



The Reformation Messenger

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

"I am Alpha and Omega,
the first and the last: and,
What thou seest,
write in a book, and
send it unto the seven churches"

Revelation 1:11

In This Issue

READY TO BELIEVE	3
COUNTRY LIVING	6
THE DAY BEFORE &...FLOOD	8
HEAVEN'S RESOURCES	11
JOURNEY TO THE 7 CHURCHES	13
HEALTH MATTERS: HEART...	17
BIRTHRIGHT	19
DRESS FOR WINTER WEATHER	24
CC: GOD IN THE BLUEBERRIES	25

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The Reformation Messenger

We Believe

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

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READY TO BELIEVE

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all his house.” Hebrews 3:1, 2

What Is Faith?

We see here, that the Son was faithful. Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Be faithful.”(Heb 3:7-15).

There are many examples and definitions of faith in the Holy Scriptures, and of many who, by faith, overcame; Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, and Samuel, are but a few (Heb 11). In essence, faith “is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”(Heb 11:1). By faith we understand. It is our heavenly hope. Moreover, “without faith it is impossible to please God.”(Heb 11:6). Furthermore, faith is the acceptance of the Truth. It involves a commitment to His will for one’s entire life! It is part of the Christian life from the beginning to the end, as the instrument by which the gift of salvation is received (Eph. 2:8-9).

Road Of Faith

In the New Testament, faith can refer to the teachings of the Bible, the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3). In modern times, however, faith has

been weakened in meaning so that some people use it to mean self-confidence, but in the Bible, true faith is confidence in God or Christ, not in oneself (selfishness). Faithfulness, too, means dependability, loyalty, and stability, particularly as it describes God in His relationship to human believers. What striking traits! What a Pattern to follow! What a Path! What Light!

Teenager To Apocalyptic Prophet

Daniel is an outstanding example of one who showed his faith by his works. The kingdom of Babylon had fallen to Darius the Mede, who had placed it under the jurisdiction of 120 princes. They in turn were under three presidents, and Daniel was number one.

He conducted himself so honorably in his high office that Darius thought to set him over the whole realm. The other presidents and princes were jealous and began to devise means of getting rid of him, probably under constant surveillance. They may have told their agents... “Watch that man... investigate him thoroughly, and report anything we might use against him.” His enemies even used his regularity at prayer to trap him and turn the king against him. I sometimes wonder if this pattern will repeat itself in the end times.

God First

Hard as they tried they could not find anything. The Bible said, “because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.”(Dan 6:4). What a record! His testimony was loyal and conscientious, always giving God first place. Yet, although he was not perfect, he was willing to repent of his wrongdoing and to follow God’s leadership. He was always known as a man who sought God’s will. David was truly a man after God’s own heart (1Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22).

Faith And Emotions

There are many degrees of faith, also. Gideon said to God, “Let me test, I pray just once more with the fleece.” Saying, further, “If you will save Israel as you said.” (Judg. 6:36, 39). Some look for great manifestations of feelings. We “feel our fleece,” like Gideon, looking for signs.

The first one believes when there are favorable emotions. The second one believes when there is the absence of feeling. Feeling is like the East and the West. They cry out to God whether there is any feeling or not... then live out their prayers. The third one believes God and His word when circumstances, emotions, appearances of people, and human reasons are all to the contrary.

Paul wisely used his faith in Acts 27:25,

in his appeal to Caesar, and in his voyage to Rome in the tempest, as a prisoner. His Jewish heritage, however, at all times meant much more to Paul than Roman citizenship.

Clasp Christ's Hand

I like, however, Sis. White's description of faith, "Faith is clasping Christ's hand in every emergency." (GW) For you students, "faith is the key of knowledge." It is also a "gift from God which leads to obedience; love follows, relies wholly in Christ, and will be rare in the last days." Furthermore, faith is not only, "believe, believe." (2SM 157)(3S94)(6BC1073). For "many will depart from the faith in the last days." (1Tim 1:4)

Follow The Leader

Keeping the faith, and deepening our faith, requires that one continually copies the pattern of Jesus, and "walk as He walked" (1Joh 2:6). In Christ and Christ alone, faith can heal the sting of sin, and such faith can supply the deficiencies of character.

"Follow me." (Math 9:9).

But, I Believe

But, many people have faith in these troubled days. They believe in a religion, a person or something, anything! Even an atheist believes in himself. It may even be an unquestioning faith, as children usually have in their father or parents, or complete loyalty to an employer, trust, confidence, dependability, and more. Consequently, many have faith, but, not as many believe, or are "**Ready To Believe.**" In other words, the faith in Christ which saves the soul is not what is represented to be by many... "believe, believe"... is their cry. "Only believe in Christ and you will be saved" They believe it is all you have to do! Or popularly, today, is the cry, "all you need is the love of Jesus."

Faith And The Law

Yes, while true faith trusts wholly in Christ for salvation, it will lead to perfect conformity to the law of God! (Many, however, have come short of it!) This is a true manifestation of fervent faith and filled with the promise of rest. (Heb 4:6).

Faith And Works

Moreover, faith is manifested by works. The Apostle John, that sage of Patmos Island in Greece said, "He that saith I know

Him and keepeth not His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him." (1 John 2:4) The Centurion had a remarkable faith in the miraculous healing of his servant by Jesus. Here is a supposed heathen, but made more worthy in sight of heaven than any of Christ's fellow countrymen.

Interestingly, Jesus and the Jewish leaders were often in disagreement, but that they should both agree to the worthiness of the gentile in some way or manner, however, were not for the same reasons. How? Well, the Jewish elders manifested it by works, and Jesus Christ, by faith. In reality, faith and works combined are esteemed by God and man alike. In essence, however, faith is rare today. To explain further, a teacher, for example gives out high and low grades. Or, a pastor is highly favored by the congregation.

The Centurion was faithful, but not like the nobleman a year earlier in Capernaum, who expected signs and wonders to strengthen his confidence in the power of Jesus. Such is the belief of many today, who look for evidences of His existence and power, and are dismayed because their prayers are not answered.

Hebrew Of The Hebrews

The Apostle Paul's journey to Rome as a prisoner was filled with trials and triumphs. His pattern is the story of human life... full of lights, darkness, and shades of gray, and narrow perilous places. All of this is mixed, however, with God's providences, and interposition of help... here a little, there a little, today, often at the least expected times.

On the other hand, there is a common idea that the pathway of faith is strewn with flowers, even among the early believers. Many, then and now, believe when God comes into our life, that on a grand scale dramatically lifts us right out of our difficulties. The fact is, sadly for many, is that it's the contrary!

The story of the Bible, in fact, is one of trials and triumphs, alternating one after another. This pattern exists all the way from Abel on down to the last martyr.

Let us return again to the Apostle Paul, who made an indelible mark in Greece particularly, being the earliest and most influential interpreter of Christ's message

and teaching, not only as an apostle of Christ, but correspondent with several early Christian churches. What a miraculous change from one who Paul himself related, how he "persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it" (Gal 1:13). Here is an example, a legacy of faith, more than anyone else... how much one can suffer... "not crushed or broken in spirit."

Basket Escape

Because of his testifying in Damascus, hunted down by persecutors, he had to flee for his life, fly for his life, run for his life! No heavenly chariot came thundering down with legions of angels and bolts of flame to take him out of reach of his enemies...but, by a simple woven basket, through a window in a basket let down over the walls of Damascus and escaped from their hands. This was an old clothes basket, like one in which dirty laundry is meant for, or one in which produce or fish is carried in. The servant of God was carefully and tenderly dropped from the window and ran from his bitter enemies.

Bold Risks

What more? He was imprisoned in a lonely dungeon, in which he told of "watchings, fastings, desertion of friends, brutal shameful beatings." (2Cor 6:5) All this and more, even after God promised deliverance! More trials... of days on stormy seas, on a ship carrying wheat with two-hundred-seventy-six souls. It was a large ship, upwards of 1000 tons, plying its way between Egypt and Italy, not just an ordinary fishing vessel.

Paul was in three ship-wrecks! Amazing! (2 Cor 11:25) The last voyage he was in left the Greek Island of Crete, whereupon he warned them not to leave. Ignored, he was furthermore, closely guarded over by treacherous and cruel seamen.

No Deliverance

Where was the deliverance promised Paul? No heavenly galley ship came sailing from the skies with billowing sails to take off the prisoner. No angel walked the turbulent waters to quiet the raging sea and the gales. No supernatural sign, in fact, appeared! Paul was forced, compelled to grab a wooden plank from the wrecked ship, and cling to it to save his life, gasping, drowning in the murky sea.

Perfect Faith

How is your faith? Jesus asks in Mark 4: 40, “how is it you have no faith?” And in Luke 8:25, Jesus asks again, “where is your faith?” Well, here is God’s pattern for our own lives; a gospel help for people who have to live every day in the world surrounded by 1000’s of practical conditions. This is the pattern for us: God’s promises and providences don’t lift us out of the plane of common sense and trials. Ah! But through these things, these trials, our faith is perfected!

Wounding And Bruising

We must have tribulations to enter the Kingdom of God. The best things of life come from wounding and bruising. Wheat is crushed before made into bread. Corn, it says in Isaiah 28:28, “bread corn is bruised.” Many of us cannot be used to become food for the world’s hungry until we are broken in Jesus Christ’s hands, first. The sweetest things in this world today have come to us through tears and pain. Isn’t that so? Incense needs fire before the aromas are freed. A sharp plow needs to break up the soil before seed can be sown. A broken heart, too, moreover, pleases God. Yes, the sweetest joys of life are the fruits of sorrow.

Test Your Faith

Human nature needs suffering to fit it to be a blessing to the world. The Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:7 says that the “genuineness of our faith is tested in fire”. Have you tested yours? Take care of your faith. Why? How? The Apostle James says we can profit from our trials by “asking for faith, with no doubting.” In Ephesians 6:6 we read, “taking the shield of faith with you which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

Faith And Blessings

Faith is the only way you can receive a blessing. Prayer cannot bring down answers from heaven except earnest prayer from one who believes and is **Ready To Believe**. Jesus tells us clearly in Math 19: 26... “with God all things are possible.” Many boast of being a practical people; they want a surer thing than just faith. Remember the noble man of Capernaum, asking for signs and wonders to believe? The Apostle Paul again said in Romans 4: 16, “the promise was by faith that it might be sure.” In fact, Rev 14:12 bears this out even further, “here is the patience of the saints, those who keep the commandments

of God and the faith of Jesus.”

Try Harder

We need to try harder to increase our faith. The Apostles even asked the Lord, “increase our faith.”(Luke 17:5). In counseling the rich young ruler, Jesus said, “You still lack one thing, sell all that you have and distribute to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.”(Luke 18:22). David, again, was in constant faith, steadfast in spirit, and steadfast in obedience. Not only must we pass through trials and difficulties, but reading the Scriptures, and Testimonies, and acquainting ourselves with God as He has revealed Himself in His Word.

Church Faith

What can we do as a church in faith? Simply, “Remember all the things the Lord has done.” (Acts 14:27). Moreover, review all that God has done for your church... it’s an open door! We can rejoice!

The Apostle Paul rejoiced in faith in three things:

1. “I have kept the faith” (2 Tim 4:7). True, but he lost his head. They cut that off, but it didn’t touch his faith.
2. “I have fought the good fight.”(1 Tim 6: 12). He never quit.
3. “I have finished the race.”(2 Tim 4:7). Furthermore, he won the race! He gained the prize in admiration of the earth and heaven. Yet, why do we not act as if it paid to lose all to win Christ? Why are we not loyal to the truth as he was? Ah! We haven’t his arithmetic. He counted differently from us. We count the things gained that he counted loss. We must have his faith and keep it if we would wear the same crown of victory.

Rejoice

We all know the scripture of Psalm 23, “The Lord is my Shepherd.” Not was, not may be, nor will be, but always, daily, hourly, at home, or in China, in prosperity, and poverty, in peace and war. Whatever our faith says... God is. He will be. “He turned the sea into dry land: They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him.”(Psalm 66:6).

Dark Nights Ahead

Finally, “It is evening and Aaron lit the sanctuary lamps.” It’s in the night of trouble that the brightest lamps of the

believer are often kindled. It was at Jabbock, that Jacob, when the sun went down and when our sun goes down, that our Angel comes and we wrestle with Him. It was in the loneliness and exile that the Apostle John had the glorious vision of His redeemer on the Island of Patmos, in Greece. There are many of Patmos, still, in this troubled world. Be watchful for them.

He Lives

We have a living God Father and God Son in Jesus Christ. “Daniel, servant of the living God.” (Dan 6:20). God graciously gives His power and love towards those who love and serve Him. It’s unchanging! He will never fail you in the greatest of difficulties, in the heaviest trials.

Luther once found himself in a moment of great peril and fear. He needed strength. He was quietly sitting in an abstract mood tracing on the table with his finger, the words... He Lives... He Lives!

Ask

You are experiencing the Truth by faith, not by an intellectual experience. His Word is the revealed will of God. It speaks of His unselfish character and love. If you claim and receive what you ask for in His name, it will bring down the mighty power of God’s will into your life.

Good News

The suffering world is craving for this Good News! But, that we first live this, and when we speak, they, the world, will recognize it. We will no longer be a “wavering man.”(Heb. 10:23). This requires that we are “tempered”. (EGW calls it “balanced”).

This means, furthermore, that we “behold Him (Jesus).” (John 1:36) When we “behold” we “change” into His image which is an “affectionate, selfless, servant.” All of this miraculous change, from a “hot-head,” angry, selfish one, to a peaceful, meek, gentle, calm being, child and servant of God.

“Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.” (Phil 4:5).

This is faith... that we are always **Ready To Believe** and that **He Lives! AMEN**.

John Theodorou, USA



COUNTRY LIVING

Millions of people prefer to live in a city where everything is close by and convenient. In the city there are stores, schools, hospitals, factories, and offices, often within walking distance. While in the country everything is further away. But then there are benefits in country living that are not available in the city, and number one is fresh air. The air in the city is polluted because of the traffic and factories.

The effects of air pollution include chronic respiratory disease, lung cancer, heart disease, even damage to the brain, nerves, liver, and kidneys. In Mexico City alone, about 30,000 children die annually because of air pollution.

Natural Resources Defense Council writes in their annual report: "City dwellers face a wide range of environmental challenges: dirty air and water, dwindling open space, garbage, soot-spewing buses, traffic, the impacts of industry." This all causes physical sickness. But then there is danger to the spiritual health also. Sister White writes much about it in the testimonies.

"The world over, cities are becoming hotbeds of vice. On every hand are the sights and sounds of evil. Everywhere are enticements to sensuality and dissipation. The tide of corruption and crime is continually swelling. Every day brings the record of violence,-- robberies, murders, suicides, and crimes unnamable.

"Life in the cities is false and artificial. The intense passion for money getting, the whirl of excitement and pleasure seeking, the thirst for display, the luxury and extravagance, all are forces that, with the great masses of mankind, are turning the mind from life's true purpose. They are opening the door to a thousand evils. Upon the youth they have almost irresistible power." MH, p. 363, 364.

"Few realize the importance of shunning, so far as possible, all associations unfriendly to religious life. In choosing their surroundings, few make their spiritual prosperity the first consideration.

"Parents flock with their families to the cities, because they fancy it easier to obtain a livelihood there than in the country. The children, having nothing to do when not in school, obtain a street education. From evil associates, they acquire habits of vice and dissipation. The parents see all this, but it will require a sacrifice to correct their error, and they stay where they are, until Satan gains full control of their children." Test. Vol. 5, p. 232.

Because the cities are becoming more and more like Sodom and Gomorrah, the judgments of God are about to fall on them.

"The time is near when the large cities will be visited by the judgments of God. In a little while, these cities will be terribly shaken. No matter how large or how strong their buildings, no matter how many safeguards against fire may have been provided, let God touch these buildings, and in a few minutes or a few hours they are in ruins.

"The ungodly cities of our world are to be swept away by the besom of destruction. In the calamities that are now befalling immense buildings and large portions of cities, God is showing us what will come upon the whole earth." Test. Vol. 7, p. 82, 83.

"There are reasons why we should not build in the cities. On these cities, God's judgments are soon to fall." Letter 158, 1902. "The

time is near when large cities will be swept away, and all should be warned of these coming judgments.” *Evang.*, p. 29.

“O that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry.” *Rev. and Her.*, Sept. 10, 1903.

“In harmony with the light given me, I am urging people to come out from the great centers of population. Our cities are increasing in wickedness, and it is becoming more and more evident that those who remain in them unnecessarily do so at the peril of their soul’s salvation.” *Manuscript 115*, 1907.

God placed Adam and Eve to live in a garden, surrounded by nature. There they were to cultivate the ground and enjoy the simple way of life.

Many great men in the past had their upbringing in the country setting. Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Elisha, and many others. Often they had to struggle with poverty and hardship. When called to their lifework, they proved themselves a positive power for good in the world. Therefore, Sister White urged people to move to the country, away from the cities.

“Instead of dwelling where only the works of men can be seen, where the sights and sounds frequently suggest thoughts of evil, where turmoil and confusion bring weariness and disquietude, go where you can look upon the works of God. Find rest of spirit in the beauty and quietude and peace of nature. Let the eye rest on

the green fields, the groves, and the hills. Look up to the blue sky, unobscured by the city’s dust and smoke, and breathe the invigorating air of heaven. Go where, apart from the distractions and dissipations of city life, you can give your children your companionship, where you can teach them to learn of God through His works, and train them for lives of integrity and usefulness.” *MH*, p. 265-267.

“To live in the country would be very beneficial to them; an active, out-of-door life would develop health of both mind and body. They should have a garden to cultivate, where they might find both amusement and useful employment. The training of plants and flowers tends to the improvement of taste and judgment, while an acquaintance with God’s useful and beautiful creations has a refining and ennobling influence upon the mind, referring it to the Maker and Master of all.” *Test. Vol. 4*, p. 136.

“I look at these flowers, and every time I see them I think of Eden. They are an expression of God’s love for us. Thus He gives us in this world a little taste of Eden. He wants us to delight in the beautiful things of His creation, and to see in them an expression of what He will do for us.

“He wants us to live where we can have elbow room. His people are not to crowd into the cities. He wants them to take their families out of the cities, that they may better prepare for eternal life. In a little while they will have to leave the cities.

“These cities are filled with wickedness of every kind,—with strikes and murders and

suicides. Satan is in them, controlling men in their work of destruction. Under his influence they kill for the sake of killing, and this they will do more and more...

“If we place ourselves under objectionable influences, can we expect God to work a miracle to undo the results of our wrong course?—No, indeed. Get out of the cities as soon as possible, and purchase a little piece of land, where you can have a garden, where your children can watch the flowers growing, and learn from them lessons of simplicity and purity.” *General Conference Bulletin*, March 30, 1903.

“To many of those living in the cities who have not a spot of green grass to set their feet upon, who year after year have looked out upon filthy courts and narrow alleys, brick walls and pavements, and skies clouded with dust and smoke,—if these could be taken to some farming district, surrounded with the green fields, the woods and hills and brooks, the clear skies and the fresh, pure air of the country, it would seem almost like heaven.” *MH*, p. 192.

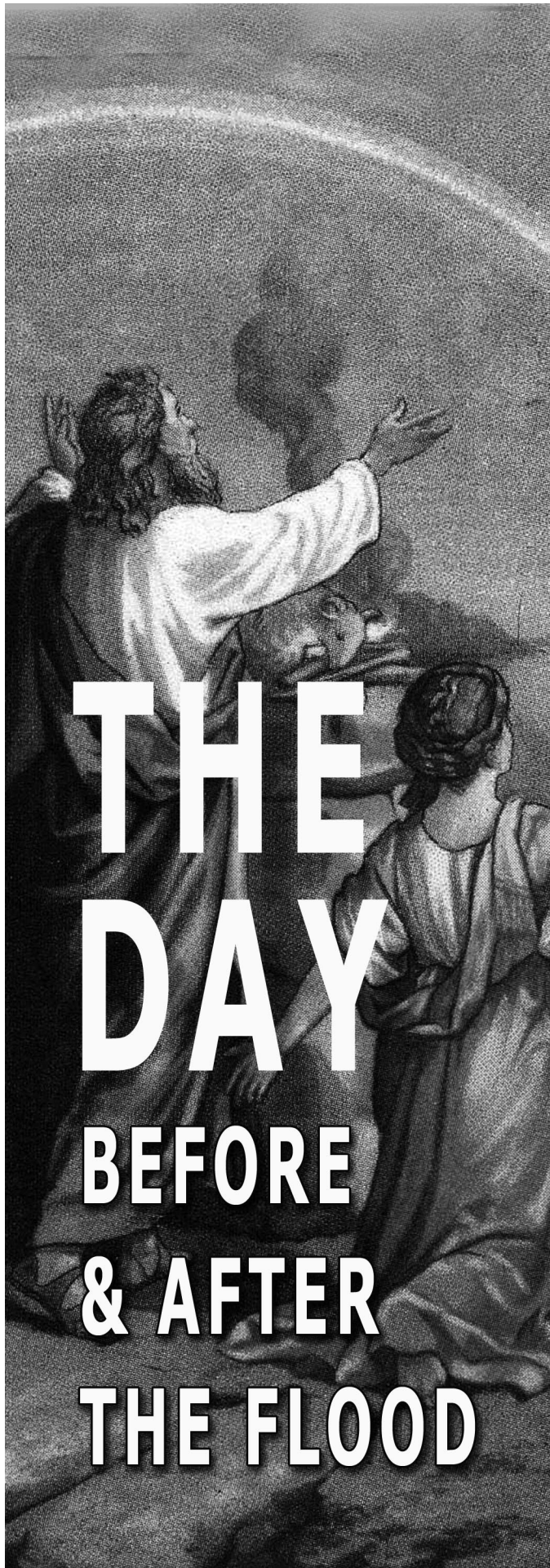
“It is no time now for God’s people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation, in the decree enforcing the papal Sabbath, will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.” *Test. Vol. 5*, p. 465.

Clear counsel has been given us to move out of big cities to country places. Especially it is important for families with small children. To see green fields, trees and flowers which God has created has an influence upon our minds, which will bring us closer to God. Especially for sick people, country life is healthier and therefore, any health institution should be established in the country area.

May the Lord help us to take these counsels to heart and plan well where we will locate our homes. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada





THE DAY BEFORE & AFTER THE FLOOD

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” Gen. 1:27, 28

Man was to be in control of the earth as God’s representative, but his tenure was conditional upon his obedience and his loyalty. Should he choose sin, he would thereby forfeit his position as a ruler and eventually, even life itself. This issue was clear and well understood, if man was to have perpetual dominion, then he must be obedient. If man was to have immortality, he must be obedient, but if he proved unfaithful, he would forfeit his right to tenure and at length, forfeit his right to live. “He had a choice.”

Man made his choice; forfeited his right as a citizen of God’s kingdom. He forfeited his home in Eden and chose sin. Never again could man enter the gates of paradise as long as sin continued to contaminate his life. He became a wanderer in a world that reeled under the weight of God’s disappointed displeasure. People multiplied upon the earth, and the sad result of sin became evident in jealousy and strife. Sin not only unfits the sinner for eternal life but also for his temporal life. It robs him of his manhood and weakens both his spiritual and physical power. It removes the image of God from the soul and renders man little better than the beast of the field. His innocence is destroyed along with his purity and God-likeness. It replaces the love that God planted in the human spirit with suspicion, hatred, sorrow, misery, want, woe, heartache, and bitterness of tears.

The world before the flood demonstrated this. Evil dominated the imaginations of men and as a result violence filled the earth, and men chose to follow their own sinful desires. Crime and wretchedness were on the increase. Neither marriage relationships nor the rights of property were respected. Whoever coveted the spouse of his neighbour took her by force and men were proud of their violent deeds. Within a period under two thousand years, Satan had turned God’s beautiful world into something like hell. And the Lord looked down from heaven and said, “My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.” Gen. 6:3

God told Noah of the coming destruction because Noah was still faithful. “Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shall thou make in the ark and shalt pitch it within and without... The length of the ark shall be 300 cubits; the breadth of it 50 cubits and the height of it 30 cubits.” Gen. 6:14. 15 Doom was approaching, Noah obeyed and made preparation. Each morning and evening his voice could be heard. He was preaching righteousness but the world mocked him. Philosophers turned up to listen to him in order to prove him wrong. “Your message is an amusing impossibility,” they laughed. “This world has never seen rain since it began and will never see rain. Destruction on the scale you predict simply couldn’t happen, but since you are so determined, go ahead and build your ark anyway and we’ll prove you wrong a thousand times.” The scoffers had their fun at Noah’s expense. “Hey Noah, when are the rains coming? Day in and day out, you have been talking about the rains but they’ve never come. Give us a break, go home and give your voice a rest.” The lazy-minded people came to listen to him preaching. They amused him and said, “Your ideas are weird.” Even if it did rain, we would simply

climb to the highest mountain peaks. And for your ark, it will be covered with water like everything else. You are wasting your energy. It can't happen. But since you're so set on it, work on, build your ark, and when the rains come, we will watch you swim in it." The half-decided people came to Noah. "Tell us more about this rain, it all sounds highly unlikely, but there may be something in what you say. If God really talked to you, it might be true. God took Enoch from us to prove He can do anything. We'll take a chance. We'll back you. And that was the end of these people. They never fully surrendered their lives to God. With the passing of time, they joined the scoffers.

Young people came by and said, "hey, old man, you have been talking about rain for over 100 years now, so why haven't the rains come? You're a joker! But the jokes are getting tired! Those who first heard you are all dead and you will die before the rains come and so will we!"

For 120 years Noah did his best to warn the people. Everyone had the opportunity to listen to him preach. Everyone had a chance to visit his workshop and there were some who helped him. And everyone had the opportunity to choose either life or death. Sadly all chose death—and went beyond God's boundary of forbearance.

Building the ark was a major undertaking. At last it was finished and every necessary preparation was completed. Sufficient food was to be stored. Noah heard a familiar voice, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, male and a female, and a pair of the animals which are not clean, male and female, and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive upon the face of the earth. For in seven days I will send rain upon the earth 40 days and 40 nights, and every living thing that I have made, I will blot out from the face of the ground." Gen. 7:1-4.

Noah was glad that the work was finished, but his heart was heavy. He looked around at the beautiful hills, the huge trees, the heart-expanding landscape. His heart was full of sorrow as he looked at the people, his own people. He had laboured for these people for 120 years, and they had rejected

God's plan of salvation. With one final appeal, he pleaded with them. With tears in his voice, he begged them to come with him into the ark. But they would not come. God forces no one to do His will.

Animals in an orderly fashion walked into the ark while people watched them with awe. Some of them came close to making a decision to join Noah, but they were afraid of the derision of the multitude, so people passed up their opportunity to join with Noah. He went with only seven members of his family into the ark, and that means only eight people out of the vast population! Think of it!! If you were living in the old world before the flood, would you have been among the eight?

The animals and eight humans were in the ark waiting. The first day went past peacefully with only feeding the animals for occupation. The people outside were afraid for a time, but since nothing happened, all their fears also disappeared. They looked up and saw no sign of rain. The world seemed as secure as it had always been. The skies looked bright as ever. The ground looked firm and secure. Everything around them seemed as if it was built to last, and so the whole idea of a vast flood destroying all this vegetation was unthinkable. The birds were still singing their songs. The flowers were perfuming the air. There was nothing to worry about!

On the second day life went on its unvarying round, it was business as usual (buying, selling, and drinking) and some people had forgotten about Noah completely. Then the third, fourth, and fifth day still there was no change. On the seventh day the people were confirmed in their belief in Noah's "madness." One insult after another fell on the ears of Noah and his family. It was a severe test for Noah and those with him. Their faith had been tried to the utmost. God could have destroyed the world immediately after Noah entered the ark. He chose not to do so because Noah had to prove to the universe that he believed and trusted every word that came from the mouth of God. Do you believe and trust the words of God?

The people outside had great fun; they were celebrating Noah's silence. Little

did they know that their doom was forever fixed. They were living through their last days on earth; they were using their time to mock and to deride. And it came to pass after seven days, the clouds gathered, with thunder roaring like the wrath of God, fear struck all. Lightning struck in angry stabs, then the flight began. All over the land, everybody began to surge towards the higher ground, a place of refuge—the ark, requesting and pleading with Noah to open the door for them, but it was too late. This was the Bible account stated in Gen. 7:11. In the terrific storm, as waters broke through the crust of the earth and gushed upwards, they met the waters in the down-pouring from the sky. The result was a mighty flood that swept the wicked from the face of the earth. Remember, all ridicule of the warnings of God's servant



was forgotten. Doomed sinners longed for the opportunities which they had slighted, but the sweet mercy spoke to them no more. All in all, everything died upon the earth except Noah's family and that which were with him in the ark; and the water prevailed upon the earth 150 days. The last day for the antediluvians was one for which they were not prepared. Every effort was made to prepare them, but because of their unbelief, they died as people who did not know what was coming, despite 120 years of warning.

If today were your last day on earth, would you die like the antediluvians with no hope of eternal life? As it was in the days of Noah, said, Jesus, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man. They did eat, drink, they married wives, they were given in marriage until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed! Luke 17: 26, 27, 30. This

is surely an accurate description of our present generation, marriage and divorce, juvenile delinquency, crime, alcoholism, diseases of various kinds, violence, hatred, and hard words. There is no time for God and for the last warning for the people. There are many people who hear God's last appeals and they are persuaded that they should accept them, but like in the time of Noah, people try to laugh it off, put off their decision to another day. They find it difficult to commit their lives wholly to God. Some think it would hurt their reputation if they surrendered their will to God, some fear they would lose their jobs, lose family relationships and friends, while some see no sense at all in being a Christian and a child of God. 2 Pet. 3: 6, 10 says, "through which the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist have been stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousands years... the Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise and the elements will be dissolved with fire and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up."

Where will you be? And what will you be found doing? No matter what we say, come when it may, the end will catch the ungodly unawares. On one business day, a usual day—everyone absorbed in their pleasures, in traffic, in money-making—a voice will be heard from the sky. As the midnight steals from the unguarded dwelling, so shall sudden destruction come upon the careless, the stubborn, the ungodly, and all shall not escape. We will suddenly hear the voice that shakes the heavens and that shudders the planet. (Rev. 16:18) Time has come that people have begun to run faster than in Noah's time with all these things which are happening in the world today. For example, hailstorms doing its work of destruction, big cities laid down, great palaces on which men have lavished their wealth will crumble before their eyes, and fire enveloping the earth. AIDS, which is sweeping our beloved ones, this only shows the end of time and because of our stubbornness, there will be no hiding place

from the Lord who is and will be returning through the vaulted heavens. Remember, when He is coming, it will be the most awesome event since creation. Psalm 50: 3 says, "Our Lord comes, He does not keep silence, before Him is a devouring fire, round about him a mighty tempest. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He will judge His people." On that day, the world will be turned upside down. The power that holds its foundation in place will be loosened.

Where will you and me stand on that day, or if Jesus was to appear at this moment, would we be able to meet Him in peace? Are you already making preparations for His coming? If Jesus was to come tonight, would you be among the redeemed? At His coming, He will deal with only two groups of people; those on His side and those on the enemy's side. Decide now because on that day it will be too late, and thank God that it is not too late now! We can still have our sins forgiven if we confess them. We can still have them blotted out if we go to Calvary. It is now that we must take the chance, either for God to blot out our sins from the book of record or for our names to be blotted out of the book of life. No more, no less! The time in which we live demands total decision and action. There is no room for neutrality. It is either God or the world; no room for both. It is like the time of Elijah when he called fire on Mount Carmel. It was either God or Baal. It is the time for immediate decision and action. God's spirit is pleading with all inhabitants on this earth. He wants us to make a decision before the seven last plagues are poured out; for then it will be too late to repent and find shelter. Tears of sorrow will be falling too late. This is the right time, the atoning blood of Christ is ready to wash your sins away and only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life shall be delivered. When the time of trouble comes, every case will be decided either for life or for death! The most fearful warnings of all time are being proclaimed to the inhabitants of this earth. The angels of God are soon to let loose the winds of strife. Every prophecy pointing to the second coming has been fulfilled in every detail. He will soon be back. He is a man of His word. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:3. these words alone are enough for me. "He that

shall come will come and will not tarry."

The doors of the heavenly place are being prepared for each one of us, and God's angels will welcome us to our new home. Absolutely no doubt about it. Now is the time to make the final preparation for entering the promised land! The golden opportunity is now or never! You do not have to be among those who will run to the rocks of the mountains and call upon them to hide them from the face of Jesus when He will come. My friend, it is time to make Jesus your refuge, to be with those who sacrificed all for Him because He sacrificed all for them. On that day all our troubles will be forever past—all our diseases will be healed, all our financial problems will be gone, all our family problems will be ended, the whole load of sin will be forever past. We shall also see our loved ones and friends!

Is it your joy to go to heaven and to get out of this horrible world of suffering and sin—to drink the water of life? Is it your joy to see God the Father, the Holy Spirit and God the Son? There is no reason why you or I should remain here. Heaven is "empty" without us. Heaven is a glorious place! Remember, Jesus cherished our friendship with Him more than all the golden streets, more than all the songs of praise from heavenly choirs. He left all this so that He could be with us. He suffered torture and the death of a common criminal to put us right with God. Now He wants us to come and be with Him. And this is the reason why Jesus is right with God. Now He wants us to come and be with Him. And this is the reason why Jesus is coming again; to take us home, to put an end to sin, suffering, and death. How much God wants you and me to be among the saved, to be among the great multitude standing before the throne of God. Brethren, it should be our desire to be with Jesus where He is; our desire to walk with Him in this life and in the life to come, but how? By committing our whole life into His hands and determining in our heart to live a life that is directed towards heaven. And let this be our prayer to meet someday before the throne of God, holding hands together and looking into the face of Jesus, the One who died for our sins and has redeemed us into His perfect grace. *AMEN.*

Willkister Ankinyi Outah, Kenya



Years ago in Jackson Park, Chicago, an infidel gathered a crowd around him. Then he began to denounce God. "If there is a God, look at what a terrible mess He has gotten the world into. If there is a God, why doesn't He do something about it? If there is a God, I challenge Him here and now to strike me dead in the next three minutes."

In awed silence the crowd waited. The minutes ticked off. When the three minutes were up, the infidel shouted, "See, this proves that there is no God."

Then he challenged anyone in the crowd to come up and prove that he was wrong. For several seconds no one made a move. Then an old woman with a shawl around her shoulders made her way through the crowd. Standing before the infidel, she asked, "Sir, do you have any children?"

"Yes, I have two fine boys and two lovely little girls."

"If one of them would come to you with a butcher knife and say, 'Here, Daddy, kill me,' would you do it?"

"I love them so much that I could not even think of killing them," the infidel responded.

Then the old woman said, "This is why God didn't strike you dead during those three minutes. He loves you. He gave His only Son that you might have your sins forgiven and be saved. You'd better accept His offer."

Most assuredly, God loves the sinner and wants to save everyone from certain destruction. He is appealing to the world to repent and to respond to His amazing love. As a parent searches for his lost child, so God also has been involved in a last, gigantic effort to rescue lost sinners headed for death.

A special and urgent three-fold message recorded in the book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, is circling the earth urging everyone to accept God's plan of salvation. "The last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love." Christ's Object Lessons, p. 415.

All must choose either to accept or to reject this message of love. No one can be neutral in this decision.

As the gospel is being preached, the sealing of the 144,000 saints is also in progress. In other words, God is making up His jewels for His kingdom. He is polishing and perfecting the characters of His people so that they can be prepared for the unleashing of the seven last plagues and the second coming of Jesus. "The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God--candidates for heaven." Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 216.

Today, each person's character is being tested to reveal the hidden and unknown sins that still need to be overcome. While God's elect are being sealed by the Holy Spirit, our Savior is ministering as a high priest and advocate on behalf of His dear children. This solemn work

has been going on since the year 1844 in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. Each and every day, names of the professed people of God come up for examination to determine if they are worthy of everlasting life. In other words, there is a court session in heaven which will decide our destiny.

In order to complete the number 144,000, God not only works through the Holy Spirit, but also uses human instrumentalities to gather in people into His church. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come, and let him that heareth say, come, and let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22: 17. As the laborers unite their efforts with God, there will be phenomenal success. "When divine power is combined with human effort the work will spread like fire in the stubble." 1 Selected Message, p.118.

Very soon the 144,000 will ALL be

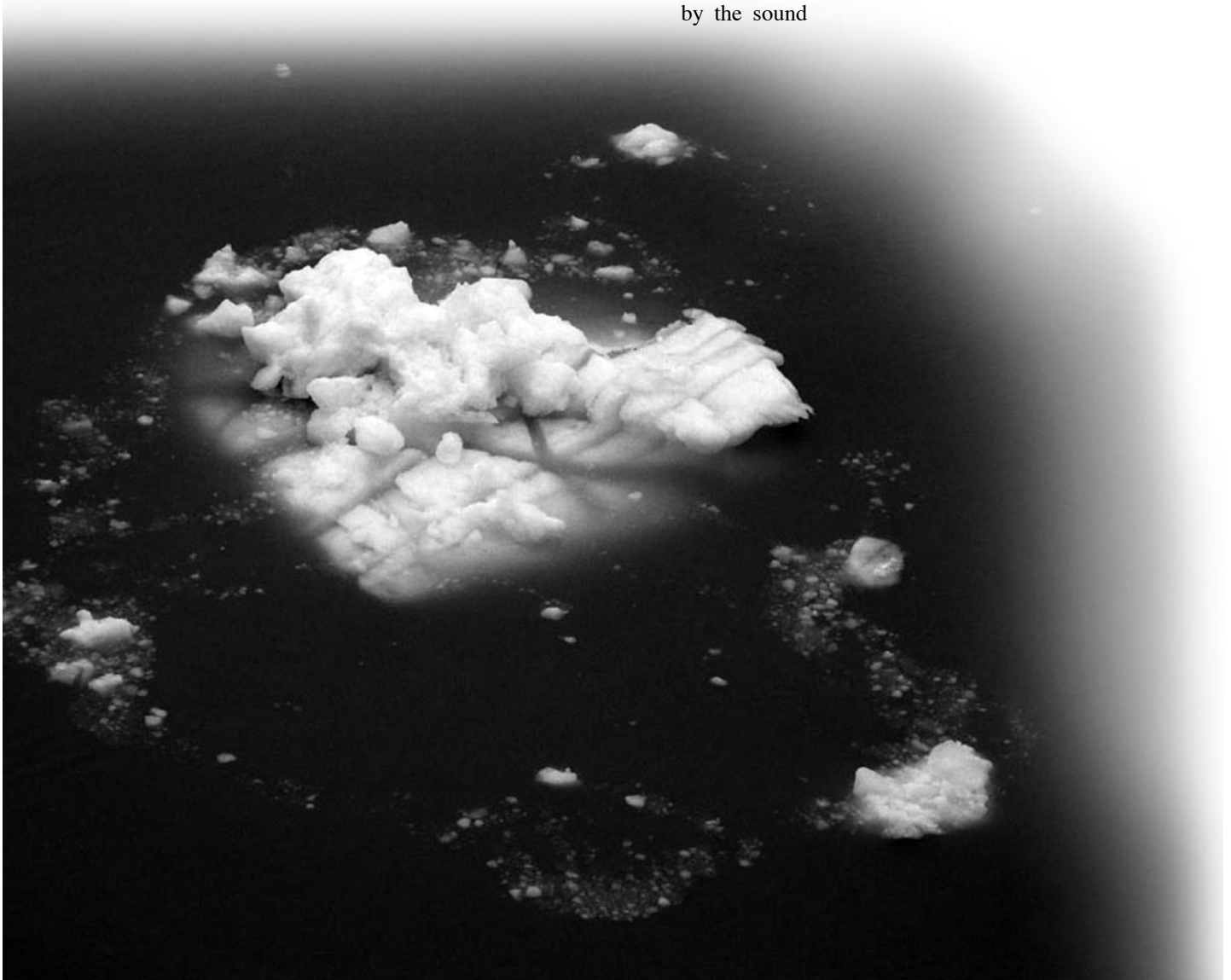
sealed and will be ready for translation. Before they go to heaven, another voice (Revelation 18:4) will sound to call the faithful out of the confusion of Babylon.

It was twilight when a Minnesota farmer started to cross a lake in his small sailboat. As he was sailing along, the wind suddenly changed and a gust overturned his boat in the middle of the lake. Being a good swimmer, he started to swim toward the part of the shore where he thought his house was located. It was springtime, and the water was covered with masses of floating ice. In the darkness, he became confused and disoriented and swam in the wrong direction. His strength began to give out. As he was about to give up and sink into the freezing water, he heard a voice. It was that of his little girl on the back porch of their home, calling, "Father, Father!" Her voice put fresh life into his exhausted body. He thought, "If she would only call once more, I could tell which way home is by the sound

of her voice. I am afraid she will go into the house and close the door, because she has heard no reply to her call." Then another call came, "Father!" The sound told him he had gotten turned around in the darkness and was going in the wrong direction. He fought his way through the ice and at last reached the shore and home.

Dear Friend, there is a voice calling you. If you are a part of the remnant church, the call of God is "Be faithful to the end." If you are not in His remnant, the call of God is "Come into My remnant." It is my prayer that you will answer "YES" to Jesus' call. **AMEN.**

Henry Dering, U.S.A



JOURNEY TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Rev. 2-3



Patmos

was much longer--4 1/2 hours--so that we arrived in Patmos at 2 30 PM. It was a great moment beholding the island and everybody took pictures and

islands and some fishing boats.

Our guide gave us a lecture before entering the sacred grotto, which is now a Greek Orthodox worship area (no other churches are permitted in Patmos), where speaking is not allowed except by the guide. We go down 40 steep steps through the monastery area above the cave, into the once open cave or grotto that has been made into a church. The lady tells us all kinds of things she believes is the truth; she has no idea how well we know the Bible, but did not interrupt her as she was very serious with her presentation.

The stories about John are very sacred to those in Patmos, and the imagination of the spot where he supposedly laid his head, where his hand was leaning on the rock (enclosed with a golden rim) and where he dictated the vision to his companion and pupil Prochoros, turned it into a place of almost cult-like worship. This ruins the sacredness of the place with its many icons, hanging censers, golden encasements and other decorations displayed at the side of the rock, destroying the impression of the holy atmosphere when contemplating about the visit of Jesus Christ to John in this small, dark place, to reveal to

Tour 4: Patmos

The last excursion is coming on, we are excited and a long day awaits us. We leave at 6 AM, moving over two hours south to a certain harbour to bring us to a ship reserved there for us. The customs officers delayed our departure with unnecessary red tape, though days before our passports had been registered. Nevertheless five persons had to stay behind, or else pay a high price for the visa to Greece, which they could not afford. There was a nice touristy city, where they could stroll through many bazaars, shops, seaside spots, etc., until we would return.

At first the boat ride started out fine; it was a bit windy, with a blue sky. When we got through the passages between islands into the open sea, the waves got higher and some started to get sick. We were told the trip would be 3 hours, but it

videos, the closer we got. We didn't have much time for any shopping in this picturesque little harbor town of Skala, to get some postcards or souvenirs. A bus awaited us with a lady guide, who brought us up the hill to the spot where the grotto was located, where John received the vision of the Revelation of Christ. The view from up there was breath-taking, overlooking modern Patmos, with three small towns strewn over the island with a population of 3000. The island is not as dreary as it was in John's time when it served as a prison; the white, Greek country-style houses nestled along the rocky hills give it a charming, inviting appearance. Today, tourist places and beaches make Patmos a desirable holiday spot for those who love and appreciate a peaceful, quiet, unspoiled environment.

The harbour is dotted with small, colourful ferries from other Greek



In The Bus



Patmos Harbour



Island of Patmos



Mural of John & Proch

him the most wonderful messages about the future of the church of God. They say that the voice of Jesus cracked the walls of the cave. What an experience it must have been for the apostle exiled there, who was considered to be silenced there on this forsaken place (95AD)! John seeing his beloved Lord in a glory indescribable, how his heart must have burned with love for Jesus, and with what energy and enthusiasm he must have dictated all the messages and visions to Prochoros.

John was released after 1 1/2 years, so we are told, and went to Ephesus to look after the churches in the region, where he lived till 100AD. Mary must have died long ago.

We drive up the hill to the top, and walk many stairs up to another monastery within the walls of an old citadel which also once had a temple dedicated to Artemis, and upon the very same spot a Basilica had been built (300-500 AD) dedicated to John. A large building complex of mixed architecture from Greek and Byzantine times contains a library, chapels, monk's quarters, workshop for restoration, warehouse, etc. There is a little court with balconies and arches, very charming, the living quarter of the priests, and a typical Orthodox church (1600 AD) with its icons about John and other saints, gold covered carvings and lamps.

We come down to the harbour and have to hurry to the boat. It is 6PM and a long way back home is before us. There would be more to say about Patmos, but time and place do not permit. It was a very impressive experience to see this island, chosen by God for his purpose, and surely it was a privilege to come here. This journey will not be forgotten by any one who participated, not only for seeing the island, but what happened afterwards on the way back to Turkey.

We had a wind already on the way over here, and hoped it would abate later on. But, as soon as we were out of the coastal area and hit the open waters, the white caps had increased considerably and stirred up the deep. Suddenly the boat was rocking wildly, the waters gushed in at the sides, high clouds of spray hit the deck. You had to be inside,

sitting on the quite comfortable benches. Walking became impossible, for one was flung to all sides when moving. Bottles at the counter crashed to the floor, and every body was getting concerned. As we later talked about it, many were very afraid, and all said that they had never experienced such a wild ride on the sea. Even the captain, we heard, had prayed and was concerned about our safety. The waves got higher and higher making the ship tip sharply to the sides. The captain, very experienced, had often to throttle the engine when the ship headed right into the high billows to weaken the impact, otherwise it could capsize, becoming a play toy to the enraged waters. For myself, when it began to be really stormy, was reminded of the incident on the Sea of Galilee, when the storm broke loose and the disciples were afraid for their lives, yet they had Jesus on board, sleeping peacefully and then He calmed the sea. So I prayed and said to the Lord, surely You will not let us perish here, having brought us to Turkey to see the places of the early churches and to this island of your revelation. You will bring us back to tell others about it all. I was then not the least afraid and also did not get sick. Meanwhile most of the group got violently ill, everywhere some one lay either on the benches or on the floor. I felt terribly sorry for them; it is a most awful experience to be so seasick.

It was after 10 PM when we finally reached the harbour, the storm meanwhile had abated before we reached the close coastal waters. And after 1 30 AM, the bus turned into the gate of our hotel, and everyone headed for the bed. Next morning we had everything delayed for an hour or more to recover from a very long unforgettable journey. It was now Friday. God be praised forever that everything went well, and no injuries or other detrimental incident occurred in those memorable two weeks in the land of the Seven Churches. On Sunday most departed early and later some on Monday morning. May each participant keep those experiences in mind and learn from them, not only from the personal ones, but of the events taking place almost 2000 years ago in the lives and churches of God's people. Amen.

It would be wonderful if other biblical
www.imsessenger.org



Monastery Above Cave



Citadelle Orthodox Church



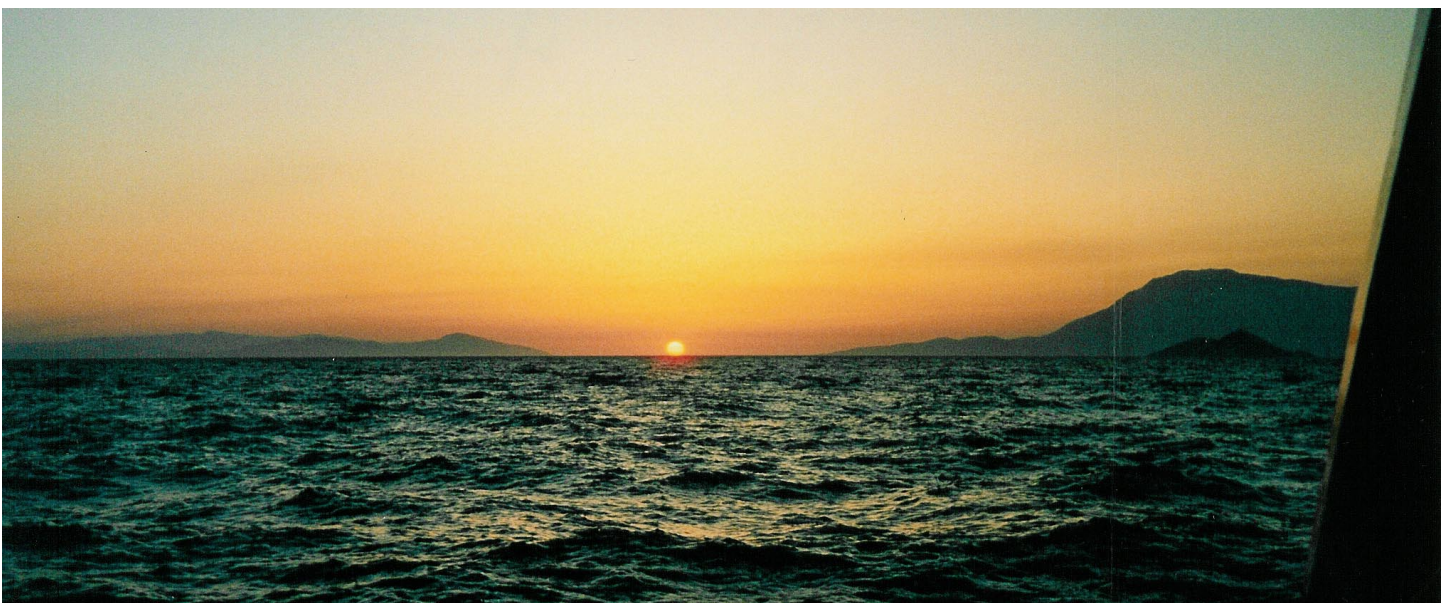
Citadelle Orthodox Church

journeys could be organized, such as visiting the places in Greece where Paul laboured and traveled. Or other places of Paul's labour in Turkey, etc.!
Edda Tedford, Canada.

P.S. For the information taken from several sources I do not claim total correctness, in case someone finds a date or name or place incorrect to his knowledge. I had no way of proving them either way, as I had to put this together in just a few days. Thank you for your forbearance. E.T.



Sabbath in Turkey



Sunset On The Black Sea



HEALTH MATTERS:

HEART DISEASE ATHEROSCLEROSIS

What is it?

Sometimes called arteriosclerosis or hardening of the arteries, this is the narrowing and thickening of your blood vessels due to a buildup of cholesterol-rich plaque. It's similar to what happens when you continually pour grease down your kitchen sink—the grease eventually hardens and blocks the flow of water. In the same way, plaque blocks your blood flow, increasing your risk of stroke, heart attack—even death. High cholesterol, lack of exercise, diabetes and high blood pressure put you at risk for this disease.

Eat to defeat heart disease

Just as a traffic jam can bring a city to a standstill, gridlock in your blood vessels can do all sorts of damage to your body. If your blood has trouble moving through your arteries, you're at a greater risk for a heart attack, stroke, varicose veins, and a host of other diseases. Fortunately, you can improve your circulation naturally with a combination of herbs and food.

Ginkgo biloba. Aspirin can make your blood less sticky and a blood clot and stroke less likely. Unfortunately, aspirin can upset your stomach and sometimes cause internal bleeding. But now you have another option. A supplement called

gingko biloba, made from a tree that existed in China for thousands of years can also do the job.

Laboratory tests show that ginkgo keeps blood clots from forming, making it a good stroke fighter. Although it works much like aspirin, side effects are rare. (Be sure your preparation is not made with ginkgo seeds, which can be toxic and cause seizures.)

Ginkgo can also relieve symptoms of intermittent claudication, a condition that causes severe pain in your calf muscles when you walk because of poor blood supply to your legs. Many people find they can walk further without pain when they take this supplement. In addition, there are usually few side effects. Take 120 to 160 milligrams (mg) per day with meals for relief.

Horse chestnut. Studies show this seed extract helps people with varicose veins and chronic venous insufficiency, a condition where the valves of your veins don't work properly. Blood has trouble making its way back to your heart so it builds up in your lower legs. Taking horse chestnut seed extract for two weeks can reduce swelling in your calves and ankles as well as relieve other symptoms such as leg pain, itching, and fatigue. Make sure your extract has 100 to 150 mg of escin, the

active ingredient in this herb.

Garlic and onions. These two members of the allium family fight poor circulation while adding flavour to your meals. The sulfur compounds in garlic and onions keep your platelets from clumping together and making your blood sticky. Just a clove of garlic a day will help unclog your arteries, but check with your doctor first if you're taking warfarin or other blood-thinning medication. Choose yellow or red onions for the most health benefits. Cook with both garlic and onions instead of salt to help fight high blood pressure, another big risk factor for stroke.

Grape juice. After years of taking grapes apart and examining the pieces, scientists have decided they are the healthiest just as they are—whole. Grape seed extract and grape skin extract each, on its own, does little to stop your blood from clotting and blocking your arteries. But when the two substances are combined, the mixture can reduce platelet clumping by 91 percent. And that's why grape juice, made from whole grapes, is a heart-smart choice. Two glasses of purple grape juice a day can rejuvenate your veins and arteries and have you feeling brand new.

Nuts and seeds. Rich in both unsaturated fats and vitamin E, foods like walnuts,



sesame seeds, and almonds provide a one-two punch against heart attack, stroke, and other circulation problems.

Unsaturated fats help prevent clots and lower cholesterol, which can clog your arteries and make it harder for your blood to get through. Vitamin E stops LDL, or bad, cholesterol from clinging to your artery walls, decreasing your risk for heart attack or stroke. In one study, women who took vitamin E supplements for more than two years had 41 percent less heart attacks. Low levels of this antioxidant vitamin are also associated with diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and intermittent claudication.

Another source of unsaturated fat is olive oil. You can find vitamin E in wheat germ, vegetable oils, and green leafy vegetables.

Fruits and vegetables. These nutritional powerhouses have a lot to offer, including fiber, vitamins, and minerals. Along with vitamin E, the antioxidants beta carotene (which your body turns into vitamin A) and vitamin C help lower your risk for stroke. Vitamin C strengthens your small blood vessels and thins your blood so that it flows more smoothly, while vitamin A rejuvenates your tissues and cell lining. Both also boost your immune system and rid your body of toxins.

Eat carrots, plums, tomatoes, and watercress for a healthy dose of these important nutrients. But don't stop there. Asparagus, cantaloupe, pinto beans, beets, and leafy greens provide folic acid, a B vitamin that protects your heart. Many grain products in the United States are now fortified with folic acid because experts estimated that 50,000 fewer Americans would die from heart attacks each year if manufacturers added folic acid to breads and other products.

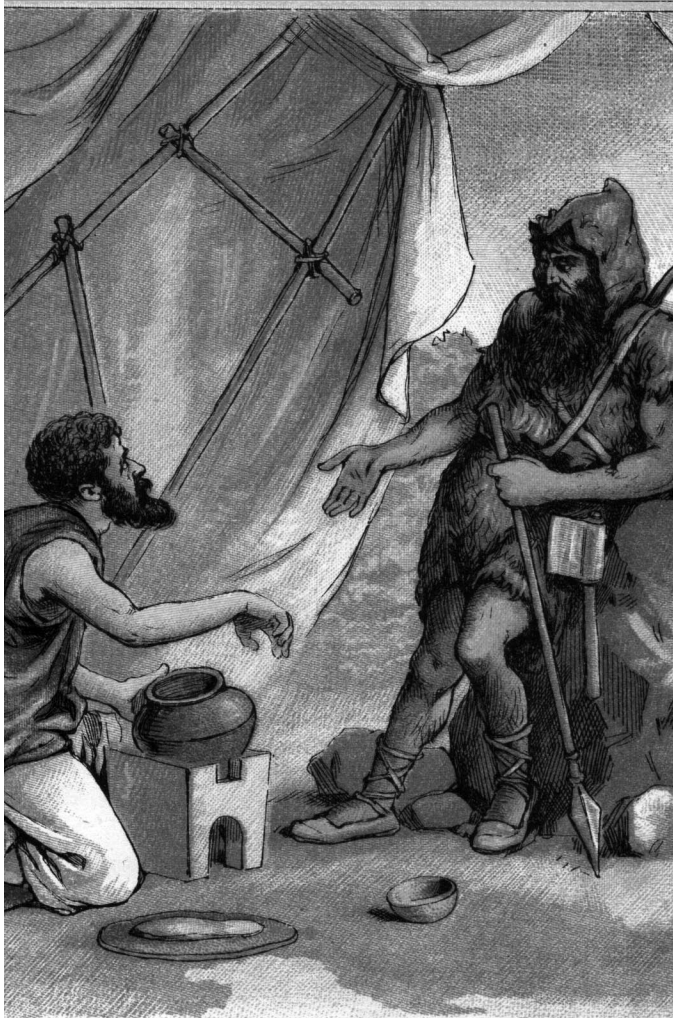
Flax. Whether in the form of flaxseed oil, or flaxseeds, this plant gives you a good amount of alpha-linolenic acid, a type of omega-3 fatty acid that lowers blood pressure and your risk for stroke. This wonder food also fights arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, stomach disorders and even mental problems. It also protects against cancers of the breast, prostate, and colon.

Use flaxseed oil in salad dressings, soups, or sauces, or sprinkle flaxseeds on cereals and salads. Bake with flax flour, or stir in some flaxseeds for crunchy cookies, breads, or muffins. But add flax to your diet slowly—too much, too fast can give you gas if you are not used to it. you'll also find alpha-linolenic acid in walnuts as well as walnut or canola oil.

Beans. By providing plenty of protein without artery-clogging cholesterol and saturated fat, beans and other legumes make wonderful alternatives to meat. Beans are also high in fiber, which can protect your heart and shrink your stroke risk, and have been shown to lower cholesterol. And when your protein comes from beans and other vegetables, you can improve your chances of avoiding cancer and liver damage.



BIRTHRIGHT



What is a birthright? Firstly, a “right” is a benefit that you are entitled to that you did not have to earn. According to the dictionary it is, “that which is due to anyone by just claim.” If accused of a crime, you have certain rights before you are brought to court. Also, as a citizen of a certain country you have certain rights. For example, in Australia every citizen has a right to free medical care. We also have a right to clean water, appropriate housing and education. A birthright then would be something you would be entitled to – not that you’ve ever earned it, but it is any right or privilege that you are entitled to by birth; you are entitled to it simply because you were born. It may be that you were born first in line and therefore are entitled to certain privileges that subsequent children born to the family are not entitled to.

A BIRTHRIGHT YOU ARE BORN WITH

A birthright is also talked about as a character trait that is passed on from a mother to her children; your inherited character traits.

“Many have received, as their birthright, both strong and weak points of character, which are positive defects. These peculiarities colour the entire life.” 4T 360

The mother’s attitudes and demeanour while pregnant have a great impact on the unborn child. “The thoughts and feelings of the mother will have a powerful influence upon the legacy she gives her child. If she allows her mind to dwell upon her own feelings, if she indulges in selfishness, if she is peevish and exacting, the disposition of her child will testify to the fact. Thus many have received as a birthright almost unconquerable tendencies to evil. The enemy of souls understands this matter much better than do many parents. He will bring his temptations to bear upon the mother, knowing that if she does not resist him, he can through her affect her child. The mother’s only hope is in God. She may flee to Him for strength and grace; and she will not seek in vain.” AH 241. It is easy to judge children when we see them unruly however the mother may bear the greater guilt.

“Let the heart of the instructor be linked with the hearts of those under his charge. Let him remember that they have many temptations to meet. We little realize the objectionable traits of character given to the youth as a birthright, and how often temptation comes to them as a result of this birthright.” GW 211. Be patient and find out the root cause of the person’s difficulties and address the root cause, rather than condemn the symptoms.

CORRECT INHERITED NEGATIVE CHARACTER TRAITS

Many excuse their faults because they say they have inherited these tendencies to evil from their parents. They feel that it is impossible to change and make no efforts to this end.

“But many have inherited traits of character that in no way represent the divine Model. There are many who have some defect of character received as a birthright, which they have not overcome, but have cherished as though it were fine gold, and brought with them into their religious experience. In many cases these traits are retained through the entire life. For a time no particular harm may be seen to result from them; but the leaven is at work, and when a favourable opportunity arrives, the evil manifests itself.” 5T 418

“But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26. God can do the impossible. If He can create the world in six days by

the Word of His mouth, He certainly has the power to change a sinful human being with a carnal heart, to a righteous human being with a heart of flesh. The only thing lacking is our faith and our desire to be changed. We love our idols too dearly to surrender them to the Lord.

INHERITED BIRTHRIGHT??

The meaning of birthright mentioned in the introduction will be now discussed.

In Ancient Israel the eldest son was the one who normally received the birthright. Under the Mosaic legislation these birthright privileges included:

1. succession to the official authority of the father,
2. the inheritance of a double portion of the father's prosperity
3. the privilege of becoming the family priest.

The birthright, "included not only an inheritance of worldly wealth but spiritual pre-eminence. He who received it was to be the priest of his family, and in the line of his posterity the Redeemer of the world would come. On the other hand, there were obligations resting upon the possessor of the birthright. He who should inherit its blessings must devote his life to the service of God. Like Abraham, he must be obedient to the divine requirements. In marriage, in his family relations, in public life, he must consult the will of God." PP 177

It is an unfortunate fact that people often want the birthright privileges, but don't want to fulfil the obligations that come along with these privileges as seen with the Jewish leaders in the time of Christ. "The Sadducees rejected the teaching of Jesus...[but]...Like the rest of the Jews, they boasted much of their birthright as children of Abraham, and of their strict adherence to the requirements of the law; but of the true spirit of the law and the faith and benevolence of Abraham, they were destitute." DA 604. They claimed all the promises of God as their own, not by obedience, but by birthright. However, they sadly failed in fulfilling the obligations that came along with the blessing.

ESAU'S BIRTHRIGHT

Esau is best known for selling his birthright for a morsel of food. In several Bible verses we can read that his sin was extremely

loathsome; he had separated himself from God so much so, that he was hated.

"I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness." Malachi 1:2, 3

"When Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." Romans 9:10, 12, 13.

The Lord here shows His preference for Jacob and his descendants over Esau and his descendants. This preference arose, not arbitrarily, but out of the relationship of the two brothers to God. Because Jacob was spiritually minded and had soul saving faith, loving the things of God, his sins were forgiven and he enjoyed God's favour and fellowship. Esau, on the other hand, was a worldly-minded, profane person, with no desire or love for divine things and so he put himself outside the divine favour.

Thus Esau despised his birthright. Gen. 25:34.

Although Esau loved material wealth and desired that portion of the birthright, he despised the spiritual obligations that were included, because he "had no love for devotion, no inclination to a religious life. The requirements that accompanied the spiritual birthright were an unwelcome and even hateful restraint to him. The law of God, which was the condition of the divine covenant with Abraham, was regarded by Esau as a yoke of bondage. Bent on self-indulgence, he desired nothing so much as liberty to do as he pleased. To him power and riches, feasting and revelling, were happiness. He gloried in the unrestrained freedom of his wild, roving life." PP 178

Is this true with some youth today who know the truth? Some who have grown up in the church? We are all given a spiritual birthright from Jesus when we are born again; when we are converted. This birthright will be fulfilled partly here on earth (peace and happiness) and fully when Jesus returns the second time to give us eternal life. Unfortunately, "there are very

many who are like Esau. He represents a class who have a special, valuable blessing within their reach,—the immortal inheritance, life that is as enduring as the life of God, the Creator of the universe, happiness immeasurable, and an eternal weight of glory,—but who have so long indulged their *appetites, passions, and inclinations*, that their power to discern and appreciate the value of eternal things is weakened." CC 61. Why did they lose their desire and appreciation of eternal things? Indulgence of appetite, passion and inclination. How few realize the danger of indulgence of appetite and how deep the depravity that Satan wants to plunge the human race.

APPETITE

In the Garden of Eden, Eve fell on the point of appetite. Such a simple test, but with grave consequences when the test is failed. Today many struggle with appetite. Satan makes the foods that are harmful to the health smell and look so tasty and many are too weak to resist the temptation. Indulgence of appetite has led many souls to ruin.

"Many are controlled by their appetite, and rather than to deny an unhealthy appetite will sacrifice high and valuable considerations." 3SG 116. "This is where many stumble; they waver between denial of appetite and its indulgence, and finally are overcome by the enemy and yield the truth." 4T 31. Many people today are allowing a very small part of their body, their taste buds, to control their entire being. Their "god is their belly" Phil. 3:19.

We may argue that we are vegetarian and therefore following God's plan for health. But is being only a vegetarian enough? No. In reading the Spirit of Prophecy there are many other health counsels that often are ignored or taken lightly. I don't need to mention them here, because I am sure many of us know what these are and where we fall short. Do we take these other health laws lightly? Were they simply written by a human agent? Or by the Lord Himself? So when we disregard these laws of health, we are disregarding God Himself.

"Esau had a strong desire for a particular article of food, and he had so long gratified himself that he did not feel the necessity of turning from the tempting, coveted dish. He allowed his imagination to dwell upon



it until *the power of appetite bore down every other consideration and controlled him*. He thought he would suffer great inconvenience, and even death, if he could not have that particular dish. *The more he reflected upon it, the more his desire strengthened, until his birthright lost its value and sacredness in his sight, and he bartered it away.*" CH 110. This can be true with any sin, not only appetite. The more a person lusts after sinful pleasures, the less sinful they appear. They get to a point where they feel they cannot live without them.

Temptation is not sin, however it can turn into sin if not resisted. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:14, 15. When a sinful thought enters the mind, it must be put away immediately. To dwell upon it for any length of time, as did Esau, will turn the thought into a desire and that will create lust for the sinful indulgence. Give all temptations over to the Lord immediately and He will give you victory.

LOVE OF MONEY

Possessing money and wealth is not sin. God can bless men with wealth as He blessed Abraham, Hezekiah and Solomon. When people begin to use these blessings exclusively for themselves by living a luxurious lifestyle, a curse is brought upon them. Many turn money into sin when it becomes the all-absorbing purpose in their lives. They are selling their birthright for money. "The Scriptures teach that wealth is

a dangerous possession only when placed in competition with the immortal treasure. It is when the earthly and temporal absorbs the thoughts, the affections, the devotion which God claims, that it becomes a snare. Those who are bartering the eternal weight of glory for a little of the glitter and tinsel of earth, the everlasting habitations for a home which can be theirs but a few years at best, are making an unwise choice. Such was the exchange made by Esau, when he sold his birthright for a mess of pottage; by Balaam, when he forfeited the favour of God for the rewards of the king of Midian; by Judas, when for thirty pieces of silver he betrayed the Lord of glory." CS 138

You may think that you have not sold your birthright for money, but ask yourself how much you put into the Lord's treasury every week and compare that with how much you spend for unnecessary luxury items, during the week, purely for the love of self, whether food or material goods. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:21. "The works of those men who have an insane love for riches show that it is not possible for them to serve two masters, God and mammon. Money is their god. They yield homage to its power. They serve the world to all intents and purposes. *Their honour*, which is their birthright, is sacrificed for worldly gain. This ruling power controls their minds, and they will violate the law of God to serve personal interests, to increase their earthly treasure." 3T 479. Our birthright from God is our honour. We need to preserve it and not sell it for the material wealth of this world which will soon be burned up.

EDUCATION

Education is good and necessary however, some people will sell their birthright for their education. "If, in obtaining an education, you become so absorbed in your studies that you neglect prayer and religious privileges, and become careless and indifferent to the welfare of your souls, if you cease to learn in the school of Christ, you are selling your birthright for a mess of pottage. The object for which you are obtaining an education should not be lost sight of for a moment. It should be to so develop and direct your faculties that you may be more useful and bless others to the extent of your ability. If by obtaining knowledge you increase your love of yourselves, and your inclination to excuse yourselves from bearing responsibilities, you are better without an education" 3T 223/4. The purpose of education is for the honour and glory of God. He has given us mental capabilities to be educated to be useful for His service; to be a benefit to mankind. Used for this purpose will bring a blessing to the student.

Any idol that is cherished above the Lord is an exchange made of the birthright that He is offering us.

ONE CARELESS MOMENT

"Esau... sold his birthright for a small indulgence to meet his present wants, and this determined the after course of his life." CC 61. His whole life changed its course.

In my garden this summer, I planted 5 cucumber plants and I have them climbing up a small tree and a fence. They have reached a height of about 2 metres and

are providing abundant cucumbers. One very hot day (47C) our dog, in an attempt to create a cool spot to lie down, dug in the dirt of my garden. In the process she dug up one of my cucumber plants. I didn't notice it until I saw the leaves wilting terribly. I was very sad and, upon investigation, discovered the source of the wilted leaves. I then attempted to replant the cucumber plant because the roots were still intact. I gave it much water and tender care. After a day the main stalk of the plant still contained wilted leaves, however a side shoot showed promise. The side shoot appeared to recover with the leaves nice and robust, however the main stalk never did recover.

I use this story to illustrate how the Christian life may be growing under the tender care of the Master Gardener. It may grow tall and robust, bearing much fruit, however in one careless moment, when the enemy comes in, our plant may be uprooted. We lost our connection with Jesus in a thoughtless moment. Although Jesus may replant our plant, we may never recover to our original state. We may always bear the scars of sin. To tamper with sin, even in the least bit is dangerous. There can be life-long consequences.

"Let none flatter themselves that the sins of their youth can easily be given up by and by. This is not so. Every sin cherished weakens the character and strengthens the habit; and physical, mental, and moral depravity result. You may repent of the wrong you have done, and set your feet in right paths; but the mold of your mind and your familiarity with evil will make it difficult for you to distinguish between right and wrong. Through the wrong habits you have formed Satan will assail you again and again." OHC 81

"In one moment, by hasty, passionate, careless words, 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!" RC 292. Esau's life changed forever by that one rash moment. We need to guard carefully our words and actions as they may have eternal consequences. Even if we repent we may bear scars in this life. Our nature is weakened and overcoming may become more difficult in the future.

SOUGHT WITH TEARS

Paul writes, "Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." Hebrews 11:16, 17.

"He flattered himself that he could dispose of his birthright at will and buy it back at pleasure; but when he sought to regain it, even at a great sacrifice, he was not able to do so. He then bitterly repented of his rashness, his folly, his madness, but it was all in vain. He had despised the blessing, and the Lord had removed it from him forever." CH 110

"He had lightly valued the blessing while it seemed within his reach, but he desired to possess it now that it was gone from him forever" How do we value eternity? Is it worth trading heaven for the sinful pleasures of this world? "Esau was not shut out from the privilege of seeking God's favour by repentance, but he could find no means of recovering the birthright. His grief did not spring from conviction of sin; he did not desire to be reconciled to God. He sorrowed because of the results of his sin, but not for the sin itself." PP 181

"There are many who fail to understand the true nature of repentance. Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned, and even make an outward reformation, because they fear that their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. But this is not repentance in the Bible sense. They lament the suffering, rather than the sin. Such was the grief of Esau when he saw that the birthright was lost to him forever." CC 63

Examine yourself. Why are you in the church? Do you love God with your entire heart mind and soul or are you simply fearing punishment? Do you pay your tithes and offerings only to gain the promised blessings that attend the giver of financial means, or do you give, because you love the Lord, expecting nothing in return?

TOO LATE

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jeremiah 8:20

"As Esau awoke to see the folly of his rash

exchange when it was too late to recover his loss, so it will be in the day of God with those who have bartered their heirship to heaven for selfish gratifications." PP 182

"Those professed Christians who come up to that last fearful conflict unprepared will, in their despair, confess their sins in words of burning anguish, while the wicked exult over their distress. These confessions are of the same character as was that of Esau or of Judas. Those who make them, lament the result of transgression, but not its guilt. They feel no true contrition, no abhorrence of evil. They acknowledge their sin, through fear of punishment; but, like Pharaoh of old, they would return to their defiance of Heaven should the judgments be removed." GC 620

"**Too late** will sinners realize that they have sold their birthright. The crown that they might have had shines upon the brow of another. The inheritance, which they might have had, is lost. Beware how you trifle with temptation. Beware how you boast of your strength. Christ is your everlasting strength; confide in God, lay hold of His strength, and He will bring you off conqueror and you will wear the crown of victory." HP 362

"All who endeavour to excuse or conceal their sins, and permit them to remain upon the books of heaven, unconfessed and unforgiven, will be overcome by Satan. The more exalted their profession and the more honourable the position which they hold, the more grievous is their course in the sight of God and the more sure the triumph of their great adversary. Those who delay a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble or at any subsequent time. The case of all such is hopeless." GC 620

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it." Amos 8:11, 12

"Then I saw Jesus lay off His priestly attire and clothe Himself with His most kingly robes. Upon His head were many crowns, a crown within a crown. Surrounded by the angelic host, He left heaven. The plagues were falling upon the inhabitants of the

earth. Some were denouncing God and cursing Him. Others rushed to the people of God and begged to be taught how they might escape His judgments. But the saints had nothing for them. The last tear for sinners had been shed, the last agonizing prayer offered, the last burden borne, the last warning given. The sweet voice of mercy was no more to invite them. When the saints, and all heaven, were interested for their salvation, they had no interest for themselves. Life and death had been set before them. Many desired life, but made no effort to obtain it. They did not choose life, and now there was no atoning blood to cleanse the guilty, no compassionate Saviour to plead for them, and cry, 'Spare, spare the sinner a little longer.' All heaven had united with Jesus, as they heard the fearful words, 'It is done. It is finished.' The plan of salvation had been accomplished, but few had chosen to accept it. And as mercy's sweet voice died away, fear and horror seized the wicked. With terrible distinctness they heard the words, 'Too late! Too late!'" EW 281

"What would they not give for one word of approval from God! But no, they must hunger and thirst on. Day after day have they slighted salvation, prizing earthly riches and earthly pleasure higher than any heavenly treasure or inducement. They have rejected Jesus and despised His saints. The filthy must remain filthy forever.'" EW 281. Examine yourselves? Are you ready for Jesus to come? What if He would come today? Where will you be?

WHAT IS NOT A BIRTHRIGHT

"No man receives holiness as a birthright, or as a gift from any other human being." Then how can we obtain it?

"Holiness is the gift of God through Christ. Those who receive the Saviour become sons of God. They are His spiritual children, born again, renewed in righteousness and true holiness. Their minds are changed. With clearer vision they behold eternal realities. They are adopted into God's family, and they become conformed to His likeness, changed by His Spirit from glory to glory. From cherishing supreme love for self, they come to cherish supreme love for God and for Christ... Accepting Christ as a personal Saviour, and following His example of self-denial--this is the secret of holiness." AG 120



LATTER RAIN ALL AROUND US

It is not very long now before we will experience the final events in this world's history. Those that have not overcome on every point, will not receive the Latter Rain. "There must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it." FLB 333

CONCLUSION

"This case of Esau is left on record as a warning to others. As Esau learned that Jacob had obtained the blessing, which would have belonged to him, had he not rashly sold it, he was greatly distressed. He repented of his rash act, when it was too late to remedy the matter. Thus will it be with sinners in the day of God, who have bartered away their heirship to heaven for selfish gratifications, and hurtful lusts. They will then find no place for repentance, although they may seek it, like Esau, carefully and with tears." 3SG 117

"Honesty, nobility, purity of soul, fellowship with God and angels, the heavenly hope, the eternal inheritance, the joys unspeakable and the bliss immeasurable, are your birthright, and will you barter away these treasures for sinful pleasure?... What shall worldly pleasures avail you when all the world shall be overwhelmed as was Sodom and destroyed like Gomorrah?" HP 362

"Today, Satan has great power in the world. He has been permitted to have proprietorship of this earth for an appointed

time. During this period, when iniquity prevails, men and women are given a chance to take sides. In every possible way, Satan tries to make the broad road attractive and the narrow road grievous, humiliating, and objectionable. He lays ingenious plans to allure men and women to indulge appetite. Cheap, unsatisfying pleasures are made all and in all in this degenerate age. Satan throws his glamour about these amusements, which eclipse eternal things. Many will sell their birthright, as did Esau, for trifling consideration by the indulgence of appetite. Worldly pleasure will appear more desirable to them than the heavenly birthright." UL 39.

You have been given a birthright by your parents – your inherited tendencies. It is a sinful, carnal nature, but it does not need to remain this way. Jesus' promised birthright is pure and holy. It will lead to perfection of character – a turning away from the things of this world. It is a birthright of peace, happiness and everlasting life; more wealth than can be found in the entire world. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have *right* to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14. What will you do with Jesus' birthright that He is offering you? Is it worth more to you than all the sinful pleasures and indulgences of this world? May God help us to appreciate the birthright that Jesus is offering to us and lay hold onto it. Soon, very soon, we will see the fulfilment of this promised birthright. "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Mat. 24:13. "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Revelation 3:11. *Amen*

Wendy Eaton, Australia



DRESS FOR WINTER WEATHER

It is a concern to see anyone out in the weather in winter on a cold day inadequately dressed. Bare legs, bare arms, bare head. Look at the animals. God has clothed them with fur or feathers from head to toe. But it is especially distressing to see someone who should know better, dressing in a way that endangers their health. Because worldlings wear pants, and our dear sisters discard that mode of dress, they sometimes end up dressing so that their lower limbs are not adequately protected. In fact, I would say this is more often the case than not.

When I attended the SDA church I noticed some sisters who would normally be wearing pants on the regular days of the week. But on Sabbath they dress differently—wearing skirts, nylons, and dress shoes—in winter! More than one

of these young women have gone to their graves in the last few years. I remember seeing one of them during a church service, come out into the foyer where I was, saying “I’m so cold!” She was shivering. No wonder!--the way she thought she had to dress. She is one of the young women whose funeral we attended in the recent past.

What! Are we going to follow blindly along? Thinking we are honouring God by “dressing up” or rather not dressing up?

The other day, not mentioning any names, a dear sister showed up at my door on a bitterly cold Sabbath day with bare legs and skimpy shoes.

“EDUCATE! EDUCATE! EDUCATE!” Our Lord said. So, please read the following carefully

and prayerfully: “Another evil which custom fosters is the unequal distribution of the clothing, so that while some parts of the body have more than is required, others are insufficiently clad. The feet and limbs, being remote from the vital organs, should be especially guarded from cold by abundant clothing. It is impossible to have health when the extremities are habitually cold; for if there is too little blood in them there will be too much in other portions of the body. Perfect health requires a perfect circulation; but this cannot be had while three or four times as much clothing is worn upon the body, where the vital organs are situated, as upon the feet and limbs.” MH “Dress”

“Whatsoever He saith unto you, do.” **AMEN**

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada

GOD IN THE BLUEBERRIES



CHILDRENS CORNER

Mother was out of work and greatly in need of money. Suddenly she remembered the blueberries on Farmer Jackson's property, and his need of pickers.

"Would you children like to go with me to pick blueberries?" she asked Ben and Amy. "We could earn a little money that way."

"Of course we'd like to! When can we begin?"

"Tomorrow, maybe," said Mother.

"But tomorrow's Friday," said Amy.

"I know," said Mother, "but we'll begin if we can, even though it is the end of the week."

Early next morning all three were out at the blueberry patch, picking away as hard as they could. Ben and Amy were thrilled to think they could help Mother like this, and they hoped they would have a lot of money to give her at the end of the day. They never grumbled once, no matter how tired they felt as the afternoon wore on.

By and by, Farmer Jackson drove up in his truck and loaded the boxes of blueberries, paying for them on the spot.

Amy received about \$1.50. Ben about \$2.00 and Mother a little bit more. All were grateful and happy.

It had been a good day, and now they had money enough to buy groceries for the weekend.

"It will be lovely to get home again and clean up," said Mother.

"Could we go by the creek?" asked Ben.

"Surely," said Mother, "if you don't mind the extra walk."

The children said they didn't mind, so off they all went through the blueberry patch to the creek. They had almost reached the bank when Amy gave a cry of alarm.

"My purse!" she cried. "Where is it?"

"Oh! You haven't lost it, have you?" asked Mother anxiously.

"I don't know," said Amy. "I had it only a few minutes ago, but it's gone. I must have dropped it somewhere."

"And it had all your money in it," Mother looked sad.

"Yes," said Amy. "A dollar and fifty cents. I never had so much money before."

"And we need it so badly," said Mother. "Come, let's look for it."

But the grass was long and the berry patch thick, and it was like looking for a needle in a haystack.

They searched for an hour without success. They looked everywhere, even in the creek, but found no trace of the purse.

Now the sun was getting low in the sky and they knew it would soon be dark. Hungry, weary, and discouraged, they stood for a moment wondering what to do next. Mother and Ben said they should go home and leave the purse, but Amy thought they should stay and take one more look.



“Don’t you think we should kneel down and ask God to help us?” she asked.

“Maybe we should,” said Mother. “Let’s do it.”

So they knelt there in the blueberry patch and told God all about their trouble, and how they needed His help right then and there, before darkness should fall.

“Please, dear God,” said Amy, “help me to find my purse. You know where it is. Do tell us. Then we can go home happy.”

Mother said Amen. So did Ben. And both hoped with all their hearts

that God would answer Amy’s prayer.

Then they all stood up and searched some more. But all in vain.

“I’m afraid we’ll have to go, dear” said Mother. “It’s getting so late. It’s too bad, I know, and I’m so sorry—“

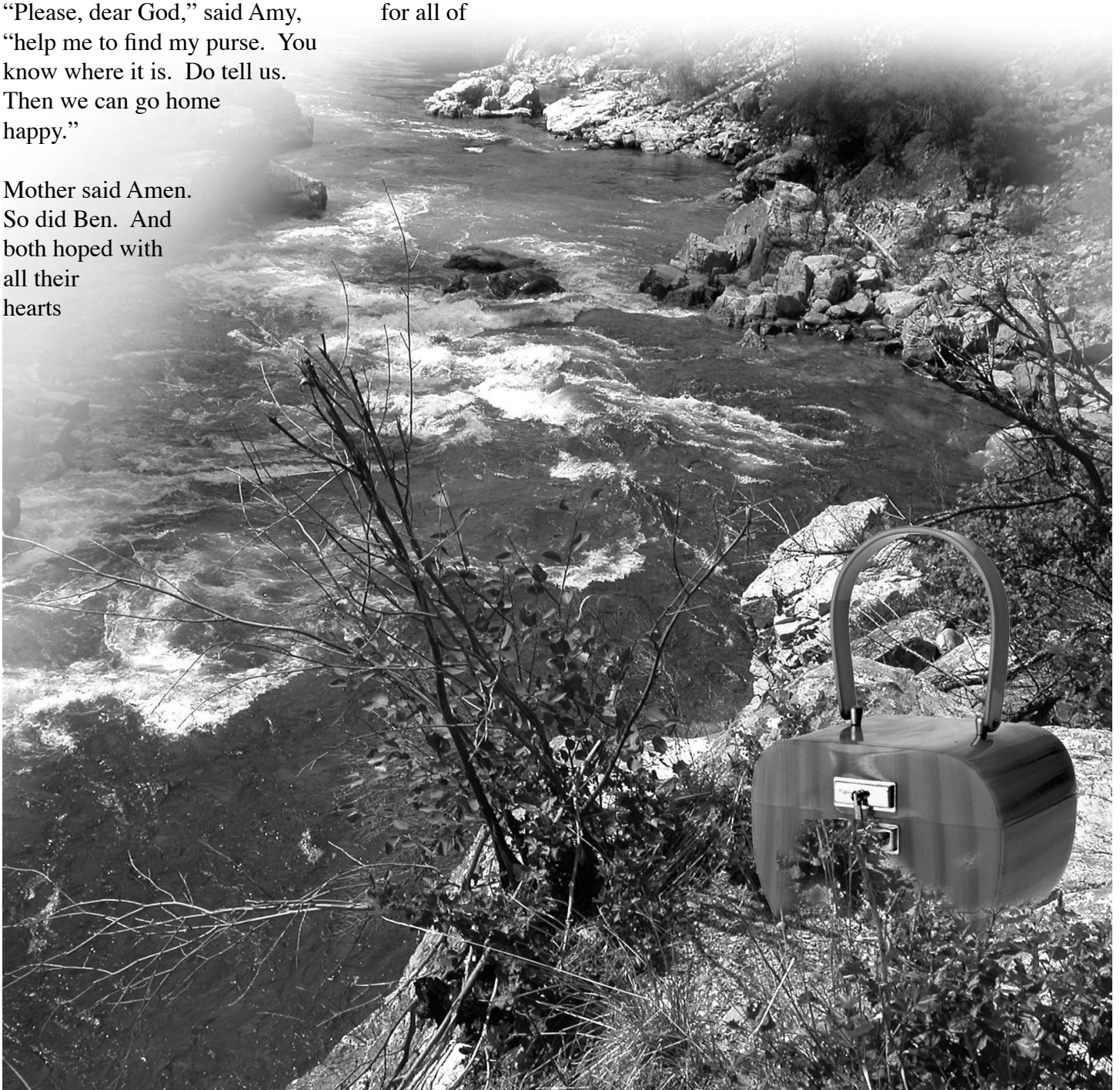
But she never finished the sentence, for all of

a sudden she shouted, “There it is!”

Amy’s purse was right at her feet, a yard or so from the creek. She had nearly stepped on it.

“Now we must have another prayer meeting,” said Amy, “and thank God for being so good to us.”

They did. Right there in the blueberry patch.





New Years Meeting In Toronto, Canada



Conference In Jamaica

JOURNEY TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES TOUR



INTERESTED SOULS