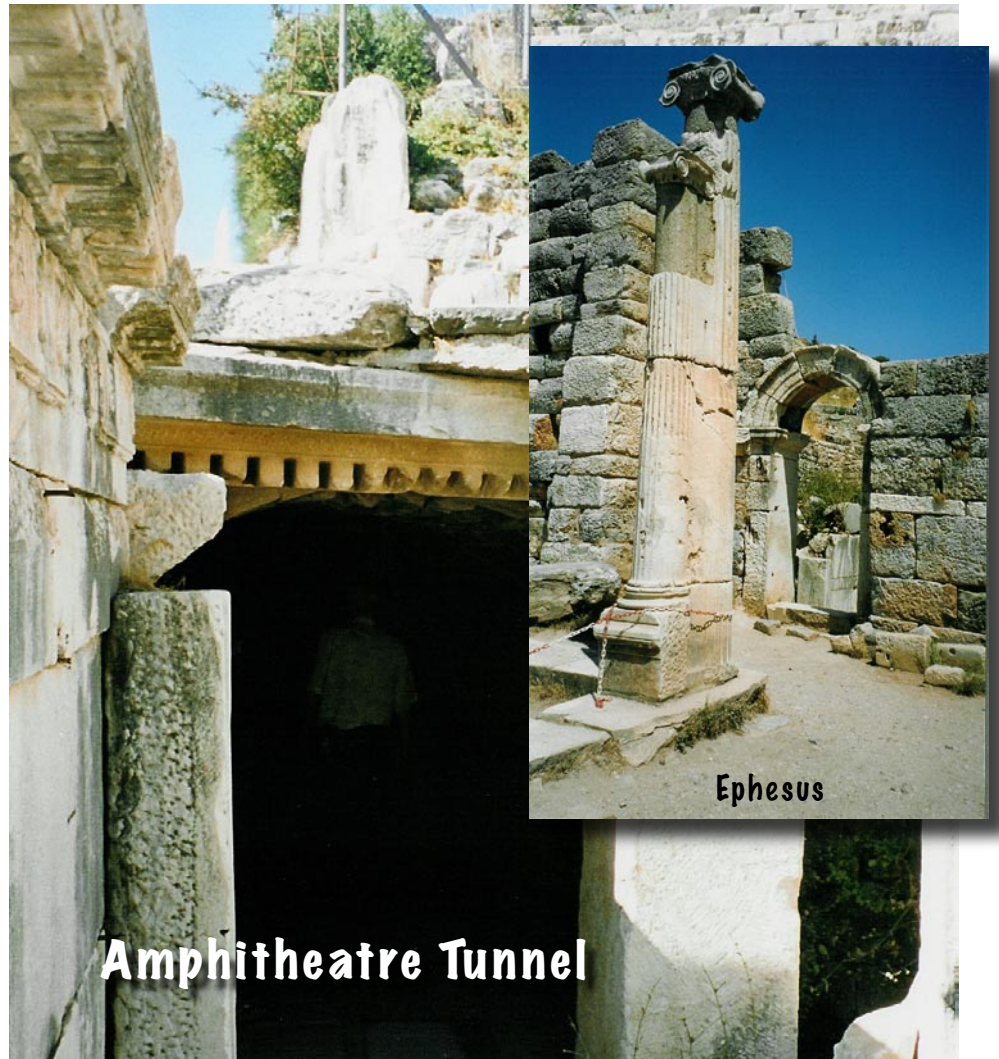


Ephesus - View From Cathedral

council with burning torches to the church, celebrating long into the night the victory that Mary was officially declared the mother of God. Women in beautiful array burnt incense in front of the bishops whom they escorted to their abodes. This spectacle was much greater than the two hour shouting about the goddess Diana of the heathen some time before. The adoration for Mary really began here, and on December 8, 1854 Pope Pius IX, established the divinity of Mary, by announcing the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

It was a most interesting day filled with many memories of past events. Especially considering the apostle Paul; how his heart must have ached when he saw the terrible spiritual darkness everywhere he turned his feet to. He did not regard the magnificent edifices of this beautiful, grand city; his mind was only concerned in bringing light to the minds of the people who served dead idols. And those who he converted, he encouraged to be faithful to the end. The good life, however, and success of their labour caused the church later on to lose its first love, to which Christ warned them to return quickly. This rebuke was not only needed then, it is very necessary today as well. *End of Part 2. To be continued.* 

Edda Tedford, Canada



IS THE END NEAR?

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:28.

While we may not know the “day and hour” of Christ’s Second Advent, the Bible gives many signs to impress the child of God when His coming “is near, even at the door.” While we must not be time-setters, neither can we afford to be sign ignorers.

Now, let us see what the Bible says; where will the child of God look to find these signs?

1. “In the sun” Luke 21:25
2. “In the moon” Luke 21:25
3. “In the stars” Luke 21:25
4. “Upon the earth” Luke 21:25
5. “In divers places” Luke 21:11

“The words of Jesus Christ are spoken to us living down here in the close of this earth’s history. “When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your head: for your redemption draweth nigh.”

We may know, through the appearance of signs Jesus had foretold, when His coming is near. We need to study carefully those portions of Scripture that deal with these impending events so we will be ready at His appearing.

“At the time of Christ’s first advent the priests and scribes of the Holy City, to whom were entrusted the oracles of God, might have discerned the signs of the times and proclaimed the coming of the promised one. The prophecy of Micah, designated His birthplace; Daniel specified the time of His advent. God committed these prophecies to the Jewish leaders; they were without excuse if they did not know and declare to the people that the Messiah’s coming was at hand. Their ignorance was the result of sinful neglect...

“All the people should have been watching and waiting that they might be among the first to welcome the world’s Redeemer. But, lo, at Bethlehem two weary travelers

from the hills of Nazareth traverse the whole length of the narrow street to the eastern extremity of the town, vainly seeking a place of rest and shelter for the night. No doors are open to receive them. In a wretched hovel prepared for cattle, they at last find refuge, and there the Saviour of the world is born...

“There is no evidence that Christ is expected, and no preparation for the Prince of Life. In amazement, the celestial messenger is about to return to heaven with shameful tidings, when he discovers a group of shepherds who are watching their flocks by night, and as they gaze into the starry heavens, are contemplating the prophecy of a Messiah to come to earth, and longing for the advent of the world’s Redeemer. Here is a company that is prepared to receive the heavenly message. And suddenly the angel of the Lord appears, declaring the good tidings of great joy...

“Oh, what a lesson is this wonderful story of Bethlehem! How it rebukes our unbelief, our pride and self-sufficiency. How it warns us to beware, lest by our criminal indifference we also fail to discern the signs of the times and therefore know not the day of our visitation.” Maranatha, p. 10.

Be Watchful


“After he had given the signs of His coming, Christ said, ‘When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand.’ ‘Take ye heed, watch and pray.’ God has always given men warning of coming judgments. Those who had faith in His message for their time and who acted out their faith, in obedience to His commandments, escaped the judgments that fell upon the disobedient and unbelieving. The word came to Noah, ‘Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me.’ Noah obeyed and was saved. The message came to Lot. ‘Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city.’ Gen. 7:1; 19:14. Lot placed himself under the guardianship of the heavenly messengers, and was saved. So Christ’s disciples

were given warning of the destruction of Jerusalem. Those who watched for the sign of the coming ruin, and fled from the city, escaped the destruction. So now we are given warning of Christ’s second coming and of the destruction to fall upon the world. Those who heed the warning will be saved.

“Because we know not the exact time of His coming, we are commanded to watch. ‘Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching.’ Luke 12:37. Those who watch for the Lord’s coming are not waiting in idle expectancy. The expectation of Christ’s coming is to make men fear the Lord, and fear His judgments upon transgression. It is to awaken them to the great sin of rejecting His offers of mercy. Those who are watching for the Lord are purifying their souls by obedience to the truth. With vigilant watching they combine earnest working. Because they know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to cooperate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls. These are the faithful and wise servants who give to the Lord’s household, ‘their portion of meat in due season.’ Luke 12:42. They are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable. As Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ’s servants now give the special warning for their generation.” DA 634

“And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matt. 24:14.

Just before Christ’s Second Advent many scoffers will be questioning the signs of His coming, while a mighty evangelistic movement will be attempting to stem the tide of evil through the preaching of the everlasting gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. The time of the end is marked by signs in the heavens and a thrilling crescendo of wonders on earth.

The promised signs have been fulfilled. We must then be living in the last days. Christ’s second coming must be “near, even at the door.” **AMEN.** 

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia



HEALTH MATTERS: MEMORY LOSS



Once upon a time, you could rattle off birthdays, phone numbers, and addresses, keep track of appointments without using a date book, and remember every funny story from your childhood.

Now, you are lucky if you remember what you ate for lunch. If your memory's batteries seem to be running low, try these tips for recharging them.

Aim for more antioxidants. Many foods contain naturally occurring chemicals that fight damaging free radicals in your body. Beta carotene, which your body converts to vitamin A, is one of these antioxidants. By protecting your brain cells, beta carotene helps you think, reason, and remember. Unfortunately, millions of people throughout the world don't get enough vitamin A. Even just one milligram of beta carotene a day makes a big difference. Carrots, sweet potatoes, apricots, tomatoes, broccoli, cantaloupe, and collard greens are all good sources.

Vitamins C and E also fight free radicals damage and poor memory. In fact, vitamin E might help ward off Alzheimer's. Look for vitamin C in oranges, grapefruit, broccoli, peppers, cantaloupe, and strawberries. You can find vitamin E in wheat germ, nuts, seeds, and vegetable oils.

Gather memories with herbs. Ginkgo and ginseng both boost memory and concentration. They also fight stress and anxiety and give you energy.

In clinical studies, ginkgo increased blood flow to the brain by 70 percent in seniors. That means more brainpower and better short-term memory. This ancient herb also helps fight absent-mindedness, confusion, tiredness, depression, dizziness, tinnitus, and headaches—all signs of dementia. Look for pure ginkgo biloba extract (GBE or GBX), and take 40 milligrams three times a day. Be patient; it might be a few weeks before you notice results.

To get the benefits of ginseng, chew on ginseng roots or make tea from a small chunk of root. You can also buy a variety of ginseng products, including teas, capsules, extracts, and tablets. Read their labels to make sure they contain between 4 and 7 percent ginsenosides, the steroid-like compounds found in the bark or outer layer of the root.

Give your mind a workout. Read the Bible and Testimonies, take night classes, or find new hobbies. Just keep your mind challenged. Your brain needs to stay in shape to perform at its best. Vary your activities to maximize your brain power.

Sip, slurp and swallow. Just because you are confused or show other signs of dementia doesn't mean you have Alzheimer's disease. It might mean you simply need to drink more water. Dehydration causes confusion, disorientation, and other problems. Drink water even if you are not thirsty.

Beef up your B's. Folate, thiamin, B6, B12 are B vitamins that play key roles in brain function. No wonder people with chronic B deficiencies score lower on memory and problem solving tests, while those receiving a boost of B vitamins perform better. A shortage of B vitamins may even lead to Alzheimer's. For folate,


eat spinach, beets, avocados, asparagus, and other vegetables. Low-fat cheese supplies you with B12, and potatoes, beans and watermelon provide B6 and thiamin.

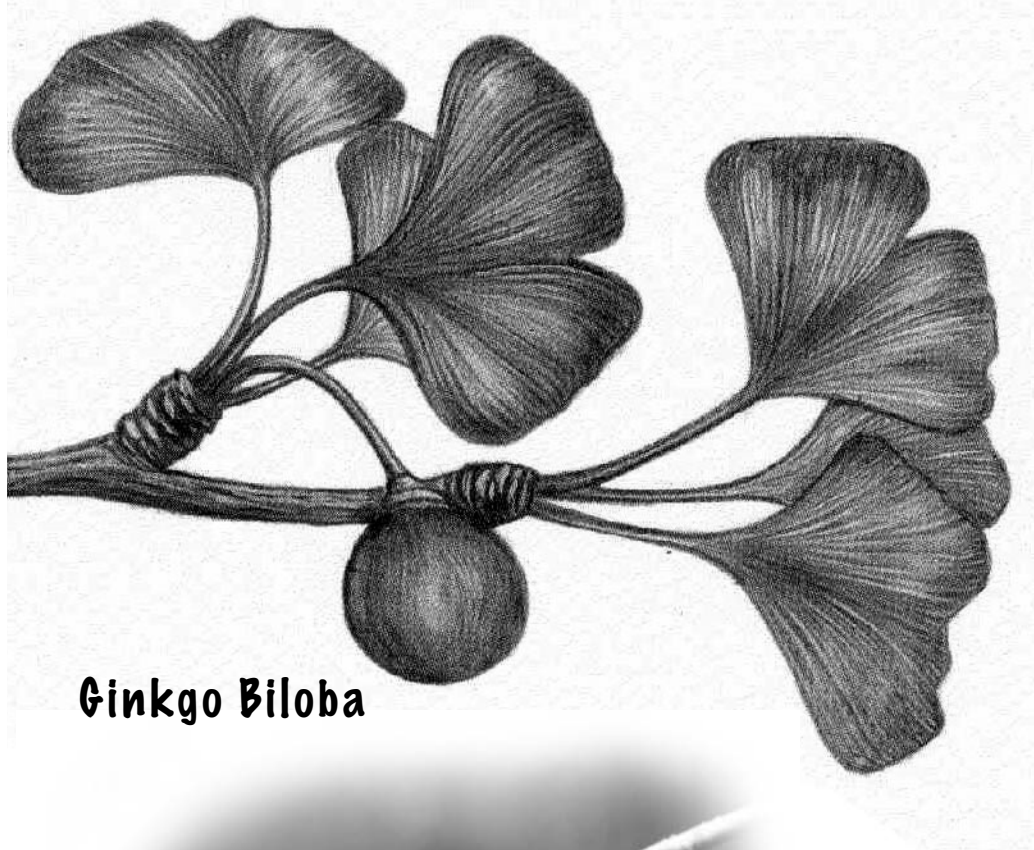
Get your forty winks. Sleeping is a natural way to boost mind-improving hormones. Not getting enough sleep harms your ability to store information in your long-term memory. Aim for a regular sleep routine, where you go to bed and wake up at the same time every day.

Start the day off right. Breakfast gives your brain the fuel it needs for the day. When you wake up, help yourself to a bowl of cereal or a bagel. Studies show children who eat breakfast do better on tests than those who skip this important meal. Other studies suggest something sweet—like certain cereals or orange juice—gives your brain a boost. But don't go overboard. Just a little of the sweet stuff keeps your brain charged all day.

Check those medications. Your memory loss may not have anything to do with you. It could be a side effect of your prescription drugs. Ask your doctor about switching to a different medication.

Lubricate your brain. In an Italian study of nearly 300 seniors, those who ate at least 5 tablespoons of olive oil a day tested best on memory and problem solving skills. It is the monounsaturated fat that enhances your brainpower, but olive oil also has vitamin E and other antioxidants. Next time you are in the kitchen, pour on the olive oil instead of corn or soybean oils.

Iron out your wrinkled memory. Poor memory could be a sign of iron deficiency, especially if you also look pale and feel sad and tired. Vegetarians and those who regularly take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), you may not be getting enough iron. 



Ginkgo Biloba



Ginseng Root

THE LAW OF LOVE



Every nation and government is ruled by law. God's government is no exception. God's government includes the entire universe and, therefore, His law is above all other laws. As such, it applies to you and to me personally. If we obey, we will prosper; if we rebel, we will be brought into judgment. God wrote His law with His own finger on two tables of stone, and it is known as the Ten Commandments. The punishment for breaking God's law is death. "For the wages of sin is death." Rom. 6:23.

Yet, God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Pet. 3:9. therefore, while the wages of sin is death, "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23. God loves us so much that He "sent His only begotten Son into the world [to die for our sins], that we might live through Him." 1 John 4:9. He didn't send His Son to "destroy the law" (Matt. 5:17) or to relax its requirements, but to provide a way that we can be forgiven of our past sins and empowered to live a godly life.

While God's law is a perfect standard of righteousness, it is powerless to save. All the law can do is testify whether a person has broken it or not. Paul wrote, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:19, 20, 23.

While the law condemns those who transgress it, the same law bears witness in favour of those who have been justified. Paul wrote, "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets." God's righteousness comes to us, apart from the law, a free gift "unto all and upon all them that believe" (v. 22), and it is "witnessed by the law." The law bears record that we are justified. The same law that condemns the wicked is a blessing to the righteous, proclaiming that they have been justified, bearing witness that they have God's righteousness. We shall all be judged by the same law; it will condemn the wicked and vindicate the righteous. Of this, James wrote, "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and do so, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." James 2:8-12.

James referred to the royal law as the command to "love thy neighbour as thyself," then he went on to expound on the last six of the Ten Commandments, which deal with our relationship to our fellow man. James pointed out the deeper meaning of the last six commandments, and that is to love one another.

Jesus did the same thing. Summing up the entire Ten Commandments, He said, "The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord thy God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:19-31.

When Jesus spoke these words He was not doing away with the Ten Commandments, but pointing out that they have a deeper meaning than might be obtained by a surface reading of the law. He pointed out that loving God, and loving our neighbours is the principle behind the Ten Commandments. God's law is a law of love. He intends that we should love God with all our hearts and love our neighbours as ourselves. If we do this, we will fulfill the law. Paul says, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Rom. 13:10.

A Higher Principle

I would like you to think about something. Does God call us to go beyond obeying the letter of the Ten Commandments? Is there a higher principle that God is calling us to? When asked which is the greatest of the commandments, Jesus said the greatest is to love God with all the heart, soul, strength, and mind, and the second is to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Eight of the Ten Commandments tell us what not to do, usually beginning with "Thou shalt not..." They are

prohibitions. The remaining two tell us to remember the Sabbath and honour our parents, but the vast majority deal with prohibitions. Yet when Jesus was asked which is the greatest commandment, His answer demonstrated that the highest commands, in His mind, began with "Thou shalt..." Here Jesus gave us two commands of things we must do in order to obey them: "Thou shalt love God," and "Thou shalt love thy neighbour."

Paul was right when He said that if we love our neighbour, we have fulfilled the second half of the Ten Commandment law. If we love our neighbour we certainly will not steal from him, kill him, tell lies about him, etc. The law of love does not do away with, or lessen the requirements of, the letter of the law, but rather enhances and deepens

t h e i r

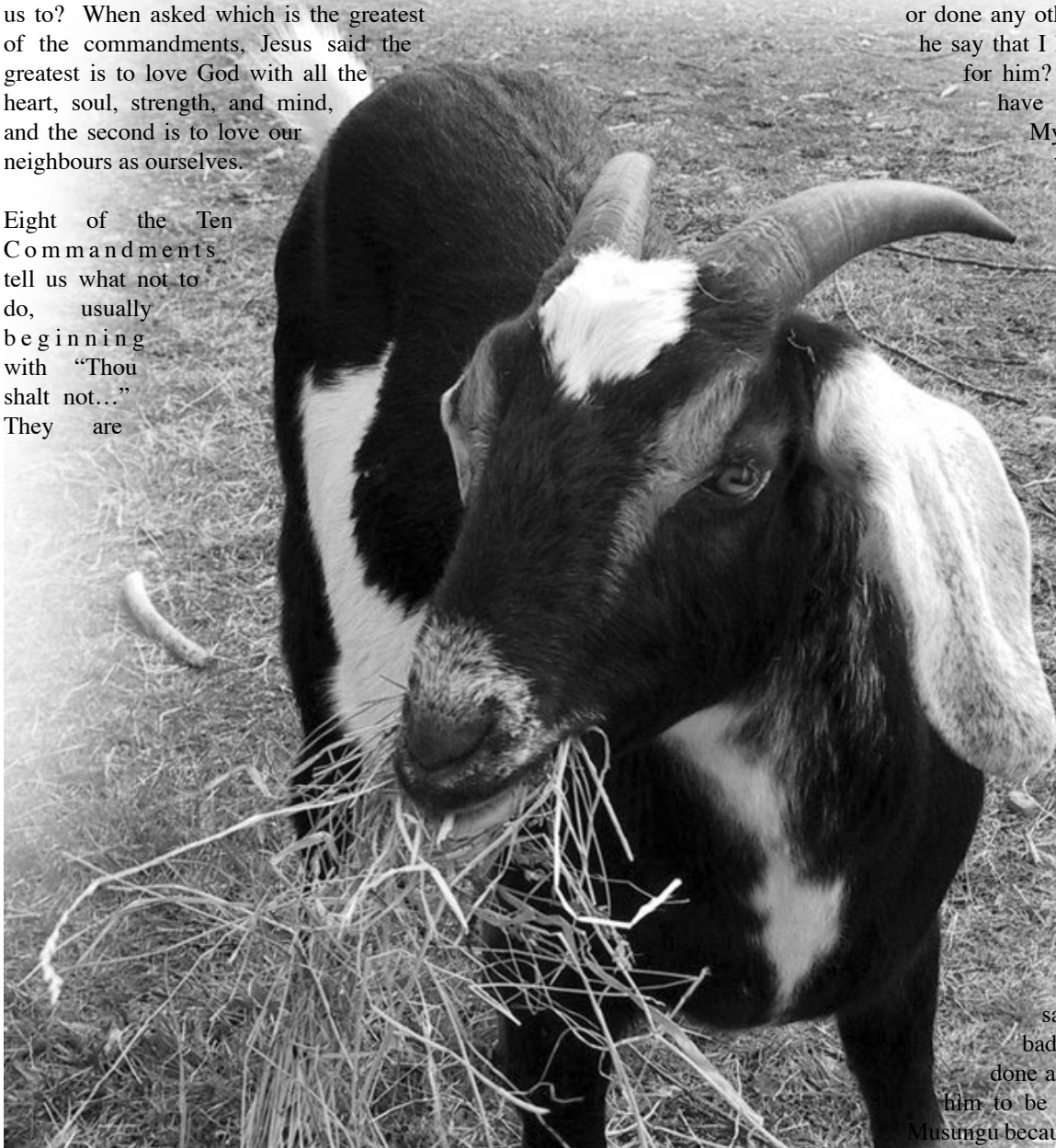
meaning. Anyone who claims that he loves his neighbour, while at the same time he steals from him, or lies about him, is a liar. It is impossible to love your neighbour as yourself and at the same time steal from them or do any evil against them. Therefore, love does not destroy the law, but fulfills it.

I have had to ask myself the question, "What have I done to help the person next door, the person down the road, or the person I see every week in the store?" Do I really love these people?" I may have the principle of love for them, but it has never become a reality unless I do something about it; unless I do good to them. If you were to visit my neighbour down the road and ask him, "What do you think of Musungu?" He could testify that I have never stolen from him, told lies about him, or done any other harm to him, but could he say that I have done something good for him? That is a question that I have had to seriously consider.

My thoughts on this subject were deepened when I read the verse that says, "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it." Prov. 3:27.

I don't know about you, but that verse brings me conviction. To whom is good due? To everyone! That is like the man asking Christ, "Who is my neighbour?"

The answer is, anyone in need. This verse is telling me that I should take every opportunity I have to do good to those around me. My neighbour could say, "Well, Musungu is not a bad guy, because he has never done any harm to me," but I want him to be able to say, "I really like Musungu because he has the love of God in



his heart. He did something good for me, “or, “He went out of his way when I was in trouble, and let me know he cared.”

Friends, God is calling us to love unconditionally. Jesus emphasized it when He said, “Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you... For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? For sinners also love those that love them.” Luke 6:27, 32. Love is the opposite of selfishness. If we love selfishly, expecting something in return, this is no better than sinners who love those who love them. Love is giving, whether it be money, gifts, time, attention, resources, etc. God so loved that He gave. He gave His all in the gift of His only begotten Son. He held nothing back. God wants us to love others in this way—unselfishly holding nothing back; not just for our friends, but for our enemies as well.

Lessons from the Book of Matthew

Matthew recorded a story of a man who understood the “Thou shalt nots” very well, but he failed to obey the “Thou shalt.” We pick up the story in chapter nineteen:

“And, behold, one came and said unto Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And He said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life,

keep the commandments. He saith unto Him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto Him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.” Matt. 19:16-22

This man claimed that he had kept God’s commandments since he was a child. He was probably the type of person whom people would want living next door, because he did not steal or harm his neighbour. Yet, he recognized that he was lacking something in his life. Jesus knew exactly what it was, and He pointed it out. This poor man was so caught up in selfishness that he neglected his duty; to love God with all his heart and to love his neighbour as himself. The young man’s response to Christ’s words demonstrated that he did not love his neighbour as himself.

In Matthew 25 we read a parable of the sheep and the goats. I would like you to notice how Jesus described each group. He said, “When the Son of men shall come in

His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: Naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” Matt. 25:31-40.

In this description of the righteous, nothing is mentioned about things they did not do, such as stealing, lying, murdering. The only thing mentioned is the good they did to their fellow man. They truly loved their neighbour as themselves, and this love was demonstrated by their actions.



But there was another group; the goats. Let's see what Christ has to say about them: "Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me not in: naked, and ye clothed Me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited Me not. Then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee? Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25:41-46.

Again, nothing is mentioned here about whether they broke one of the Ten Commandments but, rather, Christ pointed out their lack of love for their neighbour. Who are these people? One of them could very well be the local Sabbath school teacher, the devoted churchgoer, the pastor in the prominent church in town, the evangelist on television, or it could even be you or me. Do you really love your neighbour? God knows, and a faithful record follows you. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:21-23.

Oh dreadful words! Who can imagine how horrible it would be to hear the words, "depart from Me, I never knew you," directed at them.

Paul wrote, "If any man love God, the same in known of him." 1 Cor. 8:3. Anyone who truly loves God is known of God, and he can be sure that Christ will never say to him, "I never knew you." Loving God is the key. John wrote, "And this commandment have we from Him. That he who loveth God love his brother also." 1 John 4:21. When we truly love God with all our hearts, we will love our neighbours as ourselves, and our love will produce fruit; it will be seen by what we do.

Love is not passive, but active. The book of Hebrews calls it a "labour of love." Heb. 6:10. If your love for your neighbour goes no further than avoiding doing harm to him, then it is no more genuine than that of the rich young ruler who sorrowfully departed from Christ. Jesus was constantly involved in ministering to others, whether it was giving sight to the blind, making the lame to walk, tenderly encouraging a sinner to repent, or feeding the hungry, Jesus was a man who actively loved; labouring for the good of others. John said that we ought "to walk, even as [Jesus] walked." 1 John 2:6. when Jesus was here He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him." Acts 10:38. if we are to walk as Jesus walked, we must be going about doing good, wherever we go. This is the work of Christ, and this is the work of all those who truly follow Him.

Some ways that you can show love to others is to visit them when they are sick, or in prison. Even a card or letter is usually greatly appreciated. James says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27. When you learn of those who have need, go out of your way to find out how you can help. Give them a call to encourage them. If they were not in church, stop by and let them know that they were missed. If they have done something to offend you, forgive them quickly. Do not hold grudges. Lev. 19:18. Always give people the benefit of the doubt, and never jump to conclusions about their motives. Offer a smile to those around you; smiles are contagious. Always be patient and kind. Speak a friendly word to those who are down. Let someone cut in front of you in line or in traffic. Hold the door for someone. Be a friend of the friendless. Do not prefer the rich or powerful above the poor and needy. Go out of your way to make people feel special. Love the unlovely. Take every opportunity to do good to those around you. Uplift Christ as the answer to everyone's need. Speak "the truth in love." "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 4:6. "See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." 1 Pet. 1:22.

God's love was so strong that it motivated

Him to action; to send His only begotten Son into this world to save sinners like me. If He had only loved me enough that He would not harm me, where would I be? Passive love—love that does not motivate action—is not love at all. Love is only real when it is demonstrated by actions. John wrote, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:18. Love is not an elective, but a requirement. Without it, no man will see the kingdom of heaven.

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" 1 John 4:20.

"Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 John 3:17.

"If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us." 1 John 4:12

How to Regain Your First Love

In John 5:42 Jesus spoke some very strong words to the church leaders of His day. He said, "I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you." there are many people today to whom these words could be said, and sadly, just as in Christ's day, many of these people are church leaders or churchgoers. Could it be said of you or me? If the love of God is not in us, Jesus Christ, the faithful and true witness, knows it. And if it is true, it is about time that we know it, too. Do you love your neighbour with an active love that is demonstrated in doing good for him? There is a record that follows each of us: the law of God testifies whether we have love or not. Jesus said, "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place,

except thou repent." Rev. 2:2-5

I love the way Christ deals with us. He acknowledges all the hard work done and the effort made for His sake. He points out the good in a person, and then He says, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee." We should all take lessons from this when we are dealing with our children, our spouse, our family, friends, etc.

Friends, do you realize your need? Do you see that you have less love for God, Christ, or your fellow man, than you did at some time in the past? If so, don't be discouraged. Be encouraged that Christ foresaw this, and gave you the remedy. That is another thing I love about the way Christ deals with us. He points out our problem, but He does not leave us there. He also gives us the remedy. If you have left your first love, Jesus says, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works."

The first step is to remember from whence you are fallen. Think back to a time when you loved God more, or when you loved others more, than you do today. The second step is to repent for your wickedness. And thirdly, Christ says, "Do the first works." What is it that you were doing when you had a greater love? Did you read your Bible more than you do today? Did you pray more? Did you sing songs and hymns in your heart throughout the day? Did you meditate often upon God's love for you? Did you share your faith with those around you? Did you have a great burden for the souls of others? Think about these things and "do the first works." If you do this, you are bound to have results. Jesus said it would happen! If it produced fruits in the beginning, it will do it again. This is the remedy that Christ gave for those whose love has waxed cold. Try it and see, I am sure you will be blessed.

I can guarantee that the first works include a daily contemplation of the wonderful love of God in giving His Son to die for your sins, for this is the power of the gospel that changes the heart of a sinner. If you want to acquire a pure love for your neighbour, it must begin and be maintained by beholding "what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us," in that He "sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." 1 John 3:1; 4:9. it was a contemplation of this love that

started you on your Christian experience, and this is the only thing that will see you through unto the end with a genuine pure love for God and your fellow man.

My friends, the world is starving for a manifestation of genuine, unreserved love in God's people. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Rom. 8:22. "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of

God." Rom. 8:19. Will you be one of those people? Will you make the commitment to behold God's love and allow it to change you; to follow Christ, forsaking all of your cherished sins? The world is waiting to see it. Christ is waiting for His harvest to be ripe. Don't let them wait any longer. Give yourself to Christ with a complete surrender to do His will. **Amen**

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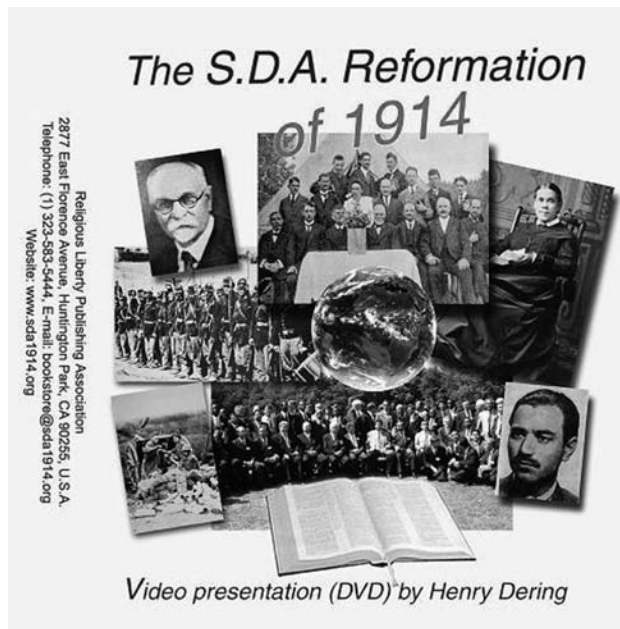
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A BOY WHO WAS WANTED



CHILDRENS CORNER

“Well, I have found out one thing,” said Jack, as hot, tired, and dusty, he came to his mother.

“What is that?” she asked.

“That there are a great many boys in the world.”

“Didn’t you know that before?”

“Partly; but I didn’t know there were so many more boys than are wanted.”

“Why do you think there are more than are wanted?”

“Because I have been ‘round and ‘round till I am worn out, trying to find a place to work. Wherever I go, there are more boys than places. Doesn’t that show that there are too many boys?”

“Not exactly,” said his mother, with a smile.

“It depends entirely on the kind of boy. A good boy is always wanted somewhere.”

“Well, if I am a good boy, I wish that I knew that I was wanted.”

“Patience, patience, my boy. In such a great world as this is, with so many places and so many boys, it is no wonder some of them do not find their places at once. But be sure, dear,” as she laid a very caressing hand on his arm, “that every boy who wants a chance to do fair, honest work will find it.”

“That’s the kind of work I want to do,” said Jack. “I don’t want anybody’s money for nothing. Let me see, what have I to offer?—All the schooling and all the wits I have been able to get up in thirteen years; good, stout hands; and a civil tongue.”

“And a mind and heart set on doing faithful duty,” suggested his mother.

“I hope so,” said Jack. “I remember father used to say: Just as soon as you undertake to work for any one, you must bear in mind that you have sold yourself for the given time. Your time, your strength, your energy, are his, and your best efforts to seek his interests in every way are his due.”

The earnest tone in which the boy spoke seemed to give assurance that he would pay good heed to the words of the father whose counsel could no more reach him.

For two or three days longer Jack had

reason to hold his opinion that there were more boys than the world wanted, at the end of which time he met a business man who, questioning him closely, said: “There are a great many applications for the place, but a large number of the boys come and stay a short time, and then leave if they think they can do a little better. When a boy gets used to our route and customers, we want him to stay. If you will agree to stay at least three years, we will agree to pay you three dollars a week as an errand boy.”

“That is just what I wanted to do, sir,” said Jack, eagerly. So he was installed, and proud enough he was to bring the wages home every week, and realize that, small as they were, the regular help was of great value to his mother.

It is not to be wondered at that the faithful carrying out of his father’s admonition after a while attracted the attention not only of his employers, but of others with whom he was brought into contact in the pursuit of his duties. One day he was asked into the office of Mr. Lang, a gentleman to whom he frequently carried parcels of value.

“Have you ever thought of changing your situation?” asked Mr. Lang.

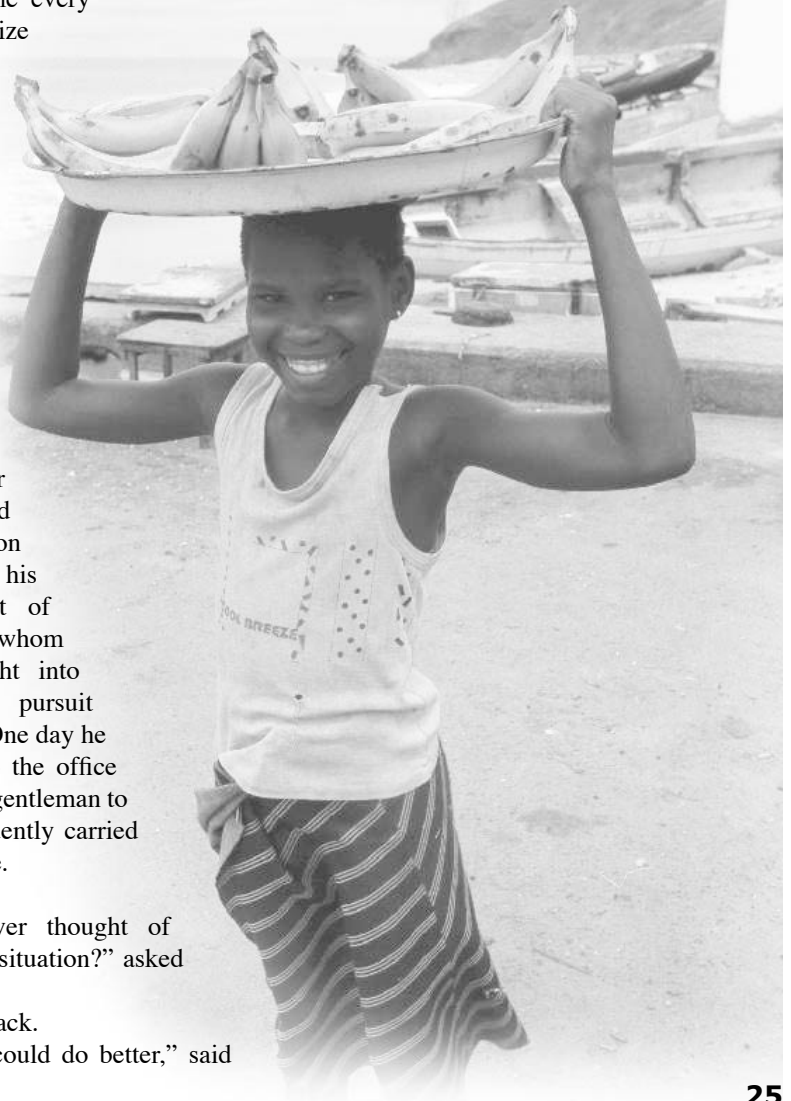
“No sir,” said Jack.

“Perhaps you could do better,” said

the other. “I want a boy who is quick and intelligent, and who can be relied on; and, from what I see of you, I think you are that sort of boy. I want you to drive a delivery wagon, and will pay you five dollars a week.”

Jack’s eyes opened wide. “It is wonderfully good pay for a boy like me, I am sure. But I promised to keep on with Mr. Hill for three years, and the second year is only just begun.”

“Well, have you signed a regular agreement with Mr.



Hill?"

"No sir; I told him I would stay."

"You have a mother to assist, you told me. Could you not tell Mr. Hill that you feel obliged to do better, when you have a chance?"

"I don't believe I could," said Jack, looking with his straight, frank gaze into the gentleman's face. "You see, sir, if I broke my word with him, I should not be the kind of boy to be relied on that you want."

"I guess you are about right," said Mr. Lang, with a sigh. "Come and see me when your time is out; I dare say I shall want you then."

Jack went home very much stirred by what had been said to him.

After all, could it be wrong to go where he would do so much better? Was it not really his duty to accept the position? He could then drive the wagon instead of trudging wearily along the streets. They had never felt so hot and dusty as they did just now, when he might escape from the tiresome routine. Might, but how?—By the sacrifice of his pledged word; by selling his truth and honour. So strongly did the reflection force itself upon him that when he told his mother of the offer he had received, he merely added, "It would be a grand good thing if I could take it, wouldn't it, mother?"

"Yes, it would."

"Some boys would change without thinking of letting a promise stand in their way."

"Yes, but that is the kind of boy who, sooner or later, is not wanted. It is because you have not been that sort of boy that you are wanted now."

Jack worked away, doing such good work, as he became more and more accustomed to the situation, that his mother sometimes wondered that Mr. Hill, who seemed always kindly interested in him, never appeared to think of raising his pay. This, however, was not Mr. Hill's way of doing things, even though he showed an increasing disposition to trust Jack with important business.

So the boy trudged through the three years, at the end of them having been trusted far more than is usually the case with errand

boys. He had never forgotten the offer made by Mr. Lang, and one day, meeting that gentleman on the street, ventured to remind him that his present engagement was nearly out, adding, "You spoke to me about driving the wagon, sir."

"Ah, so I did; but you are older now and worth more. Call around and see me."

One evening, soon after, Jack lingered in Mr. Hill's office after the other errand boys had been paid and had gone away.

"My three years are up tonight, sir," he said.

"Yes, they are," said Mr. Hill, looking at him as if he had remembered it.

"Will you give me a recommendation to some one else, sir?"

"Well, I will, if you are sure that you want to leave me."

"I did not know that you wanted me to stay, but"—he hesitated, and then went on—"my mother is a widow, and I feel as if I ought to do the best I can for her, and Mr. Lang told me to call on him."

"Has Mr. Lang ever made you an offer?"

Jack told him what Mr. Lang had said nearly two years before.

"Why didn't you go then?" asked Mr. Hill.

"Because I had promised to stay with you;


but you wouldn't blame me for trying to better myself now?"

"Not a bit of it. Are you tired of running errands?"

"I'd rather ride than walk," said Jack with a smile.

"I think it is about time you were doing better than either. Perhaps you think that you have been doing this faithful work for me through these years for next to nothing; but if so, you are mistaken. You have been doing better work than merely running errands. You have been serving an apprenticeship to trust and honesty. I know you now to be a straightforward, reliable boy, and it takes time to learn that. It is your capital, and you ought to begin to realize it. You may talk to Mr. Lang if you wish, but I will give you a place in the office, with a salary of six hundred dollars for the first year, with the prospect of a raise after that."

Jack did not go see Mr. Lang, but straight to his mother, with a shout and a bound.

"You're right, you're right, mother!" he cried. "No more hard work for you, mother. I'm wanted, you see, wanted enough to get good pay! All the hardest part is over. 



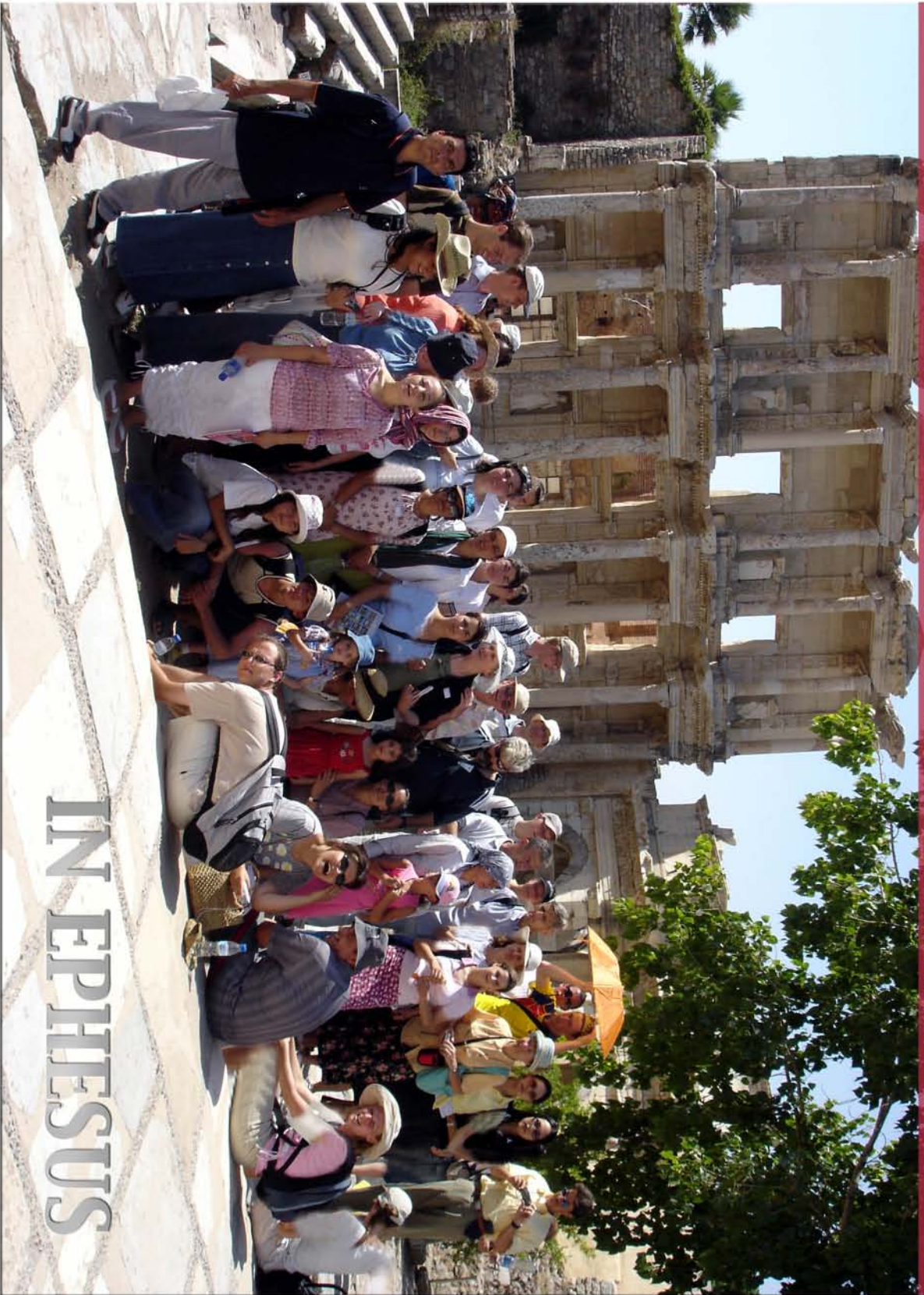


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