

The Reformation **Messenger**

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 16, JUNE 2006

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



"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
Hebrews 13:8



We Believe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In This Issue

HE WAS TRANSFIGURED	3
SUNDAY LAW COMING CLOSER	5
BEAUTY IS SKIN DEEP	7
HE LOVES ME NOT!	9
DIVINE ASSURANCE	11
BREAK OUT OF YOUR...	15
CENTRALIZATION...	19
HM: TURMERIC	20
WHAT IS BABYLON?	21
HOW TO RECEIVE...	23
CULTIVATE THE HABITS	24
CC: YOUR EYES LOOK...	25

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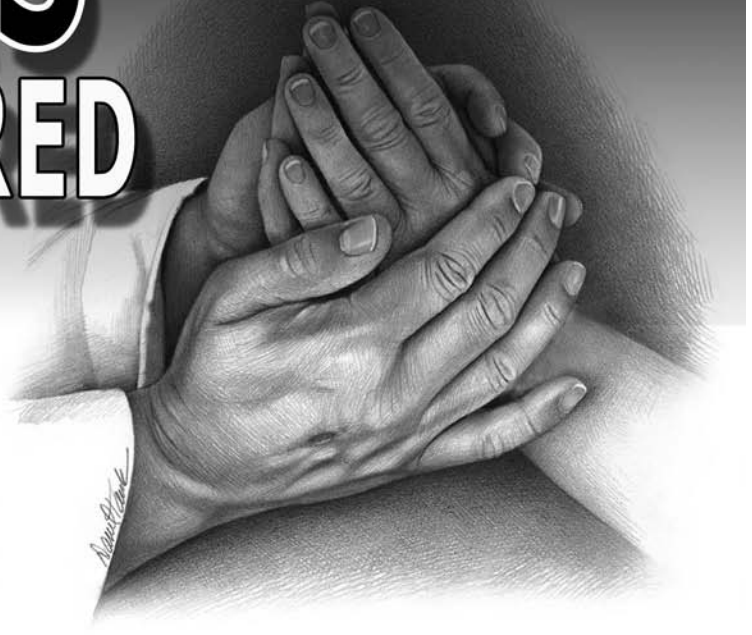
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HE WAS TRANSFIGURED



Jesus is climbing the mountain with His disciples, Peter, James, and John, in the evening. Imagine the scene—rugged, lonely, dark, long, gloomy, late, weary. All day Jesus had spent healing and teaching, lifting burdens off mind and body, sending the thrill of life through enfeebled frames; but He also has human weakness, and He is wearied from the climb.

Why are they climbing a dark mountain so late in the evening after a full day of exhausting labour? Is it to remove themselves as far as possible, for a time, from the world with all its worry, turmoil and sin? And is it to ascend as far as physically possible into the quiet and stillness of nature?

But still, why tonight, when they are weary and need to rest? Is there an object of such importance that it cannot be put off, but must be accomplished tonight? Yes, there is a strong reason. Jesus knows for what purpose He took humanity upon Himself. He knows what lies ahead in the near future, and He must “gain a fresh hold on omnipotence, for only thus can He contemplate the future.” “And He pours out His heart longings for His disciples, that in the hour of the power of darkness their faith may not fail.” We know that He

prayed also for us, and is interceding for us now in the heavenly sanctuary. We know what is ahead for us in the near future. We know the powers of darkness are gathering and consolidating their forces for a sudden, desperate and deadly attack on God’s faithful few. They move in the dark.

But we need not fear them, and can and will be eternally grateful that God has prepared a refuge for us. (Please see Psalm 46 and 91). If we flee there and abide, we will be safe and sound.

The disciples did not want Jesus to proceed toward Jerusalem, toward a certain and dreadful death. “How can He resign Himself to such a fate, and leave them in greater darkness than that in which they were groping before He revealed Himself to them?” Do you ever feel like you are groping in darkness? We need Jesus to reveal Himself to us. Again, and again.

*As a song goes:
Jesus, it’s me again,
Down on my knees again,
Begging you please, again—
Reach out Your hand!*

We need to be strengthened to behold Divinity. That is the burden of Jesus’

prayer for us. He sees our gloom, despair and weakness of faith. Yet we are among the favoured few of the world! Favoured with an over-abundance of spiritual light and insight, as well as material goods. Behold the deeper gloom and despair of vast dark areas of the earth! Behold India and Africa! Look at the hopelessness in many, many faces. Perhaps if we seek to share our light with them, we’ll also be enlightened.

How like the disciples we are! (Speaking for myself). “At first they unite their prayers with His in sincere devotion; but after a time they are overcome with weariness, and, even while trying to retain their interest in the scene, they fall asleep.” “Jesus has told them of His sufferings; He has taken them with Him that they might unite with Him in prayer; even now He is praying for them,” and us.

But also Jesus prayed for Himself! He also was encumbered with the fallen human flesh and needed a renewed connection with the throne of God. He pours out His supplications with strong crying and tears. For Himself and His beloved—He prayed for us that our faith may not fail. He knows we have already sinned, He knows, perhaps, the failings we will have in the

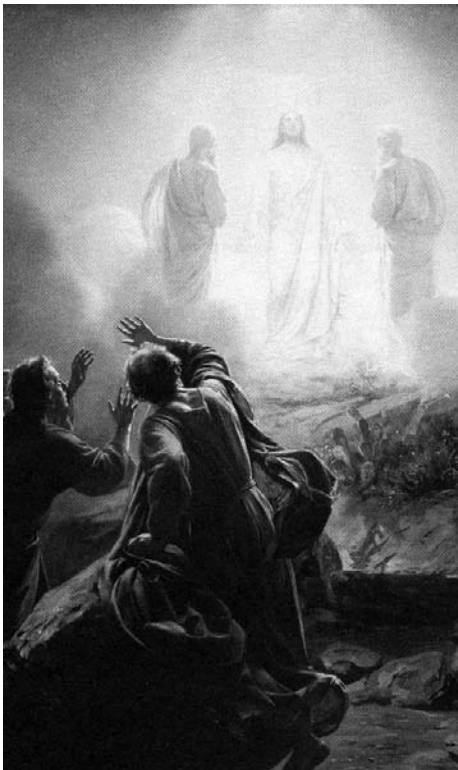
future. He has made provision for us. He does not wish us to fail, but He has made provision for it. He knew Peter would deny Him, and told Peter what he would do. Peter did deny Jesus; but the prayer of Jesus and his true love for Him saved him. He did not give himself up to despair, but took hold of the hope laid before him, and fled to his refuge.

“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath; that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us; which hope we have as an anchor for the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an High Priest forever...” Heb. 6:17-20

Let us, in God’s strength, not our weakness, take hold again and again of God’s precious, abundant, and eternal promises. *AMEN.*

*When darkness seems to veil His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace,
When all about my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.*

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada



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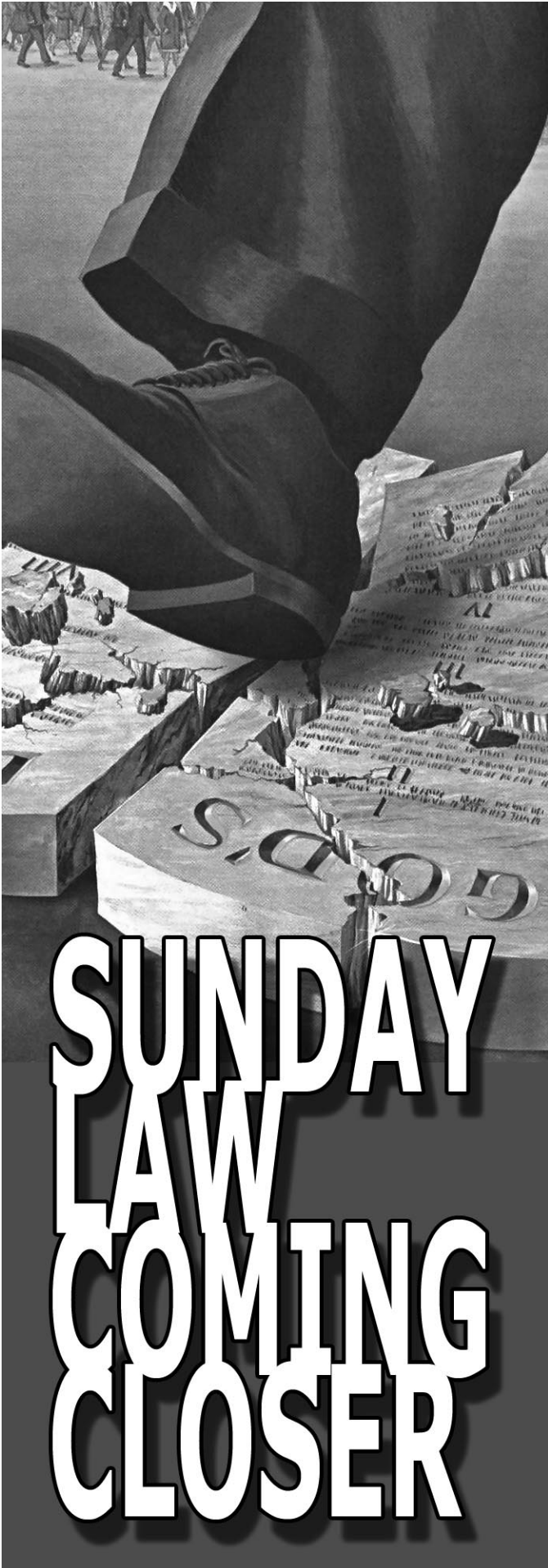
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For many years we have been speaking about the Sunday law, which will begin in the United States and then spread out to the whole world. Sister White wrote about it already in the early days of the Advent Movement.

The churches are putting pressure on the governments to enact laws that would prohibit work on Sundays. They are claiming that if everyone would observe the Sunday sacredness, then there would be peace and less crime and God would bless the nation.

For many years there has been religious freedom. Everyone has been allowed to serve their God according to their conscience. Civil governments and religious organizations have been separate. But now the churches realize that they need the governments' help to force people to observe their religion.

The Ten Commandment Day on May 7th has a purpose to draw the attention to the law of God, which according to their understanding means Sunday sacredness. Hundreds of churches are joining in this celebration, including the S.D.A. Church.

“As men depart further and further from God, Satan is permitted to have power over the children of disobedience. He hurls destruction among men. There is calamity by land and sea. Property and life are destroyed by fire and flood. Satan resolves to charge this upon those who refuse to bow to the idol which he has set up. His agents point to Seventh-Day Adventists as the cause of the trouble. ‘These people stand in defiance of law,’ they say. They desecrate Sunday. Were they compelled to obey the law for Sunday observance, there would be a cessation of these terrible judgments.” *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 16, 1901.

All the terrible disasters in the world will be accounted to the Sabbath-keepers. If they could be forced to keep Sunday, then these terrible judgments of God would be averted.

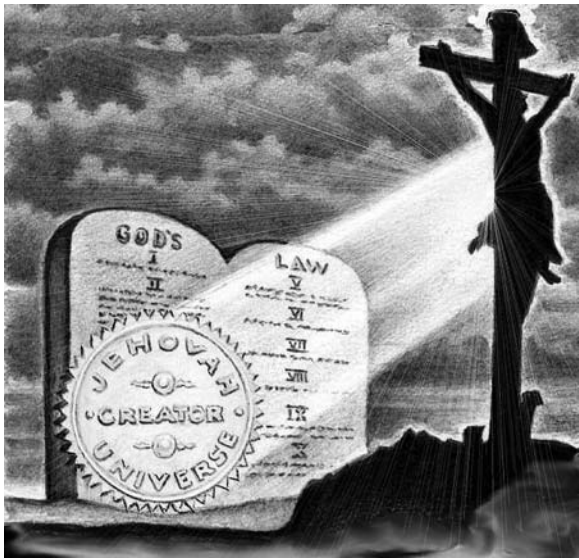
God permits this persecution against the Sabbath-keeper to take place in order to purify them and to cause shaking to take place. Only the faithful ones who would rather die than commit sin will remain.

“We see the world working to the point of establishing by law a false sabbath, and making it a test for all... In Sunday law there is possibility for great suffering to those who observe the seventh day. The working out of Satan’s plans will bring persecution to the people of God.” *2 Selected Messages*, p. 375

“Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world.” *Test. Vol. 6*, p. 395.

The goal of the Ten Commandment Day celebration is to have one million churches and religious organizations to join in it. And this is not the end of it, but the beginning of further united efforts on such a large scale that governments will have to make note of it and listen to the demands of the people.

“The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending... They are working in blindness. They do not see that a Protestant



ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.” Matt. 24:44.

When there is war and trouble, people think that now the end is upon us. But Jesus said, “Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.”

While people are doing their everyday jobs in the time of peace, that time their judgment will take place. After this the Sunday Law will bring shaking upon the

church and wise and foolish virgins will be separated.

After this separation the small faithful remnant that is left in the church will receive the latter rain and with mighty power they start proclaiming the Sabbath more fully. Thousands will be converted to the truth, and this will cause anger in the churches which have been losing their members. They will force governments to give greater punishments to the Sabbath-keepers, that they cannot buy nor sell, and finally a death sentence will be pronounced upon them.

The most important part in this sequence of events is our judgment, which will take place in a day when we think not that it would happen at that time.

In view of all this the most important thing for us is our character development; that is our

sanctification.

Every sin must be repented, confessed, and put away, in order to be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect. Because the standard that we must reach is so high, then we have no time to waste or to delay our preparation for the end.

Sadly, many will be found wanting. Something they had neglected or put off until later. They have been members in the church, but have neglected to fill their vessels with oil. Therefore their lamps will go out. The Holy Spirit had left them alone because they had refused to be hewed and shaped to fit the spiritual temple of God.

May the Lord help every one of us to wake up to the seriousness of the time and be ready even if our judgment would be today, is my wish and prayer. *AMEN.*

Timo Martin



government sacrifices the principles that have made a free, independent nation, and through legislation brings into the Constitution principles that will propagate papal falsehood and papal delusion, they are plunging into the Roman horrors of the Dark Ages.” R.H. Extra, Dec. 11, 1888

In many countries Sunday laws already exist. People are not permitted to do visible or noisy work on that day. But soon the laws will be made more strict and punishments will be meted out upon those who dare to ignore these laws. Eventually people will be punished if they refuse to work on Sabbath.

When we see the headlines in the newspapers that a strict Sunday law has been enacted in the United States and that everyone must obey it, then we know that the end is upon us. Then everyone in the church of God will awake up like the wise and foolish virgins woke up as they heard the cry, “Behold the bridegroom cometh.” That time it was too late for the foolish virgins to get oil. Their judgment had taken place before this cry.

Our judgment will take place during the time of peace. Jesus said, “Therefore be





BEAUTY IS SKIN DEEP

“Favour [is] deceitful, and beauty [is] vain: [but] a woman [that] feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.” Proverbs 31:30.

A whole industry has been built up to make a woman look more beautiful, to enhance her features and now the Bible comes and tell us that beauty is vain.

Different couturiers in the world dictate what the woman should wear every season. New York, Paris, London are the famous fashion capitals of the world and many women dream of visiting their famous shops. Ives Saint Laurent, Coco Chanel, Gucci are well known names in the world of fashion. There is a pattern suitable for every kind of figure and even some physical defects can be covered up with a certain style of clothes. In the big department stores there are whole sections where all kind of colours for the lips, the eyes and the hair can be found, not to speak of what is on display in the jewellery department. Fashion is not limited to dress but takes care of our feet, too. If fashion dictates long pointed shoes that press the toes together and help with the formation of bunions, women do not give it a second thought. It is fashionable and that is what counts. Today even the colour of the eyes of a woman can be changed to match her clothes! There are also a large variety of hair-styles and hairdos that can make a woman look quite different in a matter of hours.

Not only fashion occupies itself with the beauty of woman, but also medicine. There are several famous plastic surgeons that can perform a successful operation and turn a big aquiline nose into a cute little dot on the face or make a successful lifting. Many beauty parlours offer different kinds of treatments to make a woman’s face look younger and fresher. Every year there is a world competition to choose the most beautiful woman in the world: Miss World. How much time and money does each woman spend for her beauty? How much is given every year for clothes, shoes, hairstyles, etc?

But still, God who made us beautiful and loves us just as we are tells us, *“Beauty [is] vain.”* In English one says, “Beauty is skin deep”, and it is literally so. It takes just an accident that burns the face for beauty to be erased forever.

“A woman [that] feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.”

Why is the fear of the Lord so important? We get the answer from the Bible itself: *“The fear of the Lord [is] the beginning of wisdom.”* Interesting! There are so many wise people acknowledged worldwide, who win prizes for their discoveries and inventions and they do not fear the Lord! The Word of God speaks to us again, *“Where [is] the wise? where [is] the scribe? where [is] the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”* 1 Corinthians 1:20.

But cannot a beautiful woman be also wise? Surely she can, if she fears the Lord. God is a lover of beauty and that is why everything He has created is so wonderfully beautiful. Man is the crown of creation and is precious in God’s eyes. There is no ugly person to a good observer. Even those people who at first sight do not attract our attention for their looks, have one or another feature that testifies they came out from the hands of a great Master. The psalmist says it, *“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully [and] wonderfully made: marvellous [are] thy works; and [that] my soul knoweth right well.”* Psalm 139:14.

When King Solomon, to whom much wisdom was given, lost the fear

of the Lord, he also lost his wisdom, and later on in his life he acknowledged that everything is vanity. He married many beautiful women who had no fear of the Lord and drove him away from the Source of life and happiness. That's why he says, "Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found." Ecclesiastes 7:28.

Why is it so important for a woman to be wise? Why has a woman's wisdom more value than her beauty? Solomon himself gives us the answer, "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands. He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord: but [he that is] perverse in his ways despiseth him." Proverbs 14:1, 2. Who builds a house? Generally men do it; they speak with the architect, make the plans, etc. But the one who may turn that house into a home is the woman. She can make out of a cold architectural structure a nest of love, a haven of peace, a temple of God. This is not possible if one does not walk in uprightness.

Many times the woman has to practice much patience and bear with many difficulties; she must be always there for her husband and her children; much is expected from her, from her parents and in-laws; therefore, a woman must be very wise to keep the balance in the home and the family. In order to be able to do this, a woman needs a close connection with God, the Only one who can give her wisdom, the only One who loves her with perfect love.

"Favour [is] deceitful, and beauty [is] vain: [but] a woman [that] feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

There are many beautiful women who are very unhappy because they have not yet looked for the Lord, they have not yet met Him; they have not yet experienced His love or found His way. He is the only One who can satisfy all the needs of our souls.

Apostle Peter says, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning] of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but [let it be] the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, [even the ornament] of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." 1 Peter 3:4. And

Jesus' invitation to all mankind, including women is, "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light."

Every woman who hears and answers this invitation and learns to walk with the Lord, will acquire "a meek and quiet spirit" and be "meek and lowly in heart", the most attractive traits to the eyes of a real man. She will be beautiful at all times because her beauty comes from within and cannot be spoilt, not even with the passing of the years.

"The fear of the Lord [is] the beginning of wisdom."

"Every wise woman buildeth her house."

"Beauty [is] vain: [but] a woman [that] feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

These are three very important truths that can be a great help for every woman. May the Lord help us to meditate upon them and walk by faith, not by sight. **AMEN.**

Teresa Corti

"Come unto me, all ye that are heavy laden"

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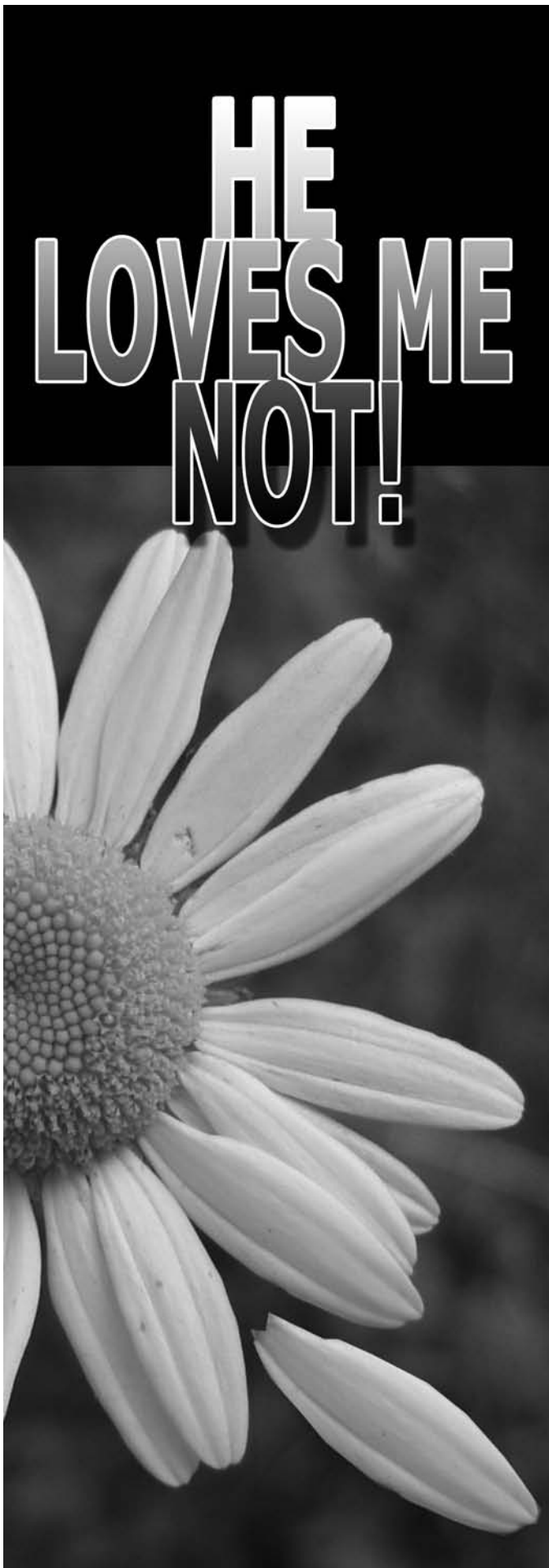
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2006



Psalm 18:1, 2

“I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

But, He’s Mine

This is, most assuredly, the most beautiful declaration one can make to God, “I will love You...” Why did David, the Psalmist, and servant of the Lord, speak these words to the Lord? He spoke them, a song, on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

Yet, he mentioned the word “mine” eight times”. Many say, “mine” in their daily lives. In essence “mine” portends or declares, in a way, a form of egoism when in the context of owning, desiring, or possessing something. There are undesirable overtones when one hears or even reads of such use of the word “mine”. Actually, it’s one of the first learned words of an infant... “mine” with a firm unyielding grasp of any object, when placed into the tiny palm of his tenacious hand.

So, why would the word “mine” in use so often by the Psalmist be contrary in any way to that of the worldly use of it? Well, when one proclaims the word “mine” in reference to the Lord, it is a melodious utterance to the ears of the Lord; perfectly acceptable, and beautiful.

When David said, “I will love you O Lord, my strength...”, it came from the depths of his troubled heart, to his God, his Sovereign Saviour, and joyous that he could call on his Lord as “mine”, in praise and thanks for delivering him from evil. It is comforting to know that the Lord our God can be called on as our personal Saviour.

I Love You, Too

The Apostle Peter, too, in his denial of Jesus three times, answered Jesus when, asked, “Simon Peter, son of Jonah, do you love Me? Yes, Lord You know that I love You.”(John 21:15-17). Interestingly, Peter denied Jesus three times, and three times he made the same beautiful declaration David did, “I love You.” Peter was restored by Jesus with the simple, heart-felt words, “I love You.” Oh, how simple, fundamental, heart-searching can these words be in our daily prayers, and thoughts, “I Love You,” if we, too, could follow the examples of David and Peter.

David and Peter were delivered from certain death by their love for God. How? “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.” Here it is... “he has set his love upon Me!” When did you last say. “I love You?” That is to God, not merely your children, parents, spouse, loved one, or friend? But, to God? We like to keep the blessings coming from above; yes, “keep them coming Lord.” The modern churches today teach that, “God loves you” and it stops there, and you will be saved. No effort, no change, but just keep on living as you are.

A Jealous God

But, the Commandments say, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image –any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or

that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but “showing mercy to thousands of those who **love me and keep My commandments.**” (1st and 2nd commandment)(Exodus 20:1-6).

What is religion, then, only the commandments? “We don’t want a sensational religion, but a religion founded on intelligent faith.” (Review and Herald, Apr. 9, 1889). Well, it is many more things, but firstly, the Lord wants us to love him.

How? “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Deut 6:5). Why? Well, again for many reasons, but, “We love him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19), and “For God is love.” (1 John 4:8).

Daisy Time

God loves us daily. There is a lovely flower called the daisy, having many names; white daisy, oxeye daisy, English daisy. It is, furthermore, a widely naturalized Eurasian low-growing plant (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) having flower heads with a yellow center and white or pink rays or petals.

In Greece and other parts of the Mediterranean it is called a Margarita. I’m sure that most of you, as children or young adults, had fun playing the game of pulling the petals, one by one and simultaneously saying, “he loves me, he loves me not” (or she), until the last petal for the final pronouncement. It is only a game of luck or chance, but with God He loves us all the time.

But, daily we can also say that God takes a lovely Margarita to see if we, in fact, love Him, much as He asked Peter, “do you love me?” With this confession, “I love You,” Peter was delivered from a fate much like that of Judas Escariot, who betrayed Jesus.

The moment of being delivered from bondage can be the most beautiful experience in our lives, by witnessing to others, being convinced in your heart that God loves everyone.

A New Prayer

Nightly prayer need not be repetitious and shallow anymore. But, by simply saying, in earnest, “I love You Jesus,” “I love You God,” joy will abound in heaven and the angelic hosts, the Holy Spirit will enter your soul; a new spirit (Ezek 2:2; 36:26). Moreover, God’s majesty and love “preserves all who love Him” (Psalm 146:20). What love! What a promise!

That’s Reasonable

God, indeed, gives us an abundance of love, unfathomable love, but wants us to love Him also in return, saying, “Come now, and let us reason together, Though your sins be as scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, They shall be as wool, If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword.”(Isaiah 1:18-20).

Perfect Love Formula

This divine love supercedes any known imaginable love on earth. When Jesus was on this earth at the foot-washing of the disciples, the Apostle John writes, “Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”(John 13:1) And, “for the Father Himself loves you because you have loved me.”(John 16:27). When Jesus prayed for all believers in His famous prayer to His Father, he prayed, “I in them, and You in me that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”(John 17:23). Here is perfection, if we accept Jesus Christ, the very same Father that loved Jesus loves us! Jesus prayed further, “That the very same love with which You loved Me may be in them and I in them.”(John 16:26).

Finally, Jesus said, “This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you.”(John 15:12), “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”(1 Cor. 13:13)

In view of all of these beautiful revelations, and truths, wouldn’t it prompt us to

approach God and say, “I love You” – “I will love You?”

Daisies or Margaritas are delicate flowers and a feast to our eyes. For some they are a favorite pastime in a game of chance or luck. Although seemingly insignificant, brute force can crush them, as any plants. Yet, the daisies or plants rise again through concrete and asphalt. The Pyramids will not last a moment compared with the daisy. God, the Creator looks upon these daisies, with the same love as a lily or sparrow. Daily he sees the face of the daisy to see **if we love Him.**

It’s always daisy-time. He Loves Me – He Loves Me Not. **Amen.**

John Theodorou, U.S.A.

2006

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How much do you sense your need of Jesus? He said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27. This Scripture illuminates the need of Jesus. Here we read the words of Jesus in which He brings to us a wonderful privilege, peace. Peace of what kind? Not as the world giveth. Not the kind of peace that we gain from the lack of happiness that the world can produce, but a peace that only God can produce. The peace that Jesus speaks of here is a peace He gives unto you.

It is a peace that is at rest when everything around us is in tumult. I don’t know if you have heard the story of the competition between three artists. The different impressions that these artists had of what is really peace. One artist painted a picture of a family sitting together, the second artist painted a beautiful scene in nature, and the third artist painted a very storm-tossed ocean. There in the ocean were rocks and crevices and the waves were beating up against these rocks with great crashing and there in the side of the rock, of that huge rock, there was a little cave and inside of that cave was a dove with her little one sitting in the nest. He of course won the competition because that was a true representation of the peace that only Jesus can bring. A peace amongst troubles and conflicts that surround us.

Do we need that peace? Do we need a peace that comes from an assurance? A Divine Assurance. Do you know whether your life is on the correct path? Remember the text that says there is a way that “seems” right unto a man. This is very frightening that Satan can give such beautiful senses of tranquility and assurance that we are on the right path. Yet, they might be on a path that leads to death. There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the “ways” thereof are the ways of death. Your belief system must truly mean the assurance of eternal life at the end.

Are you confident that you are part of the fold of Jesus Christ—that you know confidentially and are assured by divine assurance that the body of Jesus is where you are?

We have studied the need of exercising logical reasoning. Reasoning from cause to effect. This Day With God, p. 188. “Happy is the man who has discovered for himself that the word of God is a light to his feet and a lamp to his path. Happy is the man who has discovered for himself the correct word that is light to his feet. A light shining in a dark place, it is heaven’s directory for men but there are many, oh, so many, who have no guide, besides the opinions of finite men, prejudice, passion, or their own changeable feelings, their minds are in a state of irritation and uncertainty, they suffer continually from mental fever.

Do you know that experience? Mental fever? Uncertainty? Heat inside of the brain? Because you know that you are uncomfortable in a certain path but the word of God keeps on saying, no, no, no, this way. You are being tossed about, then someone says, no it’s this way. Opinions of men even within church affiliation, prejudices, passions and changeable feelings are what many people look upon as their guide.

“Were you following Christ, the word of God would be to you as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. But you have not made the honour of God the first object of your life work. You have the Bible. Study it for yourself. The teachings of the divine directory

are not to be ignored or perverted. The divine mind will guide those who desire to be led. Truth is truth and it will enlighten those who seek for it with humble hearts. Error is error and no amount of worldly philosophizing can make it truth." Ibid.

In the message for this time we have an assurance, a sure foundation, sound pillars to become acquainted with. What is the assurance we may have? To get rid of that feverish brain, that sense of insecurity that so frequently bombards us.

Revelation 14:12. "Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." Can you see two monumental pillars of assurance here? The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. We know well the text, if you are looking for the pure message, if you are looking for the church that carries God's pure doctrines. Isa. 8:20. "If they speak not according to the law and to the testimony [of Jesus] there is no light in them,"

We know that there is an identified company of people in Revelation. Revelation 12:17. "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Isn't it phenomenal how the Scriptures connect so that the people who want to find an assurance that they have light, they may know they are on the right path, and that the Bible identifies them.

In Isaiah if they speak not according to the law and to the testimony there is no light in them. Here in the last days there is a remnant people identified by the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Doesn't the Bible lay out before us a complete assurance so we must have both these pillars in place for our divine assurance, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?

Notice how the voice of inspiration identifies it in Selected Messages. SM 3, p. 172. "The third angel's message is the proclamation of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ. The commandments of God have been proclaimed but the faith of Jesus Christ has not been proclaimed by Seventh Day Adventists as of equal importance." Isn't that interesting? "The law and the gospel

going hand in hand. I cannot find language to express this subject in its fullness." Ibid.

I can't find language, she says, to get this straight, to enlarge it in its fullness. "The faith of Jesus is talked of, but not understood." We are getting a very strong message from inspiration here that the majority of Seventh Day Adventists talk about it, but do not understand the faith of Jesus.

"What constitutes the faith of Jesus that belongs to the third angel's message? Jesus becoming our Sin Bearer that He might become our sin pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take His righteousness. And have faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus." Ibid.

This is for us to meditate about. This is what Sis. White says she wishes she could find words to enlarge. Notice this picture of the faith of Jesus, that He partook of our sin so that we might partake of His righteousness, so that by that transaction of Jesus in all reality we might be secure and be able to be saved amply, fully, and entirely.

"The man with a cultivated intellect may have vast stores of knowledge, he may engage in theological speculations, he may be great and honoured of men and considered the repository of knowledge. Unless he has a saving knowledge of Christ, crucified for him, and by faith lays hold of the righteousness of Christ, he is lost." Ibid.

Does that strike deep? We might have all the knowledge of theological truth and even have the knowledge of the law just like the Pharisees. They knew the law through and through. They even knew prophecy so that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, they knew how to direct the wise men, they knew. We might have a high intellectual capability. We might know everything there is to know, but if we do not have a saving knowledge of Christ crucified for me, and by faith lay hold of the righteousness of Christ, I am lost.

Do you have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ? I want to make sure that I have, and you have a saving knowledge of Christ

crucified and lay hold of the righteousness of Christ. If I don't have that, I'm lost. If I am a preacher of God's words and I don't communicate it as it really is and you don't partake of it, you are lost too.

We need assurance, don't we? This is our quest. When Jesus said, don't let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid, I've come to bring you assurance, peace.

Heavenly Places, p. 249. "Before our Lord went to his agony on the cross, He made His will. He had no silver or gold or houses to leave His disciples. He was a poor man as far as earthly possessions were concerned. Few in Jerusalem were so poor as He. But He left His disciples a richer gift than any earthly monarch could bestow upon His subjects. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you. He left them the peace that had been His during His life upon earth amid poverty, buffeting, and persecution, and which was to be with Him during His agony in Gethsemane and on the cruel cross. The Saviour's life on this earth though lived in the midst of conflict was a life of peace. No storm of satanic wrath could disturb the calm of that perfect communion with God. He says to us, 'my peace I give unto you.' Those who take Christ at His word and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest."

How can you gain this peace? Surrender your soul to His keeping and ordering, then you will find peace and quietude. It is my burden to communicate with you this perfect acquiescence. What does that word mean? Something, which you have been fighting but finally, resign yourself to. The resigning is to yield, submit, and conform, to resign oneself. The Latin word that it comes from is rest. When you are fighting something there is no rest. When you finally submit to something, there is perfect acquiescence. This word links me immediately with atonement. Perfect At-One-Ment.

It immediately links me with this beautiful mystery that the gospel speaks of. Here is this amazing picture available to us through this atonement. Col. 1:26-27. "Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations but now is made manifest

to His saints. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles. Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Remember what we read before? Perfect rest in the midst of tumult? Every confusion of mind that He met. Perfect acquiescence. We note the statement in Heavenly Places, p. 319. “The mission of Christ so dimly understood, so faintly comprehended, that called Him from the throne of God to the mystery of the altar of the cross of Calvary will more and more unfold to the mind and it will be seen that in the sacrifice of Christ are found the spring and principle of every other mission of love.”

How much do you need Jesus? Jesus became one with us. This mystery of the atonement. Romans 16:25. “Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began.”

Here is an atonement that is dimly understood that if we do not have it, we are lost. It is something which we need to have in our mind because it is Christ in you the hope of glory.

Phillipians 2:5-8. “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant and made in the likeness of men and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Can you see perfect acquiescence here? Perfect atonement. He could have resisted, He could have fought against it but He gave into it. He gave Himself over and as He did, He laid out for us the meaning of perfect acquiescence. Let this mind be in you that was in Him.

This mystery we need to understand that is revealed to us that if we know everything else but we don't have this, we are lost. The pillar of Christ, His faith, is the thing that makes the whole thing central. You can have the Ten Commandments and still miss out. Bible Commentary, Vol. 6, p. 1082. “The incarnation of Christ is a mystery. The union of divinity with

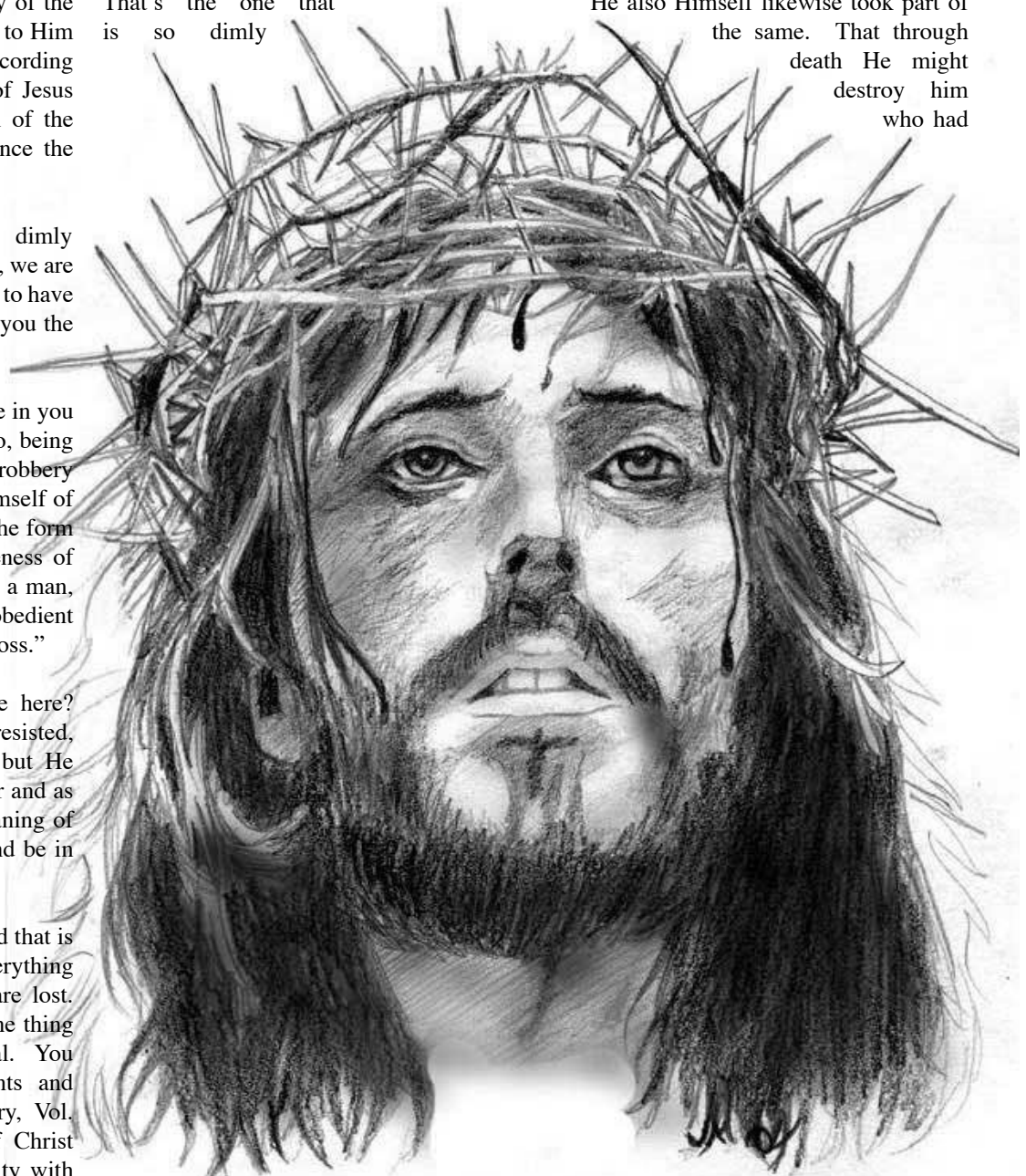
humanity is a mystery indeed. Hidden with God even the mystery, which hath been hid from ages. It was kept in eternal silence by Jehovah and was first revealed in Eden by the prophecy that the Seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head and that he should bruise His heel. To present to the world this mystery that God kept in silence for eternal ages before the world was created, before man was created, was the part that Christ was to act in the work He entered upon when He came to this earth. This wonderful mystery, the incarnation of Christ and the atonement that He made must be declared to every son and daughter of Adam... His sufferings perfectly fulfilled the claims of the law of God.

The incarnation of Christ? This mystery? That's the one that is so dimly

understood. That's the one that Sis. White wrote Adventists are not proclaiming in all its fullness. Consider the reality and the balm of this saving knowledge. We are told that you and I must have a saving knowledge of Jesus. To embrace that knowledge and make it your experience. See what balm, what peace and assurance there is in it for you and me.

1 Timothy 3:16. “Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

Hebrews 2:14. “For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same. That through death He might destroy him who had



the power of death that is the devil and deliver them through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Do you have fear of death? If you don't, you are not a normal human being. We talk in the nursing profession, when someone is fighting for breath—why? When you can find something getting you by the throat, when you can find something taking away your life, you will fight for life. You will go for it, and the more you fight for it, the worse it gets. We are frightened of death. But when Jesus comes in and we understand to save us, we will yield and relax. When people really relax after they are in a life-threatening situation, all of a sudden things turn out good again. When I've seen people fainting, when they fainted, they were relaxed. When they come to, everything is fine again. But at the time what caused the fainting was terrible fighting for life. Here is the balm of the acquiescence. Perfect peace. He partook of the same flesh and blood that I have. For what? So that He could die. He couldn't have died if He wouldn't have been in the same flesh. What is the wages of sin? Death? When Jesus partook of this mysterious incarnation? What did He partake of? The same flesh.

These are a few Bible texts that we don't need a theological degree to understand:

Romans 8:3. “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin the flesh.”

Are you picking it up? This mystery? How can Jesus have the likeness of sinful flesh when we know He was so pure and perfect? Why was He so pure and perfect? Because He condemned sin in the flesh. The flesh was sinful flesh, and where was sin in sinful flesh? Let's establish our assurance on the written word. Not upon the opinion of theologians.

1 Peter 2:24. “Who His own self bore our sins in His own body, on the tree, that we being dead to sins should live unto righteousness by Whose stripes you are healed.”

Where were they? Upon Him, in His flesh. Here is the mystery so dimly understood that the sins that you and I feel that pulsate

through your system that lead and goad you to commit wrong thoughts and actions. That was the sin that was in the body of Jesus Christ. That's what is written.

He had a battle to fight to be obedient, He had to conquer the sin in His flesh. Hebrews 5:7-9. “Who in the days of His flesh when He offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death and was heard in that He feared. Though He were a Son yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.”

What was his experience on this earth? In the days of His flesh, what did He have to go through to learn obedience? The battle between the spirit and the flesh. He had to conquer that. He had to suffer the things of the flesh to learn obedience. Can you appreciate this saving knowledge of Jesus? What a blessed comfort that is in our experience when we are struggling and so defeated many times. We keep on saying, but I'm only a human being. I keep on falling. I keep on sinning. Look to Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-2. “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin which doth so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is before us. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured the contradiction of sinners against Himself lest you be weary and faint in your minds.”

We don't have to faint. We can conquer, because Jesus the mystery of the incarnation has brought to us an invitation of perfect acquiescence. Perfect union in Him, as He is perfectly one with us.

What does this mystery of this perfect atonement if understood, produce? What should it produce?

If people do not have this saving knowledge of Jesus, they will be lost. Romans 16:26. “But now is He made manifest and by the Scriptures of the prophets according to the commandment of the everlasting God made known to all nations for the

obedience of faith.”

That was a continuation of what we read in verse 25. “The revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began but now is made manifest.”

What is the mystery made manifest for? To what conclusion? Made known to all nations for the obedience of faith. Col. 1:27. “Christ in you the hope of Glory.” So we can be presented before God without fault.

Isn't this the big argument of the theologians of today? They say we can never keep the commandments of God, we have to try hard, but we'll never keep them. Then there are those who say yes, we can definitely keep them and they put all their effort and they claim they are keeping them. But they are lost. Why? Because their obedience does not exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees.

They do not understand the saving message of Jesus so that their obedience comes from the motive of perfect acquiescence, from perfect atonement. Through understanding that Jesus is beside me and I am no longer troubled. I will rest my soul in Him, I will perfectly yield and stop fighting. I will let Him take complete control of my life. Ordering me, directing me, leading my path I don't know where, but I know the end result.

When we have this saving knowledge there is an assurance that is beyond all others. Here is the patience of the saints. They patiently look to Jesus and they keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

It is evident that the incarnation of Christ is not understood through all Christianity. Anyone who claims to be a Christian is meant to be built and upheld by this central truth. This is the truth that the apostolic church was built on. If any variation of this truth was taught, an alarm was raised against it. **AMEN.**

John Thiel, Perth, Australia

End of part I. Part II in July Messenger.

GETTING OUT

OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE



Everyone likes to feel comfortable. To be comfortable implies a person is content with a situation. One may feel comfortable sitting on a nice soft chair or lying on a cozy bed after a hard day's work. One may also feel comfortable in a certain setting, whether at church, work or school. You are content working and socializing with a particular group of people so you are comfortable in this setting. It feels good to be comfortable. One may also be financially comfortable so that they don't need to worry about how to pay the bills every month. Being comfortable can entail a stress free and worry free life. It can be a pleasant feeling to not have any worries. We all have a zone in which we feel the most comfortable. We live and work in a particular place and if we are in our comfort zone, we don't want to move. If we are not in our comfort zone, we are either miserably existing or we are constantly seeking to reach that comfort zone. Once we've found our comfort zone, we want to remain as long as is possible.

Sometimes we temporarily break out of our comfort zone and do something that is uncomfortable, such as finding a new job and going to the interview, or moving to a new city and trying to find our way around. But after awhile, when we get accustomed to the change, we become comfortable again.

I'm sure life in Heaven is very comfortable. There is no stress, no worries about bills, crime, or death. Lucifer very much wanted to remain in the comfort zone of heaven, however he forfeited his rights to remain when he rebelled against the Giver of all that is good. Jesus knows what kind of comfort exists in Heaven and He wants all of us to be there. In comparison this earth is not very comfortable at all, but even then, many people feel comfortable here. They would feel out of their comfort zone in Heaven

Are you comfortable here on this earth? If so, you have a problem. Jesus wants to you to break out of your comfort zone.

The nominal Christian churches teach that you can have all this world and heaven too. You can remain in the comfort zone that this world offers and obtain the comforts of heaven also. Nothing could be further from the truth. Once a person truly falls in love with Jesus, they will no longer be comfortable on this earth. They will be seeking and striving to enter Heaven, where they will be in their real comfort zone - God's comfort zone.

We need to ask ourselves if our comfort zone is where God wants us to be. He may ask us to break out of our physical comfort zone to enter His spiritual comfort zone. There will be times of conflict when we will have to give up our physical comforts to strive to enter His zone. This takes much courage and determination. "Remember that in whatever position you may serve you are revealing motive, developing character. Whatever your work, do it with exactness, with diligence; *overcome the inclination to seek an easy task.*" MH 499. It is human nature to want to always do the easiest task available – to do the least amount of work required. This will never work spiritually.

"Those who study how to give as little as possible of their physical, mental, and moral power are not the workers upon whom He can pour out abundant blessings. Their example is contagious. Self-interest is the ruling motive. Those who need to be watched and who work only as every duty is specified to them are not the ones who will be pronounced good and faithful. Workers are needed who manifest energy, integrity, diligence, those who are willing to do anything that needs to be done." MH 499

“Many become inefficient by evading responsibilities for fear of failure. Thus they fail of gaining that education, which results from experience, and which reading and study and all the advantages otherwise gained cannot give them.” MH 500

“The desire for an easy religion that requires no striving, no self-denial, no divorce from the follies of the world, has made the doctrine of faith, and faith only, a popular doctrine; but what saith the word of God? Says the apostle James: ‘What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?...Wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?...Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.’ James 2:14-24.” GC 472

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

In the Bible we read of many faithful souls who God called to leave their physical comfort zone to enter His spiritual comfort zone. Often God’s people did not understand the direction He was leading them and why they had to leave their physical comforts.

Abraham lived a comfortable life surrounded by his family and friends in the city of Ur. However, God had other plans for his life.

I’m sure Abraham’s family thought he was out of his mind when God called him to go to a new country. He had no idea what the destination would be or what kind of land was there. “Abraham... might have reasoned and questioned the purposes of God in this. But he showed that he had perfect confidence that God was leading him; he did not question whether it was a fertile, pleasant country or whether or not he should have ease. He went at God’s bidding. This is a lesson to every one of us.” HP 112

Abraham was not in his physical comfort zone while living on this earth. “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Hebrews 11:10

Paul was living a comfortable life as a member of the Sanhedrin. The Jewish leaders enriched themselves at the expense of the poor worshippers that came to the temple. He gave up his physical comfort zone when Jesus called him to service. Since he was connected with Jesus in Jesus’ comfort zone, the physical suffering mattered little to him. “Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.” 2 Cor. 11:24-30 “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:11-13.

Moses

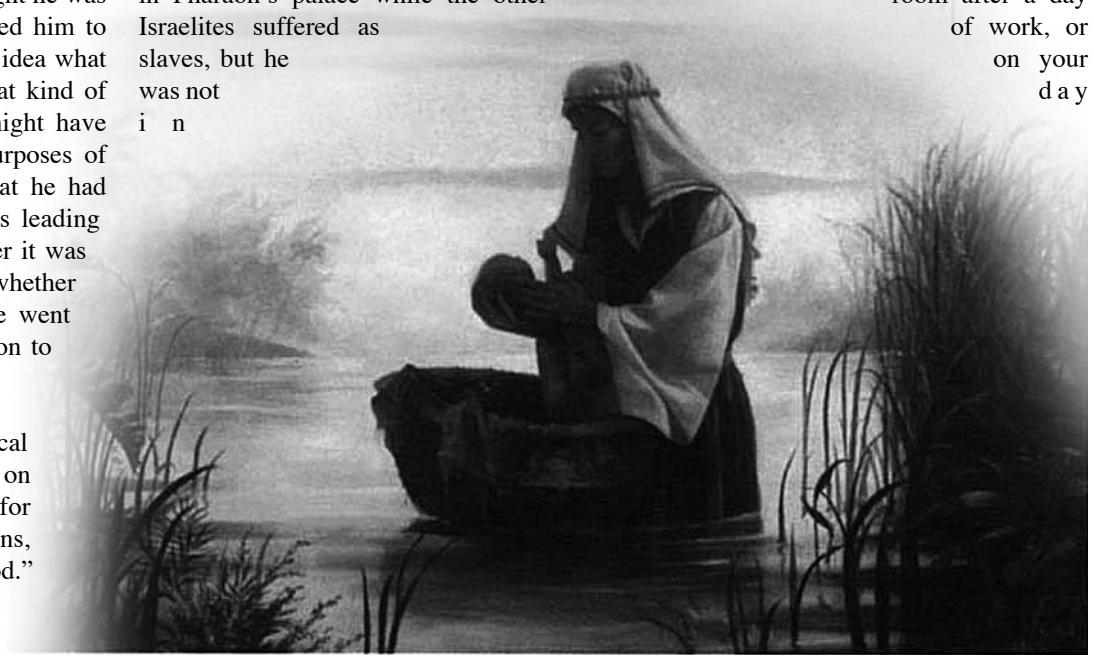
Moses had a very comfortable life living in Pharaoh’s palace while the other Israelites suffered as slaves, but he was not in

his spiritual comfort zone. He decided to give up his physical comfort zone in order to fit into God’s spiritual comfort zone.

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.” Hebrews 11:24-27

“The faith of Moses led him to look at the things which are unseen, which are eternal. He left the splendid attractions of court life because sin was there. He gave up present and seeming good that flattered only to ruin and destroy. The real attractions, the eternal, were of value to him. The sacrifices made by Moses were really no sacrifices. With him it was letting go a present, apparent, flattering good for a sure, high, immortal good.” 4T 345

To the true Christian there is a great desire to be in their spiritual comfort zone and the physical comfort zone may have to be compromised. But that does not matter. It is only secondary. Jesus is preparing mansions for us and when He comes He will provide us with a very comfortable life in Heaven. What are a few years of physical discomfort here on this earth in comparison? Rather than comfortably sitting in your living room after a day of work, or on your bed a



off, get out of your comfort zone and do something for the Lord, whether a Bible study or missionary visit. Jesus *IS* coming soon.

Many Other faithful followers also stepped out of their comfort zone and put their lives in peril to preach the gospel.

“And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and [in] mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” Heb. 11:36-40

“As the truth of God fills our hearts, absorbs our affections, and controls our lives, we also will count it joy to suffer for the truth’s sake. No prison walls, no martyr’s stake, can then daunt or hinder us in the great work.” 3T 406

“Step by step they followed as God’s opening providence led the way. They did not study their own convenience or shrink at hardships. This earth is not the resting place of Christians.” 1T 370

Some are forced out of their comfort zone through no action or desire of their own, like Joseph, Daniel and Job. But they developed their spiritual comfort zone and they didn’t complain of their circumstances. They learned to be content in whatever situation they found themselves.

“In all ages God’s appointed witnesses have exposed themselves to reproach and persecution for the truth’s sake. Joseph was maligned and persecuted because he preserved his virtue and integrity. David, the chosen messenger of God, was hunted like a beast of prey by his enemies. Daniel was cast into a den of lions because he was true to his allegiance to heaven. Job was deprived of his worldly possessions, and so afflicted in body that he was abhorred by his relatives, and friends; yet he maintained his integrity. Jeremiah could not be deterred from speaking the words that God had given

him to speak; and his testimony so enraged the king and princes that he was cast into a loathsome pit. Stephen was stoned because he preached Christ and Him crucified. Paul was imprisoned, beaten with rods, stoned, and finally put to death because he was a faithful messenger for God to the Gentiles. And John was banished to the Isle of Patmos ‘for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.’” AA 575

What happened in the few years prior to 1844? What kind of sacrifices did the believers make who earnestly believed Jesus was coming in 1844?

William Miller stepped out of his comfort zone when God asked him to preach the messages he had been studying for years. “As Elisha was called from following his oxen in the field, to receive the mantle of consecration to the prophetic office, so was William Miller called to leave his plow and open to the people the mysteries of the kingdom of God. With trembling he entered upon his work, leading his hearers down, step by step, through the prophetic periods to the second appearing of Christ. With every effort he gained strength and courage as he saw the widespread interest excited by his words.” GC 331

“In 1833 Miller received a license to preach from the Baptist Church, of which he was a member. A large number of the ministers of his denomination also approved his work, and it was with their formal sanction that he continued his labors. He traveled and preached unceasingly, though his personal labors were confined principally to the New England and Middle States.” GC332

William Miller was a farmer. He had a wife and a family and found it necessary to leave them for long periods in order to preach the messages as the Lord sent him. The Lord provided for the needs of his family. I’m sure it was not easy for him to leave his family, yet the Lord asked of him to step out of his physical comfort zone.

Joseph Wolfe stepped out of his comfort zone when he was convinced that Jesus was coming soon. “In 1821, three years after Miller had arrived at his exposition of the prophecies pointing to the time of the judgment, Dr. Joseph Wolff, “the missionary to the world,” began to proclaim the Lord’s soon coming.

“During the twenty-four years from 1821 to 1845, Wolff traveled extensively: in Africa, visiting Egypt and Abyssinia; in Asia, traversing Palestine, Syria, Persia, Bokhara, and India. He also visited the United States, on the journey thither preaching on the island of Saint Helena. He arrived in New York in August, 1837; and, after speaking in that city, he preached in Philadelphia and Baltimore, and finally proceeded to Washington. Here, he says, ‘on a motion brought forward by the ex-President, John Quincy Adams, in one of the houses of Congress, the House unanimously granted to me the use of the Congress Hall for a lecture, which I delivered on a Saturday, honored with the presence of all the members of Congress, and also of the bishop of Virginia, and of the clergy and citizens of Washington. The same honor was granted to me by the members of the government of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, in whose presence I delivered lectures on my researches in Asia, and also on the personal reign of Jesus Christ.’” GC 360

“Dr. Wolff traveled in the most barbarous countries without the protection of any European authority, enduring many hardships and surrounded with countless perils. He was bastinadoed and starved, sold as a slave, and three times condemned to death. He was beset by robbers, and sometimes nearly perished from thirst. Once he was stripped of all that he possessed and left to travel hundreds of miles on foot through the mountains, the snow beating in his face and his naked feet benumbed by contact with the frozen ground.” GC 361

“Thus he persevered in his labors until the message of the judgment had been carried to a large part of the habitable globe. Among Jews, Turks, Parsees, Hindus, and many other nationalities and races he distributed the word of God in these various tongues and everywhere heralded the approaching reign of the Messiah.” GC 361

These people left their physical comfort zone in order to spread the gospel. Who is willing to step out of their physical comfort zone today? We earnestly believe that Jesus is coming soon.

Sister White broke out of her comfort zone do the work that the Lord instructed her to do. She travelled extensively and suffered

many trials as well as poverty. She also had to give up that which was dearest to her heart – her children. “When I returned home, I found that my children had been neglected by those who had assured me that they should be cared for. I felt grieved. My greatest anxiety had been for my children, to bring them up free from evil habits. Our work had been to travel, and then write and publish. Henry had been from us five years, and Edson had received but little of our care.” 2 SG 211

“**Curse ye Meroz**, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.” Judges 5:23.

“Many of our missionary enterprises are crippled because there are so many who refuse to enter the doors of usefulness that are opened before them. Let all who believe the truth begin to work. Do the work that lies nearest you; do anything, however humble, rather than be, like the men of Meroz, do-nothings.” 8T 246

“And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.” Zephaniah 1:12

“The Lord has no place in His work for those who have a greater desire to win the crown than to bear the cross. He wants men who are more intent upon doing their duty than upon receiving their reward--men who are more solicitous for principle than for promotion.” MH 476

Jesus was very comfortable in His heavenly home and He left His comfort zone in Heaven to come to a world full of people who did not appreciate or understand His work. In His greatest hour of need He was looking for comfort but all those who claimed to love Him deserted Him. He was not forsaken and He received comfort from the angels. Was Jesus in His comfort zone while on this earth? He was in His spiritual comfort zone as long as He was doing His Father’s will. He may not have been in a physical comfort zone, but that was secondary to His Father’s work. “And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.” Luke 9:58

Where would we be if Jesus didn’t want to leave His physical comfort zone in heaven? “How often is Christ disappointed in those who profess to be His children! He has given them unmistakable evidences of His love. He became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich. He died for us, that we might not perish, but have eternal life. What if Christ had refused to bear our iniquity because many rejected him and because so few appreciated His love and the infinite blessings He came to bring them? We need to encourage patient, painstaking efforts. Courage is now wanted, not lazy despondency and fretful murmuring. We are in this world to do work for the Master and not to study our inclination and pleasure, to serve and glorify ourselves.” 3T 525

What is Jesus asking of you? Is Jesus asking you to break out of your physical comfort zone, as He did, and go to new places where people may not appreciate your work? The call is going out, “Whom shall I send?” Can we say, “Here am I, send me?” Isaiah 6:8. There is a world to warn. Jesus is coming soon. It is not easy to break out of the comfort zone and go and work for the Master.

DRIFTING

To drift is a very comfortable and relaxed feeling. You may be on a boat that is drifting calmly down a river. It requires very little effort to drift. We are given a warning that we must not let our spiritual life drift. “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” Hebrews 2:1. If you drift too long, you may drift too far away from Jesus and it would take a tremendous effort to swim back from where we have slipped

Jesus is coming soon. How serious are you about it? But what about the rest of the world? How will you feel if your good friends, workmates or fellow students came to you in the judgement and asked you why you didn’t tell them the truth because you knew? You know the prophecies, you can see the signs of the times fulfilling – what are you doing about it?

“The perils of the last days will test the genuineness of our faith... The mighty surges of temptation will beat upon all, and unless they are riveted to the eternal Rock they will be borne away. Do not think that

you can safely drift with the current. If you do, you will surely become the helpless prey of Satan’s devices. By diligent searching of the Scriptures and earnest prayer for divine help prepares the soul to resist temptation. The Lord will hear the sincere prayer of the contrite soul and will lift up a standard for you against the enemy. But you will be tried; your faith, your love, your patience, your constancy will be tested.” HP 184

“We can never be saved in indolence and inactivity. There is no such thing as a truly converted person living a helpless, useless life. It is not possible for us to drift into heaven. No sluggard can enter there. If we do not strive to gain an entrance into the kingdom, if we do not seek earnestly to learn what constitutes its laws, we are not fitted for a part in it. Those who refuse to co-operate with God on earth would not co-operate with Him in heaven. It would not be safe to take them to heaven.” COL 280

“Jesus does not present to His followers the hope of attaining earthly glory and riches, of living a life free from trial. Instead He calls upon them to follow Him in the path of self-denial and reproach. He who came to redeem the world was opposed by the united forces of evil. In an unpitying confederacy, evil men and evil angels arrayed themselves against the Prince of Peace. His every word and act revealed divine compassion, and His unlikeness to the world provoked the bitterest hostility.” AA 576

“So it will be with all who will live godly in Christ Jesus. Persecution and reproach await all who are imbued with the Spirit of Christ. The character of the persecution changes with the times, but the principle--the spirit that underlies it--is the same that has slain the chosen of the Lord ever since the days of Abel.” AA 576. We are not promised a comfortable life on this earth that is free from trials and difficulties.

Who has the courage to take up the challenge? Who has the courage to break out of their physical comfort zone to go and do God’s will? It is my wish and prayer that some of the young people would give up the physical comforts of this world and fit into God’s spiritual comfort zone and to spread the good news that Jesus is coming soon, so that we can go home to heaven soon. **Amen**

Wendy Eaton, Australia

CENTRALIZATION AT BATTLE CREEK

“Problem of Centralization Solved by Fire.”--Elder Daniells and Elder Prescott have made some mistakes in their religious experience, as other men have; but they never defied the Spirit of God and refused to be corrected. At one time it was supposed that the publishing interests should be centralized under the organization in Battle Creek. I was in great distress in regard to this sentiment. I was weighed down as a cart beneath sheaves. But this difficulty was adjusted by the Lord’s permitting the principal buildings of the Review and Herald Publishing House to be destroyed by fire.” PM 177

“But this, the Lord has shown, should not be. It is not His plan to centralize power in the hands of a few persons or to bring one institution under the control of another.” 7T 171

“Brethren who wish to change their location, who have the glory of God in view, and feel that individual responsibility rests upon them to do others good, to benefit and save souls for whom Christ withheld not His precious life, should move into towns and villages where there is but little or no light and where they can be of real service and bless others with their labour and experience. Missionaries are wanted to go into towns and villages and raise the standard of truth, that God may have His witnesses scattered all over the land, that the light of truth may penetrate where it has not yet reached, and the standard of truth be raised where it is not yet known. The brethren should not flock together because it is more agreeable to them, but should seek to fulfil their high calling to do others good, to be instrumental in the salvation of at least one soul. But more may be saved than one.” 2T 115

“God calls for Christian families to go into communities that are in darkness and error, and work wisely and perseveringly for the Master. To answer this call requires self-sacrifice. While many are waiting to have every obstacle removed, souls are dying without hope and without God

in the world. Many, very many, for the sake of worldly advantage, for the sake of acquiring scientific knowledge, will venture into pestilential regions and endure hardship and privation. Where are those who are willing to do this for the sake of telling others of the Saviour? Where are the men and women who will move into regions that are in need of the gospel, that they may point those in darkness to the Redeemer?” 9T 33

“When Seventh-day Adventists move into cities where there is already a large church of believers, they are out of place, and their spirituality becomes weaker and weaker. Their children are exposed to many temptations. My brother, my sister, unless you are absolutely needed in carrying forward the work in such a place, it would be wise for you to go to some place where the truth has not yet been proclaimed, and there strive to give proof of your ability to work for the Master. Make earnest efforts to arouse an interest in present truth. House-to-house work is effectual when conducted in a Christlike manner. Hold meetings, and be sure to make them interesting. Remember that this requires something more than preaching.” 8T 82

“Many who have lived so long in one place are spending their time criticizing those who are working in Christ’s lines to convict and convert sinners. They criticize the motives and intentions of others, as if it were not possible for anyone else to do the unselfish work they themselves refuse to do. They are stumbling blocks. If they would go to places where there are no believers, and work to win souls to Christ, they would soon be so busy proclaiming the truth and helping the suffering that they would have no time to dissect character, no time to surmise evil and then report the results of their supposed keenness in seeing beneath the surface. 8T 82

“Let those who have lived so long in places where there are large churches of believers go out into the harvest field to sow and reap for the Master. They will forget self

in the desire to save souls. They will see so much work to do, so many fellow beings to help, that they will have no time to look for faults in others. They will have no time to work on the negative side.” 8T 83 Jesus is challenging us. How many young people have the courage and faith to take up the challenge?

“It is not the purpose of God that His people should colonize or settle together in large communities. The disciples of Christ are His representatives upon the earth, and God designs that they shall be scattered all over the country, in the towns, cities, and villages, as lights amidst the darkness of the world. They are to be missionaries for God, by their faith and works testifying to the near approach of the coming Saviour.

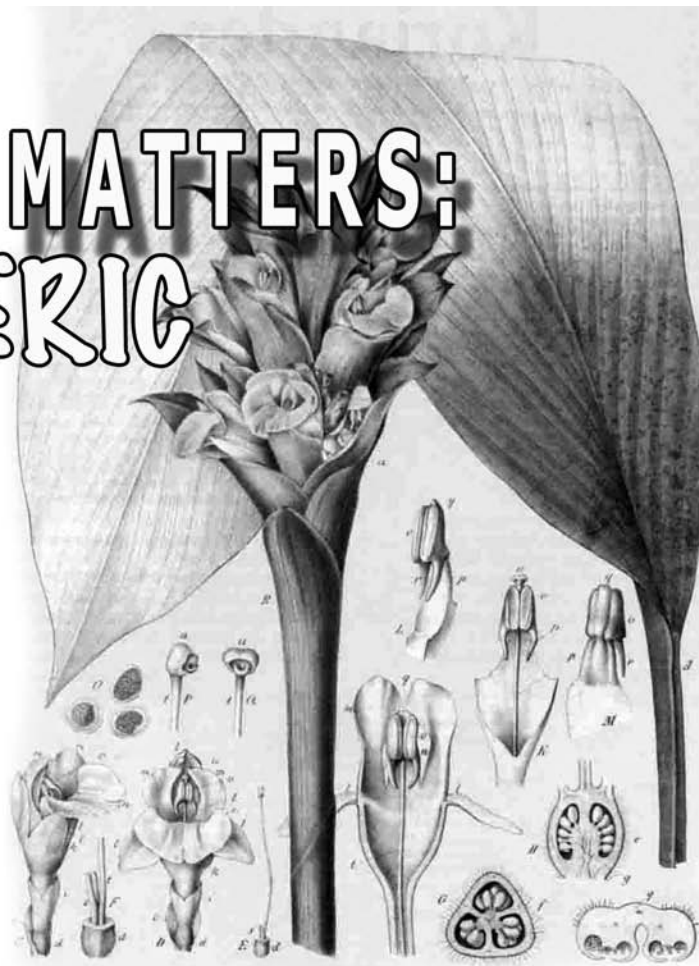
“The lay members of our churches can accomplish a work which, as yet, they have scarcely begun. None should move into new places merely for the sake of worldly advantage; but where there is an opening to obtain a livelihood, let families that are well grounded in the truth enter, one or two families in a place, to work as missionaries. They should feel a love for souls, a burden of labour for them, and should make it a study how to bring them into the truth. They can distribute our publications, hold meetings in their homes, become acquainted with their neighbours, and invite them to come to these meetings. Thus they can let their light shine in good works.” 8T 245

“We ought now to be heeding the injunction of our Saviour: ‘Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not.’ It is now that our brethren should be cutting down their possessions instead of increasing them. We are about to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Then let us not be dwellers upon the earth, but be getting things into as compact a compass as possible.” 5T 152

Ellen G. White



HEALTH MATTERS: TURMERIC



Eat This Spice. It Could Save Your Life!

A recent scientific exploration has revealed one of the most significant discoveries supporting the power of food as medicine. This food-based medicine is turmeric (botanically called *curcuma longa* L.) At first, volumes of evidence exposed the anti-cancer effects of its flavonoids, specifically the phytochemical curcuminoids. As Dr. Russell Blaylock, M.D. states, "There is a multi-level anti-cancer process that occurs effecting the growth of cells from the use of this eastern delicacy. Additionally, it strengthens the immune system, lowers blood sugar and acts as a powerful anti-inflammatory due to its potent COX-2 enzyme inhibitor effect." Most researchers advocate that we need between 1000 and 3000 milligrams daily of this fragrant yellow "spice." Since it would be difficult to consume this level in the condiment form, it is generally suggested that we consume it as a supplement. It is also known to be helpful to take this supplement with oil rich cuisine such as sprouts, algae, and/or condiment oils. Many researchers believe that turmeric's interaction with magnesium adds to its effectiveness. Consuming foods rich in magnesium or taking a bio-available liquid magnesium supplement can multiply its benefit.

Neuroscience has studied the Indian culture for evidence of turmeric's health benefits and has discovered that there is very little Alzheimer's among their aging population (Indians have traditionally used turmeric in much of their food.) Since becoming aware of this connection, scientists have conducted significant studies on the effects that curcuminoids have on the brain. The University of California reported that curcumin is most effective in inhibiting the formation of the protein fragments that directly produce Alzheimer's. All other

drugs being tested for Alzheimer's were less effective than this food. After further study, they found that the low molecular weight and polar structure of curcumin allowed it to penetrate the blood-brain barrier and bind to the beta amyloid (which form the disease causing plaque). In an earlier study, the same team found that the curcuminoids contain powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, which are believed to ease Alzheimer's symptoms and arthritis.

Ayurvedic medicine, some five thousand years ago, began using this food/spice for anti-inflammatory purposes. Traditionally, there are some people who should avoid the excessive use of turmeric: pregnant women (as it can activate uterine contractions); people on anti-coagulant medications including aspirin (since curcumin naturally acts as an anti-coagulant); and people who suffer from gallstones. After delivery, or once these other health problems are resolved, turmeric can and should be utilized.

We strongly suggest that those people

concerned with mental acuity and memory loss consume a minimum of 1000 milligrams of turmeric. If one is engulfed in memory loss problems we would suggest the use of up to 3000 milligrams daily. Other than the above-mentioned counter-indications, there are no known side effects from excessive consumption.

In our quest to bring you the latest findings on natural living, we advise anyone with a tumor, arthritis, rheumatism, or memory loss concern to add this food and its supplemental counterpart to your daily dietary routines.



WHAT IS BABYLON?

The following is a portion of the 1895 GC sermon by E.J. Waggoner. In 1895 the Seventh-day Adventist Church was God's church. This is not the case today. Therefore as you read this portion of the sermon and come across sentences where he makes reference to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we should substitute "God's church" or the "Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement" since the SDA Reform church is God's visible church on earth today.

Again to the study of what it is to come out of Babylon. Everyone knows now that to come out of Babylon is to come out of the world and to separate from Babylon is to separate from the world. What we want to know next is, what is it to come out of the world? What is it to separate from the world? Gal. 1:4 will answer that question in a word; we shall have to read the third and fourth verses together to get the connection, but the fourth verse is the one that has the point in it.

"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world."

And He gave Himself for our sins in order to deliver us from this present evil world, it follows plainly enough that connection with the present evil world and even the evil world itself, lies in our sinfulness. And therefore, to deliver from this world, we must be delivered from sin. Not from some particular sins, but from sin itself, the thing, the root, and the all of it. The word of God does not take a man and find out how much of good there is in him and how much bad there is in him, and then patch the good on the place of the badness and take him into heaven that way. You should not put a new patch on an old garment; Christ said so, and it is so. Then we are not to see how much good there is in us, how many good traits we have and give ourselves credit for these and then get enough goodness from the Lord to supply whatever we may lack.

No. There is no goodness, not one good thing there at all. The whole head is sick

and the whole heart is faint. From the crown of the head to the feet there is no soundness in it, but instead there are wounds and bruises and putrefying sores. "Who shall deliver me from this body of death?" Rom 7:24. It is a body of death simply because it is a "body of sin." Rom. 6:6. To be delivered from sin, then, is to be delivered from ourselves. That is what it is to come out of Babylon.

Many people have been getting the idea that if they get out of the Methodist church



E.J. Waggoner

or the Presbyterian Church or the Catholic Church and get into the Seventh-day Adventist church, then they are out of Babylon. No. That is not enough, unless you are converted, unless you are separated from this world you are not out of Babylon, even though you are in the Seventh-day Adventist church and in the Tabernacle in Battle Creek... But the man who is connected with himself is connected with the world, and the world is Babylon. You have separated from sin, separated from this world, to be out of Babylon. "Having a form of godliness, without the power," is simply another expression which describes Babylon and her doctrine in the last days. That being so, if I, a Seventh-day Adventist, have the form of godliness without the power, I belong to Babylon; no difference

what I call myself, I am Babylonian; I have on the Babylonish garment. I bring Babylon into the church wherever I go.

Another word about this in Galatians: Christ "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world."

All of this world that ever can cripple a man or hinder him in his heavenly course is simply what is inside of him; it is simply what there is of him. Therefore when Christ would deliver a man from this present evil world, he simply delivers him from sin and from himself. Then that man is in the kingdom of God; he is in the world but not of the world. So Jesus says, "I have chosen you out of the world: If ye were of the world, the world would love his own." Very good; here am I. Suppose I am of the world. Then the world will love his own. That is, the world that is in me and of me will love the world and will cling to the world. I cannot do anything else, and I cannot do anything else, because I am essentially of the world itself. The world outside of me and around me will love his own, that is true; but as certainly as I am of the world, so certainly I will stick to the world and love the world; the world within me will love and cling to the world without. I may be calling myself a Christian at the same time, but that will not alter the case – the world will love his own. If in heart I am cut loose from this world, I am free from it, but if the world is there, I will love the world, and when the test comes, when the crisis comes, I will surrender to the world and go the way of the world in general – stay in Babylon and worship the beast.

Now turn to the third chapter of 2 Timothy. There we have the same thing taught:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves... From such turn away."

Then if I am a lover of my own self, from such I am to turn away. But who is it that I am to turn away from? Self, assuredly. Come out of Babylon, from such turn

away. It is not that I am to look at you and study you and see whether you are a lover of your own self, to see whether you are not covetous and a boaster and proud and then I separate from you. Not at all.

It is not for me to look at others and say, "Oh I don't want to be in a church with such brethren as these. I cannot be the right kind of Christian there. I think I

would better go to Oakland and join the church there, or I think I would better go to Battle Creek and join the church there; the brethren here at home seem to be so kind of—oh, I can hardly describe it, but it is very unpleasant and very hard to be a Christian here. I think I will have to leave this church and join some other one." That will not answer at all, for unless you are genuinely converted and separated from

the world, when you have done all, that the church which you have joined is just so much worse than it was before and so much more Babylonish by just so much as you are there. "From such turn away." Then as I am to turn away from myself, where does Babylon lie? Where does the world lie? Altogether, in self, just as we found in Galatians, fourth chapter.

LOOKING FOR YOU!!

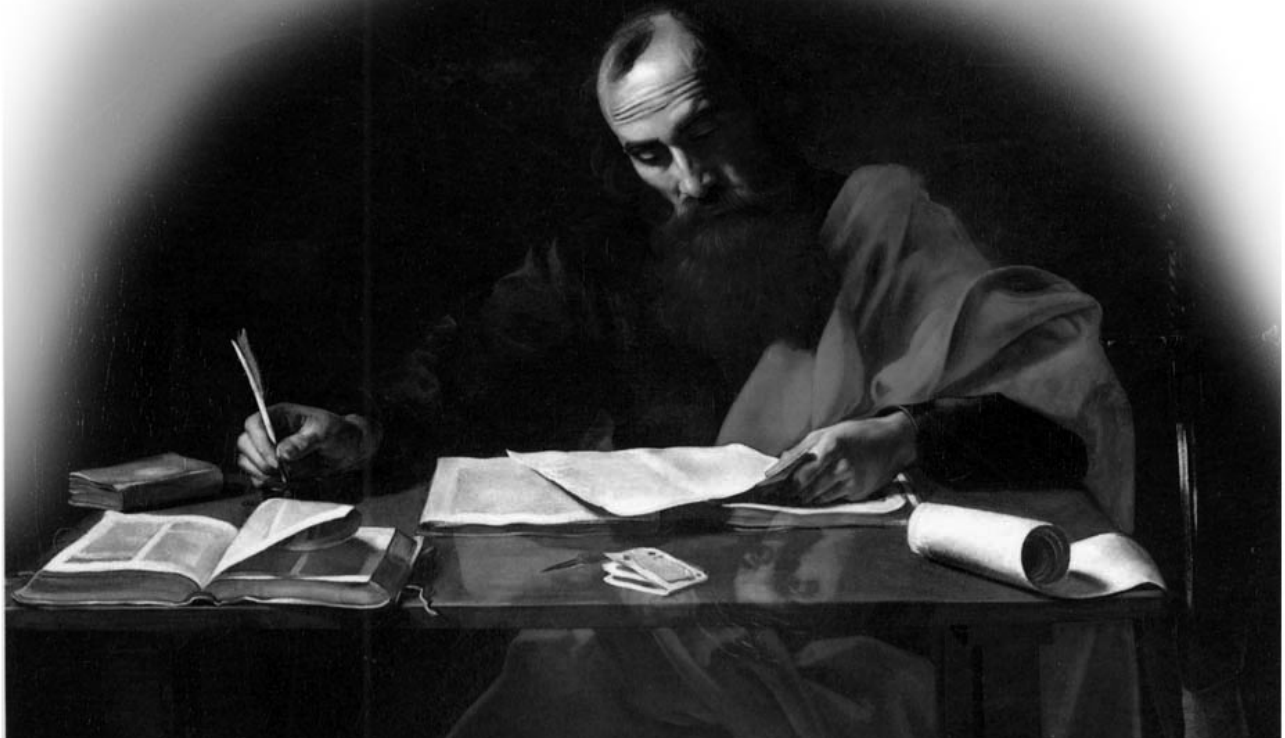
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"And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability" Mathew 25:15

HOW TO RECEIVE REPROOF



“Those who are reproved by the Spirit of God should not rise up against the humble instrument. It is God, and not an erring mortal, who has spoken to save them from ruin.” [VOL. 3, P. 257 (1873).] It is not pleasing to human nature to receive reproof, nor is it possible for the heart of man, unenlightened by the Spirit of God, to realize the necessity of reproof or the blessing it is designed to bring. As man yields to temptation, and indulges in sin, his mind becomes darkened. The moral sense is perverted. The warnings of conscience are disregarded, and its voice is less clearly heard. He gradually loses the power to distinguish between right and wrong, until he has no true sense of his standing before God. He may observe the forms of religion and zealously maintain its doctrines, while destitute of its spirit. His condition is that described by the True Witness: “Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.”

When the Spirit of God, by message of reproof, declares this to be his condition, he cannot see that the message is true. Is he therefore to reject the warning? No. God has given sufficient evidence, so that all who desire to do so may satisfy themselves as to the character of the Testimonies; and, having acknowledged them to be from God, it is their duty to accept reproof, even though they do not themselves see the sinfulness of their course. If they fully realized their condition, what would be the need of reproof? Because they know it not, God mercifully sets it before them, so that they may repent and reform before it shall be too late. “Those who despise the warning will be left in blindness to become self-deceived; but those who heed it, and zealously go about the work of separating their sins from them in order to have the needed graces, will be opening the door of their hearts that the dear Saviour may come in and dwell with them.” [VOL. 3, P. 257 (1873).] Those who are most closely connected with God are the ones who know His voice when He speaks to them. Those who are spiritual discern spiritual things. Such will feel grateful that the Lord has pointed out their errors.” [VOL. 5, P. 134.] {5T 682.1}

“David learned wisdom from God’s dealings with him and bowed in humility beneath the chastisement of the Most High. The faithful portrayal of his true state by the prophet Nathan made David acquainted with his own sins and aided him to put them away. He accepted counsel meekly and humiliated himself before God. ‘The law of the Lord,’ he exclaims, ‘is perfect, converting the soul.’” [VOL. 4, PP. 14, 15 (1876).] {5T 683.1}

“If ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye... not sons.” Our Lord has said: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.” “No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” Though bitter the discipline, it is appointed by a Father’s tender love, “that we might be partakers of His holiness.” {5T 683.2}. **Amen**

Mike Newby, Canada

CULTIVATE THE HABITS

Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person's life or character. Cultivate thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful love in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to think of our grievances. God calls upon us to think of His mercy and His matchless love, that we may be inspired with praise. Ministry of Healing, P. 492



YOUR EYES LOOK FAMILIAR



CHILDRENS CORNER

It is a typical summer day in Bangkok. I try to cool myself by fanning my face with a magazine. It doesn't work.

Fortunately, an occasional breeze wafts up from the open windows of the stopped bus. The moving air fans me as I stand in the aisle.

I stare at a woman with a window seat. When the wind whips through her black hair, I groan enviously. "Why couldn't I be that lucky?"

I think to myself. "Please, lady! Please get up so I can sit down! I've had a hard day, and these shoes are killing me! I need a break!" Somehow I hope she will read my mind. But she just stares at me and then looks away.

Then I spot a vacant seat near the open

door of the bus. "Aha! Relief!" I mutter. Ignoring the looks of the other people on the bus, I run to the seat and sit down. Sighing, I close my eyes.

Minute after minute goes by. I'm oblivious to my surroundings.

Suddenly a barrage of sound slams into me. My eyes spring open to investigate. The bus has stopped at the Klong Tuey Market, and an army of chattering people now push into the once peaceful bus.

One person catches my attention—an old, decrepit woman. She wears faded clothes frayed at the hems. And her hair, a shock of white, frames a face imprinted with lines of time. Lines that fan out and spread like cobwebs from her eyes, forehead, and mouth. The wrinkles seem to reveal that she has had a life of ceaseless worry and

menial work.

But it's her expressive dark eyes that keep my attention riveted to her. They are eyes of intense pain.

I tear my gaze from her. For the next few seconds I stare out the window without really seeing anything. The woman's image lingers.

All of a sudden the bus lurches, and a warm body is thrown against me. I reach out automatically to catch the figure. Slowly the person regains balance and straightens up. And I see it's her.

She looks at me with those unforgettable eyes. Then she speaks, "Thank you," she says.

"No problem," I reply, but I really want





to ask her, “What happened in your life to cause you such obvious pain? Tell me! I want to know!” My tongue thirsts to throw out questions. But I remain silent.

Then I see her wobble around on scarred and swollen feet as the bus driver hits the brakes. I think to myself, “Why doesn’t somebody get up and let her sit down!” I pivot around in my seat, looking from person to person. No one makes a move.

“I can’t believe you all! You’re not going to get up for her?” I cry silently. “Where is your compassion?”

“Where is your compassion?” a quiet voice asks from my brain. “What about the love that you, a Christian, should have for

others?”

I recognize my conscience. But all the accumulated weariness in me surfaces. And I think to myself, “Why should I always have to be the one sacrificing for others? I’m always walked on for being so nice! I’m tired too, you know. My feet are killing me, and it must be at least 100 degrees right now! I need to sit down!”

Silence. Then I hear another voice in my mind, with words I recognize from the Bible. “When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick in prison, and we would not help you?”

A pause roars in my ears. Then I hear the

reply, “I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.”

I catapult out of the seat, my mind burning with those words. The old woman looks at me with confusion. But comprehension dawns on her, and she slumps into the seat.

Sweat streaks down her withered face, and she smiles. The beauty of that toothless and decayed grin radiates through me, and I feel cheap and ashamed.

“Thank you,” she whispers.

I hesitate. “No problem.” Quickly I turn away to hide the guilt in my eyes. And as the minutes tick by, I deliberately look everywhere except in her direction.

Then the bus slows to a stop, and people brush past me on their way out. And I know—I just know—that she has left the bus. For some strange reason I want to look at her one more time.

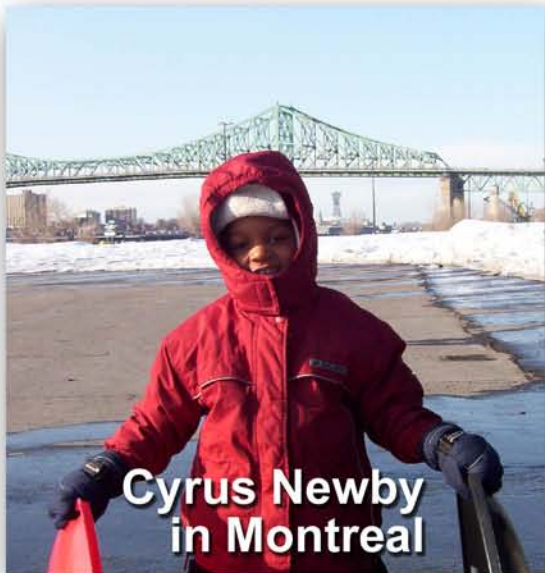
Staring out the window, I squint to catch a last glimpse of the lonely figure. She trudges up the street. Then her image begins to blur, and I begin to see, instead, a Man. Born and raised in a small town of Galilee. A Man who loved and gave, and in return received betrayal and death.

And I know without a doubt that the pain in that old woman’s eyes could also be seen in that Man’s eyes. As He hung on the cross dying, He knew all about it. And that pain is still in His eyes as He sees His hurting children, like this woman—and as He sees us betray Him day by day, minute by minute, when we pass Him by, He gives us chances every day to reach out to Him by helping others.

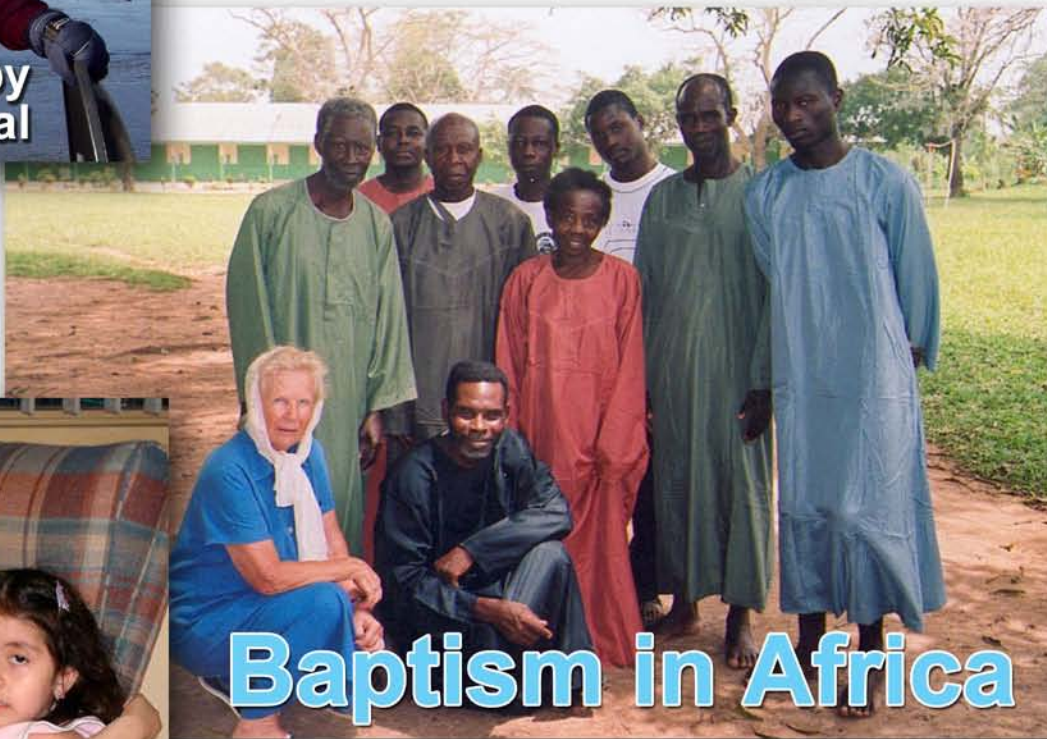
The bus hurtles on, leaving behind one old woman. And it takes with it a disciple who almost passed her Master by.



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