



The Reformation **Messenger**

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

“Heaven and earth shall pass away:
but my words shall not pass away.”
Mark 13:31

WE BELIEVE: The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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SANCTIFICATION PART 1

This article is the first part of a 4-part study on sanctification:

Considering that Jesus is about to come back to take His people home and His people should be ready, that means sanctified, it is of top priority that we study this subject and see if maybe any of us personally is delaying His coming or deceiving himself expecting to be saved in an unholy condition.

What actually is sanctification? Is it achievable? How? Is it indispensable? Can we do anything about it? Does it happen in spite of ourselves or we play a role in the process? Are there visible evidences of a sanctified life?

Both the Bible and the Testimonies can help us to answer these questions:

“Those who would follow Christ must be grounded upon the principles of truth. They need to understand what the Bible teaches in regard to faith, and sanctification through the truth. They must be so established in this knowledge that they cannot be moved to take false positions on the doctrine of holiness, but will be able to illustrate in their lives the practical workings of this heaven-given principle.” Ev p. 596

Sanctification is the highest goal of God for His children. It is God’s holy will that we may be sanctified because if we are not, we cannot be saved.

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification.” 1 Thess. 4:3.

“God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.” 2 Thess. 2:13.

Nobody can be saved in his sinful condition. Everyone must be sanctified by faith and the work of the Spirit in his life.

“I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.” Romans 6:19.

There should be a determined decision on our part to stop eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, to stop being slaves to our senses and to start walking on the path of righteousness.

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” Romans 6:23.

Sanctification or holiness is the result of abandoning a life of sin and living according to God’s standard of righteousness.

“All who are truly sanctified will have a similar experience. The clearer their views of the greatness, glory, and perfection of Christ, the more vividly will they see their own weakness and imperfection. They will have no disposition to claim a sinless character; that which has appeared right and comely in themselves will, in contrast with Christ’s purity and glory, appear only as unworthy and corruptible.” SL, p. 50

Wholly Sanctified

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thess. 5:23

Sanctification pertains to our whole being, body, soul and spirit. God is the One who sanctifies us. Sanctification has to take place before Jesus' coming.

"The sanctification set forth in the Sacred Scriptures has to do with the entire being--spirit, soul, and body. Here is the true idea of entire consecration.... Those who are really seeking to perfect Christian character will never indulge the thought that they are sinless. Their lives may be irreproachable, they may be living representatives of the truth which they have accepted; but the more they discipline their minds to dwell upon the character of Christ, and the nearer they approach to His divine image, the more clearly will they discern its spotless perfection, and the more deeply will they feel their own defects.... There is in the religious world a theory of sanctification, which is false in itself and dangerous in its influence. In many cases those who profess sanctification do not possess the genuine article. Their sanctification consists in talk and will worship." SL, p. 7

"And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." John 17:19.

The means by which every man is sanctified is the truth. "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17

The word of God is the truth. The word of God sanctifies us. How important it is then to study it and to live according to its precepts!

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6.

Jesus is the truth. Jesus sanctifies us. How important it is to follow Him!

"... being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:16.

Jesus sanctifies us through the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart, who guides us into the whole truth.

"The sanctification of the soul by the operation of the Holy Spirit is the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity. It is the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ revealed in character, and the grace of Christ brought into active exercise in good works. Thus the character is transformed more and more perfectly after the image of Christ in righteousness and true holiness." 3SM, p. 198

Definitions

There are several definitions of sanctification in the Testimonies:

"On one occasion I spoke in reference to genuine sanctification, which is nothing less than a daily dying to self and daily conformity to the will of God." LS, p. 237

"Sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God." COL, p. 360

"Sanctification means habitual communion with God." HP, p. 129
From these definitions we learn a few things:

- Sanctification has to do with obedience to the will of God in our daily life
- The will of God and our will are opposed, therefore we have to die to self
- This obedience has to be perfect, in all aspects of our life
- We must obey cheerfully
- Sanctification has nothing to do with mysticism, but it is a life of obedience to God while performing the daily duties of life
- Sanctification is possible through daily connection with God.

God's will

A few questions may arise from these declarations.

Is it possible to know the will of God?

The Bible answers us:

"And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth." Acts 22:14.

According to God's wonderful plan of salvation, every human being is chosen by Him to have a revelation of Jesus Christ and to know the Father's holy will.

"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will..." Ephesians 1:9.

The will of God remains a mystery unless He reveals it to us.

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:17.

It is unwise not to understand God's will when we have the privilege of knowing it since He is willing to reveal it to us.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39.

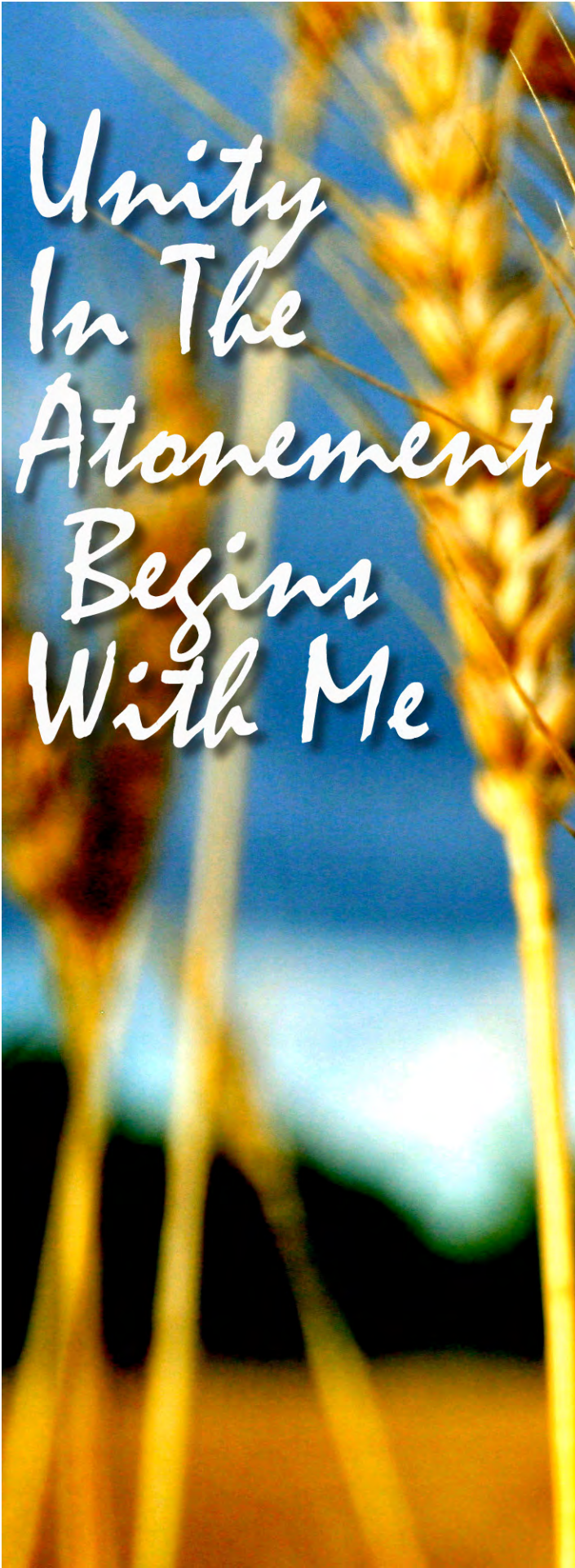
It is by thoroughly studying the Scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we have a revelation of Jesus, of His word and of God's holy will that leads us to sanctification and salvation. How can we carnal creatures do God's will?

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Philippians 2:13.

God is the one who works in us the desire and gives us the power to do His holy will.

"Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfillment of the covenant God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, His Son, and His Spirit in holy fellowship." (7BC, p. 908).

Teresa Corti



Unity In The Atonement Begins With Me

It was Jesus Christ's most heartfelt prayer in the seventeenth chapter of John that the believers on this earth might be one.

John 17:20-21 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

Jesus desires that His people will be united so that the world may be convinced that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." John 3:16

For thousands of years God has been trying to communicate how much He loves humankind. Man was once made in His image, but now shies away from Him and hides his face from God. Burdened with sin and sorrow, having sold out to Satan, humanity no longer knows the love of God. Like Adam, humanity is afraid "and I hid myself." Genesis 3:10

Therefore God has a very delicate task of winning man back to Him. As a husband pursues his wayward wife, so the Lord says, "I am married unto you" therefore "return unto me". Jeremiah 3:14, Isaiah 44:22. "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, [saying], Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3

He has given to man the sunshine and the rain. He has provided the essential elements needed for the sustaining of life. As miserable as man is, God has not wiped him out, but throughout the ages has sought to cause him to know that "God is love". 1 John 4:8.

Unto man he bestows a multitude of blessings. He send the rain on the just and the unjust. He grants the "desires of thine heart", even of the "rebellious also". Psalm 37:4; 68:18.

"Continually and carefully" the loving Father has sought to convince man of His love. 2 Chronicles 36:15 (margin). Gift after gift has flown from His bosom of infinite love until no greater gift could be given. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

He emptied out all of heaven in the gift of His Son. He went as far as it was eternally possible for Him to go to convince man that He meant him no harm and that He only wanted that which was good for him; to persuade him that He was love.

When one considers that the Almighty God, so righteous, so holy, would do such a thing for miserable, ugly man, the heart becomes softened and subdued. What love! What inexpressible love toward man.

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8. While we were yet wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked, while we sought not God, God sought us.

And this great fact of God’s love Christ wishes to see His people declare to the world. The glory, the love, that He had with the Father, and whereby He was able to represent to the world the love of God, He gives to His disciples that they might now be a representation to the world of the love of God.

But how is it that they could have unity? So many varied personalities? Jesus answered this in His prayer. “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.” John 17:22

The love, the glory as expressed between the Father and the Son is the secret of unity.

In heaven there is perfect unity. There is no discord. Everything is in harmony. Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of holy beings make heaven’s arches ring with praise to the Lord. Not one jarring note is heard. And yet they are not automatons. We know this for a fact, or else Lucifer would not have been able to gain advantage of their liberty of conscience and take with him a third of the angels. Their service is not pre-recorded or pre-programmed with each act of adoration worked by a central processing unit. Each heavenly being that worships God does it out of free-will.

How is it that there can be such perfect concord? Because they ever look upon the glory of God.

What is it of the glory of God then that we must look upon that we might also have unity despite diversity? With all our varied personalities, how can there be harmony? We would do well to answer this question that we might answer the prayer of Jesus.

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

We need to understand this glory of God that will cause us to have this unity or else we can never go to heaven and join with the angels; we would be a discordant note.

By beholding the glory of the Lord, we will be changed into His image. Where is it that we are to behold the glory of the Lord?

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” 2 Corinthians 4:6, 7

It is in the wonderful gift of Jesus Christ that we find the answer to unity – in the knowledge of the glory of God which shines in the face of Jesus Christ.

Speaking of the love of God as expressed in Jesus Christ, the beloved disciple John says, “Hereby perceive we the love [of God], because He laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down [our] lives for the brethren.” 1 John 3:16.

Apostle John is here repeating that which Jesus Himself spoke: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13.

There is no greater love than that which lays down its life for its friends. “God is love.” “Hereby perceive we the love [of God], because He laid down His life for us.”

These scriptures hide within themselves the secret of our unity. “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. “ 1 John 4:9, 10.

Herein is love, that God laid down His life, and sent His Son. Again the Apostle demonstrates this as the secret of unity.

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” 1 John 4:11.

That this principle of one laying down their life for the other is a direct teaching of Jesus Himself, we read John 15:17, 12. “These things I command you, that ye love one another.” In what manner ought we to do this? “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”

As God has loved us, so are we to love one another. As God laid down His life for us, so are we to lay down our lives for each other.

God went to the nth degree to demonstrate His love to us, that we might believe that He loves us, and so it becomes us to do the same for each other. Roots of bitterness, evil surmising, cherished grief and nasty words cause distraction and disunity. There is a lack of trust amongst the believers. One is not convinced that the other truly loves them and vice versa. We feel that the other is looking upon us out of the corner of their eye with lowering brow. To have unity we need to convince each other of our love. We need to persuade each other that we mean them no harm, that our thoughts toward them are of peace, and not of evil.

You can tell someone how much you love them, but more often than not they will not believe you. When a heart has been grieved or hurt, or is not yet familiar with the Jesus in another heart, whatever gets said or done can be contorted and seen in a negative light. You can

bestow upon them gift after gift, as God did with the Israelites, yet the heart will be no warmer.

When all else fails, there has to be one incontrovertible evidence of your love: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

If we were to take this scripture to its total literal fulfillment, it may mean that many of us only ever have one friend and that we will never have the privilege of enjoying that friendship. Therefore we must take hold of the PRINCIPLE of what Jesus said, and not take it literally, except as according to the providence of God, such a sacrifice may be necessary.

How is it that we understand this principle as exemplified in God giving His Son? Let us seek to understand this glory of God that shines in the face of Jesus Christ that we might have unity.

We read that God "sent" His only begotten Son, and elsewhere that He "gave" Him. Let us consider these words.

Jesus speaks of His unity with the Father before the world was here, in Proverbs chapter 8. "The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When [there were] no depths, I was brought forth; when [there were] no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, [as] one brought up [with him]: and I was daily [his] delight, rejoicing always before him;" Proverbs 8:22-30.

The Father and the Son had a very close relationship. Jesus was daily the delight of the Father. They were as Ones who had grown up together. The Father was so involved with the Son, and the Son with the Father, their hearts were so intertwined with each other's that they were as One. Where one was, it was as though the other was also, for they were so wrapped up in each other that each was a representation of the other. And this love that they had between them was as strong as eternity. Allow your mind to contemplate this love which they had for one another.

No love was greater than the love of God. And this is a love that lays down its life for its friends. And Jesus and the Father were Friends.

When man fell under the deceptions of Satan, it became needful that a ransom was found. But no angel could pay the price of transgression. There was only one who could pay the price.

And so began the Counsels of Heaven. Can you imagine that counsels would be needed in heaven, even amongst such as the three Persons of the Godhead? Are they not three separate individuals? Yes, they are one in mind, in purpose and in character, yet they retain their own individuality. Examine closely the following quote from the Spirit of Prophecy:

"Sorrow filled heaven as it was realized that man was lost and that the world which God had created was to be filled with mortals doomed to misery, sickness, and death, and that there was no way of escape for the offender. The whole family of Adam must die. I then saw the lovely Jesus and beheld an expression of sympathy and sorrow upon His countenance. Soon I saw Him approach the exceeding bright light which enshrouded the Father. Said my accompanying angel, 'He is in close converse with His Father.' The anxiety of the angels seemed to be intense while Jesus was communing with His Father. Three times He was shut in by the glorious light about the Father, and the third time He came from the Father we could see His person. His countenance was calm, free from all perplexity and trouble, and shone with a loveliness which words cannot describe. He then made known to the angelic choir that a way of escape had been made for lost man; that He had been pleading with His Father, and had obtained permission to give His own life as a ransom for the race, to bear their sins, and take the sentence of death upon Himself, thus opening a way whereby they might, through the merits of His blood, find pardon for past transgressions, and by obedience be brought back to the garden from which they were driven. Then they could again have access to the glorious, immortal fruit of the tree of life to which they had now forfeited all right..."

"Said the angel, "Think ye that the Father yielded up His dearly beloved Son without a struggle? No, no." It was even a struggle with the God of heaven, whether to let guilty man perish, or to give His darling Son to die for them." Early Writings 127.1.

The Father loved the Son. He was daily His delight. How could He give His Darling up to a cruel and ignominious death? Even for perishing man? Nay, we do not doubt the love of God toward us, but we must consider how great the sacrifice was in Him giving His Son. Three times the Son had to appear before Him. Three times the Son had to plead with the Father that He would let Him ransom man. It was even a struggle with the God of heaven, whether to let guilty man perish, or to give His darling Son to die for them.

But the Father gave His glory to the Son (John 17:22), that the Son might give His glory to those who believe on Him.

The Father laid down His life for His Friend. Even though the Father loved His Son with an everlasting love, He demonstrated to Him how great His love really was. He laid down His life, His darling Son; Him who was so dear to Him, Whom he would hope that harm never came to, Him Whom He just wanted to have with Him always to love and to appreciate. But God laid down His life for His friend.

And so fully did He submit His own desires to the desires of His Son that it is therefore written that God “sent” His only begotten Son.

And so the Son laid down HIS life.

Heaven was His. Eternity belonged to Him. The adoration of vast numbers of heavenly beings was His right. The following is written:

“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 was 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.” Philippians 2:6-8

Jesus Christ laid down His life for His friends. This means that He compromised that which was rightfully His that He might demonstrate to man His love for Him and thus regain the unity He had in Eden.

The Father compromised His love for His darling Son. He gave Him to a fallen world that they might know how great His love for them is. The Son stepped from His holy abode onto Satan’s enchanted ground, that man might know how great HIS love was for them.

The Father gave up that which was dear to Him, and met His Son where He was at. The Son gave up the blessed communion with the Father that He might meet man where he is at.

The glory that is between the Father and the Son is the love that lays down its life for the other. It is a love that will go to the utmost to demonstrate how genuine it is. It is a love that will submit to the other, no matter what the cost may be.

And this love we are to have amongst ourselves. Jesus said that AS He loved us, so we are to love one another. We are to lay down our lives for one another.

The very out working of this principle is described in the words of Apostle Paul: “For though I be free from all [men], yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all [men], that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with [you].” 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

Apostle Paul says “that I might by all means save some.” What were these “all means”?

It was by “all means” that God convinced man of His love. In giving His Son He gave the whole universe. He gave Himself.

What was the fullest extent of these “all means”? “I am made all things to all men.”

Jesus Christ met man where he was at.

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same.” Hebrews 2:14, 15.

“Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto [his] brethren.” Hebrews 2:17.

Jesus Christ was “made all things to all men”. He was made like unto His brethren. As man is a partaker of flesh and blood He took part of the same.

Jesus entered into the very experience of those whom He sought to convince of His love. It is true that He “did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth”. 1 Peter 2:22. He did not partake with them in their sins. But as far as it was possible without compromising principle and integrity, He sought to meet man where he was at.

To a human being Christ was as a human being. And in the Spirit of Prophecy you will read that the angels themselves thought that their beloved Commander was an angel too, because He met them where they were at – to all things He became as all things. Except that in the case of the angels it was not necessary that He take upon Himself their nature.

And so this is the knowledge of the glory of God that shines in the face of Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul lays before our mind the very principle of that love of God that lays down its life. It is a love that condescends to meet man where he is at as far as possible without compromising principle. It is a love that will make concessions, though painful perhaps, for the sake of unity.

The Father’s heart must have felt that it was torn in two when His Son cried out “My God My God why hast thou forsaken me?” Indeed Jesus’ own heart broke. But no price was too dear for love. Everything that was right in itself could be given up for love. Only if it would bring about unity. Only if it would convince man that He loved him.

So we ought also to love one another. Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends.

“Jesus says, “Love one another as I have loved you.” Love is not simply an impulse, a transitory emotion, dependent upon circumstances; it is a living principle, a permanent power. The soul is fed by the streams of pure love that flow from the heart of Christ, as a well-spring that never fails. O, how is the heart quickened, how are its motives ennobled, its affections deepened,

by this communion! Under the education and discipline of the Holy Spirit, the children of God love one another, truly, sincerely, unaffectedly,—“without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” And this because the heart is in love with Jesus. Our affection for one another springs from our common relation to God. We are one family, we love one another as He loved us. When compared with this true, sanctified, disciplined affection, the shallow courtesy of the world, the meaningless expression of effusive friendship, are as chaff to the wheat.

“To love as Christ loved means to manifest unselfishness at all times and in all places, by kind words and pleasant looks. These cost those who give them nothing, but they leave behind a fragrance that surrounds the soul. The effect can never be estimated. Not only are they a blessing to the receiver, but to the giver; for they react upon him. Genuine love is a precious attribute of heavenly origin, which increases its fragrance in proportion as it is dispensed to others. . .

“Christ’s love is deep and earnest, flowing like an irrepressible stream to all who will accept it. There is no selfishness in His love. If this heaven-born love is an abiding principle in the heart, it will make itself known, not only to those we hold most dear in sacred relationship, but to all with whom we come in contact. It will lead us to bestow little acts of attention, to make concessions, to perform deeds of kindness, to speak tender, true, encouraging words. It will lead us to sympathize with those whose hearts hunger for sympathy.” Our Father Cares page 22.

By laying down His life for us, Christ has given us His glory. And this glory will bring about unity. The abiding principle of heaven-born love in the heart will make itself known by little acts of attention, kind deeds and true and encouraging words. It is a love that will cause us to make concessions.

This means that we will be willing to go as far as possible without compromising principle to preserve unity in the church.

There is within the church, as in heaven, varied minds. Each is making and has made various experiences. Different experiences. Some hold one standard higher, while others hold another standard higher. If there is true love in the hearts of the believers, they will act out the words of Apostle Paul and will be found “submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” Ephesians 5:21.

In order to demonstrate our love for one another, we will meet each other where they are at. Like Jesus we will be willing to make any possible concession so as to “provoke unto love”. Hebrews 10:24. And has not Jesus laying down His life for you provoked you to love Him? So we are to do the same for one another.

To the health reformer, we will be as a health reformer. When one has a conviction that a certain ingredient is unhealthful, and I become aware of this person’s attitude toward that ingredient, if I

love them, no matter how much I may love that ingredient and how much better I think that it makes the food taste, for their sake, when I am cooking a meal to share with them, I will leave it out. This is love. When I go home I can eat as much of it as I want.

To the dress reformer I will be as a dress reformer. Indeed as we are all health reformers, yet at different experiences of the health reform, so are we in the dress reform. Let us consider this matter in the light of the words of Apostle Paul:

“One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day [alike]. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth [it] unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard [it]. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.” Romans 14:5-8.

Here Apostle Paul is relating to us our very experience in the church. We are each at various stages of character development and in standards of reform. Each is doing what they do as unto the Lord.

“Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in [his] brother’s way.” Romans 14:13

Each is to have the liberty to serve the Lord as their conscience allows. However, how far do we take these words “that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way”?

We permit Apostle Paul to clarify Himself: “I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that [there is] nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him [it is] unclean. But if thy brother be grieved with [thy] meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of.” Romans 14:14-16.

Each has their own opinion. One does this and one does that. Their consciences are clear toward God. Each individual is serving God as they are able at the time. But these varied opinions can be very much a source of disharmony in the church. How is it that unity can come about while such differences exist? Only as one submits to the other and lays down their opinion. It belongs to the one to meet the other as far as possible without sacrificing principle.

If the love of God is in my heart, I will, by all means, seek to avoid grieving those whom I love in the church. I will lay down my life as Jesus laid down His. Even though my way is not necessarily wrong, I will seek the way of others as far as it is right. Even if it is painful to me, when in their company, out of deep love and respect, I will

be willing to compromise for the sake of peace. And as Jesus did, when He had laid down His life, I can return to the comforts of my own home and do that which is more pleasing to myself. But for the sake of Jesus, like Jesus, I will meet others where they are at if by all means I might save some. And I will win.

But who will be the first to yield? Who will be the first to demonstrate how deep their love is for their fellow-brethren? Who will be the first to show that Jesus is abiding in their heart? This is the great question, for it has to start somewhere, or it will never happen. The fact of the matter is that unity in the atonement starts with me.

And the benediction given unto Aaron and his sons wherewith they shall bless the children of Israel belongs unto those who will lead out in this work toward unity.

“The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” Numbers 6:24-26.

To those who do this work of laying down their lives for their brethren belongeth the countenance of God.

“As in water face [answereth] to face, so the heart of man to man.” Proverbs 27:19

Such a demonstration of love as we have here considered is that which provokes unto love. You can say much and do much, and your love can never be believed or appreciated. But when you take something that is so dear to you, and give it up for the sake of not causing another grief, though it may just be while in their presence, you give to them incontrovertible evidence of your love. Their hearts will be melted. With gratitude, though perhaps unexpressed, they will exclaim “You would do this for me?” And in turn, perhaps not immediately as it may take time to sink in, the heart will answer to heart.

And besides this, Jesus says that whatsoever we do unto the least of these His brethren, we do it unto Him. And if this is the case, will we be concerned if our own sacrifice of love goes unappreciated? Whatsoever we have done unto them we have done unto Jesus.

And what glory will that be. In the expression of concession, in sacrificing that which is dear to you and compromising for the sake of peace, you have worked the works of God. The glory which the Father gave the Son, the glory which the Son gave to you, you have now given to the other, and in giving to the other have given to God. This glory which we have treasured in our earthen vessels, now shines forth in the face of Jesus Christ.

And will not face answer to face?

“The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his

countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

You will go home feeling beloved of the Lord. The sunshine upon your face will feel that He is smiling warmly upon you. The wind in your hair will be as a kiss of His love. And you will have a tranquility of soul that will soothe even the most wearied muscles.

But who is there that truly knows and practices the principles of this love? One day there will be one-hundred and forty-four thousand of them. But it has to start somewhere. And that is with me. **AMEN.**

Camron Schofield

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"I do set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth" Genesis 9:13.

ENTER HERE

The book of Genesis, (the Book of Beginnings) is our Bible foundation. It is quoted above sixty times in seventeen books. The roots of all subsequent revelation are planted deep in Genesis, and whoever would truly comprehend that revelation must begin here. Without it we cannot understand the rest of the Bible; being meaningless, out of context! Why? It describes creation, the Sabbath rest day. But, most importantly, the book of Genesis tells us about ourselves! Surprised? Well, we as human beings are remarkable, beautiful creatures. We are God's crowning creative work. Thusly, we are in God's all-seeing eye and inescapable presence! We read on, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139:14).

We were made to be a reflection of God's mind, His love and instrument of God's plan. We see in the beginning of Genesis the marvelous relationship with God; a faith-love relationship. Adam, the first man walked in communion with God in the garden, "in the cool of the day," or, maybe in "the spirit of the day" (Gen 3:8). This was God's intention and plan for all of humanity.

SHEDDING OF BLOOD

Then this sweet communion, however, is suddenly broken; shattered like a glass on a Greek marble floor, by Adam's dying fall – a tragedy of disobedience and unbelief; by following our faith in error, believing the lie. Here's a story of human failure, and fall. But still, throughout the bible, God makes covenant agreements with people He loves. This first recorded sign of the covenant was shown by an appropriate symbol – the rainbow! This covenant was made with Noah and his sons, and reached out – and still reaches – to every living creature in the world (Gen 9:13,14). But, our Bible story goes on with the failure of God's first creation and its destruction in the flood. Genesis then changes dramatically, and world history nearly stands still. A world full of ignorance and hatred, a brutish place without any hope of redemption! What does God do then? Well, God begins drawing, calling people who are in need, to make a covenant with them. Who? He called Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Just what is this covenant that God makes with man? A covenant is binding, a contract, a bond, agreement, a legal binding obligation, the idea by which parties bind themselves and each other to the fulfillment of certain conditions. In Biblical terms a covenant is in force or effect when there is a shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22).

ABRAHAM THE NOMAD

So, God settles on one lonely individual; not a great King or wealthy landowner, but a nomad without a child – Abraham! He was one of the many children of God. One member of a particular line; born in Ur of the Chaldees. There are many kinds of people in each generation – good, wicked, and indifferent. Each generation has its own history. If a generation of people were led to Jesus, they'd



The Reason For Rainbows

be a wonderful people. So what about Abraham? At God's call, Abraham pulled up his roots from civilization and spent his life wandering the wilderness at the age of seventy five with all his servants, his wife Sarah, his nephew Lot and all his possessions, (There's hope, therefore, for everyone!). He was busy moving his flocks from place to place, fighting battles with hostile people, and defending the oppressed. Abraham had to be tough to survive. So what made Abraham so important to God?

Firstly and simply, because God "chose" him from an idolatrous generation and a family of idol worshipers. Abraham's family all worshiped other gods. Abraham was the only one who didn't worship these other gods (Joshua 24:2,14). He was presented as a model of faith and pure monotheism in the New Testament, early Christian writings, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Koran. Abraham is an example for us, and succeeding generations

The word of God is a book of men who have experienced great failures, deep pain, hurt, suffering and great successes. Their lives are lessons, given to us to show us the desperate need in each of our lives. One of them is like you or me. Abraham's story is that of someone who always needed somebody to provide for him, to supply him with his needs. So, his needs were continually supplied to the Semites by God. Abraham, born 2161 B.C., of the line of Shem, one of Noah's sons, Terah; and "God made him keeper of His law for future generations"(PP125).

We can almost see Abraham developing into a tough, compact young man with evident leadership skills. He worshiped Sin earlier, the god of the moon and Ur's chief deity; raised among heathenism. But, he was to be the foundation of a new humanity (Gen 13:1-18). God often spoke to him directly, promising to make his family great. What a promise! But, the promises for Abraham were hard to believe; God saying to him— to leave behind the life you know, and I will one day bless the entire world through you! How this will happen, and why, is a mystery to Abraham. So here is a genealogy that would have covered centuries – ten generations from Noah to Abraham! To the ancients, the famous ziggurat in Ur must have been a mighty symbol to the solidity of traditional beliefs. This brings us closer to understanding the magnitude of Abraham's break from those beliefs. Perhaps his early experiences in Ur prepared him for the spark of inspiration that carried him - and humanity - on a great journey.

CRITICAL - DECISIVE

Abraham's wife was old and barren at ninety years of age! In respect of her age and the constitution of her body, she was past all hope of child bearing; a hopeless situation! Abraham was getting too old to have children. He owned no land and had no hopes of any. Nevertheless, God asked Abraham to trust Him, saying "Fear not Abraham, I am thy shield, and thy exceedingly great reward "(Gen 15:1).

"But, his mind was oppressed with doubt that he could not grasp

the promise with unquestioning confidence, as heretofore. He prayed for some kind of evidence that it would be fulfilled, while the gift of a son was withheld" (PP136). "What will thou give me," he said, "seeing I go childless?" Abraham proposed to make his trusty servant, Eliezer, his son by adoption, his inheritor and heir. But, God said no. Abraham was assured that a child of his own was to be his heir. "So shall thy seed be."

The second reason Abraham matters to God follows from the first, when God spoke to him, Abraham listened to His command. "Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness (Rom 4:3). God knew who the ancestors of Abraham were, namely, Jesus Christ.

"Still, the patriarch begged for some visible token or sign as a confirmation of his faith and as evidence to after-generations that God's gracious purposes toward them would be accomplished. Although God spoke to him, sometimes he strayed away from the path God put him on, lying and trying to make the promises work out in his own way. But, in a critical, decisive moment of his life, he listened to God and obeyed. He was willing to sacrifice anything for God, even his own son!"(PP137).

Abraham's descendents were to be forever known as "God's people." His lengthened name, Abraham means "father of multitudes" (Gen 17:5). Also, "father of all nations," "model of faith." Sarai's name became Sarah, for "princess – mother of nations." In time Abraham became the patriarch of three monotheistic faiths – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. History was to be transformed! More than three billion people – more than half of humanity – venerate Abraham as the father, patriarch, and spiritual ancestor of their faiths! Christians trace their spiritual lineage from Jesus to Abraham, whose obedience, service, and sacrifice prefigured the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. However, Abraham's pondering question at this moment was still, "how can I know if I shall inherit it? (Gen 15:8).

CUT-UP CORPSES

"Finally, God condescended to enter into a covenant with His servant, using the forms as were customary among men for a solemn agreement. By divine direction Abraham slaughtered a heifer, a she goat, and a ram, each three years old. Each of the three animals were divided and the two halves placed one against the other, with a space between. One was laid on one side, and the other on the opposite side of it. To these he added a turtledove, and a young pigeon, which however, were not divided. This being done, he reverently passed between the cut parts of the sacrifice, making a solemn vow to God of perpetual obedience, to the provisions thus, solemnly agreed upon. But, here is one walk, one signature. The covenant's not complete! There was no evidence that God was visible on His part, or accepted the obligations of the covenant or were binding" (PP137)(Gen 15:11).

One thing is missing – God! What happened? "Watchful, and

prayerful, Abraham remained besides the carcasses to cut and enter into a covenant; the symbolic actions by which the parties concerned passed through “cut-up corpses” of animals. “Cut” means by itself to “make a covenant”; implying not an “extension” of “blood brotherhood,” but rather a threat of similar dismemberment for the one who violated the agreement. Transgressors of the covenant would be cut into pieces like the animals!”(Jeremiah 34:18-20)(Sam 22:8)(Ps 50:5).

“This was a real, living occurrence, not a dream or vision. The reality of the divine order is implied by the fact that he had to drive away the marauding birds of prey that tried to feed on the dead carcasses. If they are not prevented by doing so, vultures and other birds, in Oriental lands begin to consume fallen animals immediately upon their death, usually picking their bones clean within a matter of minutes.” (1BC pg. 313).

BAPTISM

“Believers, make a covenant with the Lord by water immersion, as a spiritual agreement, in which believers are bound by to live for Him.” (6BC1075) “The obligations of baptism are mutual on God’s part.” (2TT396-37) “The baptism, furthermore, is called for in conversion, and symbolizes cleansing of sin.” (DA104). Also, “entrance to Christ’s spiritual kingdom, public renunciation of the world, pride and self-indulgence;” (6T98) “dedication of soul to God.” (EV315). Moreover, “is an outward sign showing that believers should be God’s children through Christ.” (CG499). Finally, “uniting with the church.” (8T116). These are the principle conditions or terms of the “baptismal covenant.”

Moreover, the Spirit of Prophecy tells us that “the investigative judgment precedes Christ’s second coming.” (EW22) The law books of heaven will be opened; the books of life, record, and remembrance in which everything that is said or done is recorded. The heavens will roll back and Christ will reconfirm His covenant with His children. Destiny will be fixed. The covenant sealed forever more.

PECK, PECK, PECK!

Meanwhile, “Abraham, continued to be watchful and steadfast, faithfully remaining by the severed carcasses, driving away the fowls as they swooped down until sunset. Abraham was still waiting for confirmation of the covenant from God, and felt it his duty to honorably protect the carcasses from being torn to pieces and devoured.” (PP137).

How do birds eat? Well, they hastily peck. “Devils are represented by birds.”(Col 44). We faithfully wait for the second coming of Jesus; having made a covenant with Him by baptism. Ah! Yet, life can be complicated and burdensome. Time and energy is often needlessly expended pursuing shallow gods; fame, success, and unattainable heights of security in a decadent world. Then too, however, many observe and keep the Sabbath day, pay the tithe, honor and praise God in prayer, work faithfully in his service, and profess to believe

in Christ and His second coming.

I like to awake early, and on arising honor the covenant. But, no one knows if I sleep late, and forget the birds. Thereby, they “peck” my covenant. The Sabbath is coming; it’s getting late; dishes are piled high in the sink, the house is dirty, the clothes are not ready, food not cooked, the gas in the car is low. The birds savagely “peck” again and again, more and more at my covenant. I am late to church; my words and thoughts are not in keeping with the Spirit of the Sabbath, and with His will.

Satan has a whole sanctuary of cruel, circling birds and predatory fowls to consume our precious covenant. You may not notice it now, but after a few years... nothing remains! The covenant is methodically destroyed, piece by piece. So, what can be done? Forcefully drive the unclean birds out of your life and away from your presence as Abraham did, and thoroughly cherish and cling to the covenant with all of your might and power!

WHERE’S GOD?

Now, did God ever appear to confirm His covenant with Abraham? Happily, He did! As a pledge or confirmation of this covenant of God with men, a smoking furnace and a burning lamp; symbols of His divine presence, passed between the severed victims totally consuming them!

Egypt was the “smoking furnace” (Deut. 4:20;1Kings 8:51), and the “burning lamp” indicated the Lord’s presence with His people there. The covenant announced (Gen. 12:1-4), and confirmed (Gen. 13:14-17; 15:1-7), was here ratified (Gen. 15:18-21). The burning lamp is further evidence of a joyful deliverance. And the smoking furnace (clay pot); their peoples’ affliction in Egypt. Abraham patiently waited all this time, staying vigilantly awake, waiting for the “covenant of promises.”

ARISE – AWAKE!

We, too, are to arise and be awake, to keep watch and repel the evil birds from our lives, until God confirms and re-confirms our covenant. Truly, we are faced with afflictions also, exposed to temptations, trials, attempting to control our lives by ourselves. We try and continually fail. Abraham had thoughts of his own, yet it was his sacred duty as keeper of the Law, to watch the covenant. If we do not, likewise, watch the covenant, then we will have a covenant with a dangerous world.

Consequently, “let nothing mar your sacrifice! Watch as faithfully as did Abraham, lest the raven or any birds of prey alight upon your sacrifice and offering to God and devour it! Every thought of doubt should be so guarded that it will not seek the light of day by utterance. “Light always flees from words which honor the powers of darkness.” (Letter 7, 1892; 7A BC 1093).

However strange and intricate the form of rites, ordinances, churches, promises, and providences be, let us revere and believe

them, as framed and managed by God for His own glory; and always look up to His glorious self, and the Lamb as it had been slain in the midst of the throne...”and there was a rainbow round about the throne” (Rev. 4:3). The notion of the rainbow is repeated again, “...and a rainbow was on His head, His face was like the sun, and His feet like pillars of fire.” (Rev 10:1). Jesus, ever being mindful of His covenant of grace and prizing it as His glorious crown, confirmed it and ratified it with Abraham, the promised and everlasting covenant, thereby.

The rainbow is also characteristic of heavenly scenes, “like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.” (Ezek 1:28). This was Ezekiel’s vision of God. In Greek it’s defined as (iris-ophthalmou) meaning the circular membrane of the eye containing the pupil – or traditionally, rainbow; denoting in all periods –everlasting – all seeing.

SEVEN

The rainbow appeared after the flood, a token that there should never be another flood, and as such, it represented the covenant of grace (Rev. 4:3; 10:1) The rainbow is, furthermore, a symbol of mercy which unites as it were, heaven and earth; so as we see it, it touches the clouds and reaches to the earth with its seven prismatic colours. Why seven? The number seven Biblically, is expressive of universality, fullness, and perfection. These seven colors are also a beautiful illustration of the perfections and attributes of God, in His grace, and in which He made Himself known to Noah, Abraham, and Moses, with His everlasting covenant.

The New Covenant is made on better promises (Heb 8:6-10; 9:15;4:14-16; 13:20,21), “for we have Christ as our mediator, and the Sabbath as a sign of God’s covenant with God’s children, throughout eternity – a perpetual covenant (Exodus 31:16).

Let us, then, wait with patient expectation, and with the patriarch, look beyond a numerous seed, and an earthly Canaan, to Jesus, and to the better country above; the everlasting pleasures of which shall more than balance all the discouragements we can meet by the way.

May the sign of the rainbow in the cloud be an everlasting covenant in your life. He’s waiting for you, so let it be! WALK ON THE RAINBOW PATH!

That’s THE REASON FOR RAINBOWS. *Amen.*

John Theodorou, U.S.A.



**WESTERN FIELD CONFERENCE, CALIFORNIA, USA
(AUG. 27-31, 2008)**

The Western Field conference was held in a beautiful country setting at Camp Alta which is located on the western slope of the Sierra Mountains of Northern California. This quiet setting provided a much needed retreat from the busy activities of life, with much time for reflection, meditation and Christian socialization. The theme of the conference was taken from Romans 13:11 “And that, knowing the time, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep: for now [is] our salvation nearer than when we believed.” We are closer to the coming of Christ than we realize and we are encouraged to



make earnest preparation to meet our Lord.

A variety of subjects were presented in the form of workshops and sermons encouraging the believers to wake up to the seriousness of the time. Subjects that were covered included, "The Signs of the end of the world," "The Sunday Law Movement," and "Our Mission in the Latter Rain."

There is a personal preparation required also which includes asking God for direction when it is time to move out of the cities and into more retired locations. Although we will meet great opposition, we need to learn lessons from the life of Christ in that we are not to

defend ourselves at this time. The battle is the Lord's and we need to let Him do our fighting. We need to know when to speak, and when to remain silent. We need to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit as He will be our only security in the perilous times ahead. Truly the Holy Spirit was in our midst as we shared many beautiful songs and testimonies. United in spirit we worshipped the Lord. All too soon it was time to depart, but we all left with renewed energy to take up the work of the Lord for the coming year in our corner of the world. May God help us all to make earnest preparation to meet the Lord as His coming is nearer than we believed.

Wendy Eaton, Canada



Tribulation Of The Human Bosom

“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they that came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Revelation 7:14

Jesus has some very precious words.

“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry [them] in his bosom, [and] shall gently lead those that are with young.” Isaiah 40:11

Just as surely as we look to Jesus, and uncover our souls to him, we will go down into the valley of humiliation and acknowledge ourselves as weak, helpless, and ignorant lambs. Just as surely as we realise our position, we shall be carried in the bosom of the great Shepherd. To be carried in the bosom of the great Shepherd, what a great prospect and thought. To become a lamb.

Do we here desire to be carried in the bosom of Jesus? Is this a thought that as a Christian you would desire to accomplish in your life? For Jesus to carry you? As we begin to look to Jesus and uncover our souls to Him, we will go down into the valley of humiliation and we will acknowledge ourselves as weak, helpless, ignorant lambs. As surely as we realise this, we shall be carried in the bosom of the great Shepherd. In order to have such a great privilege to be carried by Jesus, we need to be in a position where Jesus is able to carry us. The tribulation we read about in Revelation 7:14, the 144,000 come out of great tribulation. Is becoming a lamb an experience of coming out of great tribulation?

Is it a noble thing to be a human crowned with honour and glory and then tainted with sin and the sense of pride and self? To become a lamb is to experience tribulation.

“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” Isa. 53:2-7.

The Lamb of God. John the Baptist said, “behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” What did John the Baptist see but a carpenter. Behold the Lamb rejected in His own town and by His own family. To be carried in the bosom of the great

Shepherd, we must become lambs. As we look to the Lamb and uncover our souls before Him, we will go into a valley of humiliation. We will acknowledge ourselves as weak, helpless, ignorant lambs. Just as surely as you realise this, you'll be carried in the great bosom of the Shepherd. The thought of being carried in the bosom of Jesus doesn't come without a cost. The tribulation in order to be in the bosom of the great Shepherd, is that we are to condescend to be lambs.

Jesus said, "I send you as lambs among wolves." He was talking to the disciples when He sent the 70 out. Christ identified his followers as lambs.

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Revelation 7:14

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads." Revelation 14:1

This Lamb that stood on Mount Zion was Jesus. With Him stand the 144,000 lambs also.

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." Revelation 14:4

To be in the 144,000, we must follow the Lamb. We read in Isaiah 53: "He was despised and rejected, acquainted with sorrow and we hid our faces from him." Humanity didn't like Him. In this beautiful scripture Jesus wants to tell us that He shall feed His flock like a shepherd and He shall carry his lambs in his bosom. An experience in order to stand on Mt Zion. An experience to understand that to be carried by Jesus means you can't carry yourself. To acknowledge that you can't carry yourself is a humiliating experience. That a proud, sinful, selfish man would come to the point of realising: "I don't know where I'm going. I'm lost. I'm nothing. I'm being transformed into a lamb that the great Shepherd will hold in His bosom." In Papua New Guinea, in the pigeon language, the expression "bell" or "belly", expresses the seat of the emotions. The Bible uses the word "bowel" where the emotions are. But the word "bosom" is another one of those words. It has a meaning physically of our breast or chest area. The area near the heart. It is considered the seat of the emotions. Very dear, intimate, a bosom friend. It's a symbol or physical place where is kept something we care about. A mother with a child holds the child in its bosom and the child is fed. That has a psychological effect on the child. When the child gets a soft toy or teddy, it puts it near its heart as something that is dear and cherished. Something that is loved. Christ is wanting to take the lambs and carry them in His bosom.

Like the song, "near to the heart of God," that is where the bosom is, near the heart.

A lamb is the youngest member of the social network of sheep. So the 144,000 are the youngest members of the human redeemed race. They are young and inexperienced. We don't live like they used to live. But we are awfully humiliated like the Lamb of God. Because those lambs will follow the Lamb of God. To be in the bosom of Jesus.

Where is Jesus? The scripture says He is in the bosom of the father. We are to be in the bosom of our Father, which is the relationship that Jesus spoke in John 17:

"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me." John 17:23-25.

John 17 is talking of a bosom relationship. Jesus was in the bosom of the Father and we are to be in the bosom of the Father. Jesus was in the Father's bosom and in our bosom. Is Jesus in your bosom? Is He near to your heart? Is he the one that you care about? In order to be in Jesus' bosom, in order to be a lamb, we need Jesus inside of us to make us a lamb as we are not lambs, we are wolves. Is it possible, that Jesus is not in your bosom but He is with you? Is it possible that you can be with Jesus but not in His bosom?

John 14:17 talks about the Holy Spirit THAT He shall come, for He is with you and shall be in you. "Shall" is future tense. "With you" is present tense. The disciples were with Jesus and Jesus was with them, but there was not yet a bosom relationship. It was to come.

The 144,000 must have a bosom relationship with Jesus both ways, we in His and He in ours.

Do we really need to have a bosom relationship with Him? Wouldn't we be in heaven if we were with Him? Why do we have to be in Him? Does this have any relevance to the days we are living in today? Is this a requirement for the way the world is today?

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed [are] they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." Rev. 19:7-9.

What has come? The marriage supper of the Lamb.

“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.” Eph. 5:26-28.

Marriage? What sort of a relationship is marriage? Is it a bosom relationship? Where did Eve come from? The bosom of Adam. Christ is marrying His church, which are His followers, corporately, together. Not just one person by themselves; He is coming to marry a people, not a person. These people all have a bosom relationship with Jesus. They have washed themselves in the blood of the Lamb. Where did the blood come from when He was on Calvary? The spear went through into His bosom and there flowed blood and water. What is the application of the blood and the water? As from the side of Adam came forth Eve, so out of the side of Christ came forth His glorious church.

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: Eph. 5:22-25, 29.

What was done with the water and the blood that came from the bosom of Jesus? The 144,000 were washed by the blood of the Lamb. His church was sanctified and cleansed by the washing of water of the word.

To have a bosom relationship means to be in touch with the fountain of life giving water. To be in the bosom requires something that as Christians we do not always consider before our journey. To be in the bosom of Jesus He must be in our bosom. What is in your bosom? Is it you? Are you in your own bosom? Do you care for yourself? What was in Adam's bosom? We can learn a lot from our parents so we go to see what was in Adam's bosom. We are all children of Adam so we have all received this experience.

“If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom.” Job 31:33.

What did Adam do? He hid his iniquity in his bosom? Isn't the bosom where Jesus is meant to be? And what is there? Iniquity. Adam had his iniquity in his bosom. He loved it. It was near his heart. It was something he wanted to hold and not let it go. If you have seen a child that wants something and another tries to take it, it takes it to the bosom where the enemy won't get to it easily. It's the fortress of your heart. We are the offspring of Adam. We have iniquity in our bosom. We naturally love sin. We care for it. Do you

know what is in the bosom of sin? Death. Loving sin, we are loving death. Where is Jesus? Killed by it. Killed by death. The thing we love is the weapon that killed the son of God, literally. What killed Jesus? Was it the nails, the spear? It was sin. We need to realise that the 144,000 will expel the sin that it loves and receive into its bosom Jesus Christ. In turn, Jesus will receive us into His bosom.

Ever since the fall of man, from the state of innocence and obedience in which he was created, he has been prone to hide from God and hide iniquity in his bosom rather than confess his sin and forsake his transgression.

To be free from sin is to have our bosom opened to Jesus. There is no literal door to your side. We are talking of an experience that we need to have every day. To be in a position to repulse those things which I love and to receive those things which love me.

Christ had the spear thrust into his side and then into His bosom. There is the source of life for His church. What is Jesus yearning for? Are we really Christians, do we really care about Jesus? He is everything to us. We can't have a form of coming to church and a religious experience that doesn't have a bosom relationship. To be on the church role doesn't mean to have a bosom relationship with Jesus. To be on the church role is to learn how to rid your bosom of sin so Jesus can dwell there. Jesus shed tears as He said:

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” Matt. 23:37-39.

This is a scripture that applies today. God's withdrawal from Jerusalem is repeated in every generation. His cry today is, “where are my bosom friends?” How many times would He gather them into His bosom as a hen puts her chicks under her wings. How many times have I done this? But you wouldn't. Why wouldn't they? Their bosoms were full of iniquity, pride and self-exaltation.

Christ in heaven, what is He doing? He's making His enemies His footstool. He's destroying people's bosoms hoping that when sin has destroyed it, that bosom is dead so He can come in. There is a war over every soul. Satan wants your bosom, and Jesus wants your bosom. What is He doing? What is the call after He went to heaven? Repent, repent for the kingdom of God is at hand. Can we say that today? Repent, repent for the kingdom of God is at hand?

Repentance. Christians can preach repentance and forgiveness and they don't know what they're saying. What if the sin you're holding is love of self, which are all our problems? If love of self is being cradled in our arm and the call is to repent, what are we doing

to ourselves? We are hurting ourselves. Do you recall the parable of the publican and the Pharisee when they went to the temple and prayed and the Pharisee prayed for himself? What did the publican do? He smote his breast and said, "have mercy on me a sinner." What was the Pharisee doing? He was praying to himself. We do this ourselves. This is what the publican did, he smote his breast. Is Jesus the world to you? Then you will be able to smite your breast. Put away sin, the things you love. People don't like to do that. Self is in our hearts. It is barring the entrance of Jesus. We now read a love story of Jesus and His wife but His wife wouldn't let Him in to her bosom. There was an appreciation, there was a love there, the love wasn't a bosom love; it was an obligation love.

"I sleep, but my heart waketh: [it is] the voice of my beloved that knocketh, [saying], Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, [and] my locks with the drops of the night." Song of Solomon 5:2.

Does this sound like Gods church? Jesus is humbly outside in tears.

"I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them? My beloved put in his hand by the hole [of the door], and my bowels were moved for him." Song of Solomon 5:3, 4.

There is an emotional connection there, an obligation.

"I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped [with] myrrh, and my fingers [with] sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, [and] was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer. The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me." Song of Solomon 5:5-7.

That is the consequence. She was wounded; her bosom was wounded as she got rid of her husband. Why do we remove Christ from our bosoms?

"Jesus watched with deep earnestness the changing countenances of His hearers. The faces that expressed interest and pleasure gave Him great satisfaction. As the arrows of truth pierced to the soul, breaking through the barriers of selfishness, and working contrition, and finally gratitude, the Saviour was made glad. When His eye swept over the throng of listeners, and He recognised among them the faces He had before seen, His countenance lighted up with joy. He saw in them hopeful subjects for His kingdom. When the truth, plainly spoken, touched some cherished idol, He marked the change of countenance, the cold, forbidding look, which told that the light was unwelcome. When He saw men refuse the message of peace, His heart was pierced to the very depths." DA 255

What were those that were hopeful subjects? Those that had the arrow of truth pierced into their heart and they didn't repulse it. What did the arrows work? Contrition and repentance and after repentance, gratitude. Must Jesus bear the cross alone? Is Jesus the only one with a pierced bosom? We must have pierced bosoms. Sin must be pierced out.

Do you know what pierces Jesus? When you don't want to be pierced. If you don't want to be pierced, He can't save you. The sin of rejection He bore on the cross. That pierced Him. To protect yourself is to wound Christ. So many of us in human relationships get hurt so we lock up. Why? Because something hurts us? Praise the lord it hurts, you're dying. It hurt Jesus. What hurt Jesus? Sin hurt Jesus. Jesus is there watching the arrows of truth in the heart. The word of the lord says today, if you hear His voice, harden not your heart. When we hear His voice, we think it an enemy and close it. If you will let me in, then I will carry you. He wept over Jerusalem, "how many times I would have carried you but you wouldn't." The Christian walk is an offensive walk. The scripture says it is not possible but that the offense will come. These are the things we don't calculate when we become Christians, to say Jesus is all the world to me. Let Him have your world and He will destroy it and give you His world.

But we don't like it. Why? Why do we go through the struggles and refuse to return? We lock up, and close our bosom, acknowledging our sin and we despair. We think, how can I obey now? Do you know what to do to be obedient when you have had all your sins revealed? Return. In returning and rest will you be saved. To be obedient is to return back to the Lord with an open heart.

When I was a child I would say, "Jesus come into my heart," and I don't know what I was saying. How many times do we say this and go on sinning. We reject the testimonies as they are too hard.

There was an experience with J N Andrews. He went to a sister and was sharing the Sabbath with her. She was sick and he said, perhaps you have been sick so that I can share with you the Sabbath. The experience goes on and says her bosom arose swelling with emotion. She cried, Christ is all to me, away with your Sabbath. And he left.

Christ is all to me, away with your Sabbath? This is the syndrome of Christianity today. You think you are rich and increased with goods but really you are miserable, poor, blind and naked. To repent is to smite the bosom and get rid of the things that we cherish.

"Some are indulging lustful appetite, which wars against the soul, and is a constant hindrance to their spiritual advancement. They constantly bear an accusing conscience, and if straight truths are talked, they are prepared to be offended. They are self-condemned, and feel that subjects have been purposely selected to touch their case. They feel grieved and injured, and withdraw themselves from the assemblies of the saints. They forsake the assembling

of themselves together, for then their consciences are not so disturbed. They soon lose their interest in the meetings and their love for the truth, and, unless they entirely reform, will go back and take their position with the rebel host, who stand under the black banner of Satan. If these will crucify fleshly lusts which war against the soul, they will get out of the way, where the arrows of truth will pass harmlessly by them. But while they indulge lustful appetite, and thus cherish their idols, they make themselves a mark for the arrows of truth to hit, and if truth is spoken at all, they must be wounded." CD 47

We may be offended in our feelings, but don't carry that offence into your bosom.

"Some think they cannot reform, that it would ruin their health to leave off the use of tea, tobacco, and flesh-meats. This is a suggestion of Satan. These hurtful stimulants will surely undermine the constitution, and prepare the system for acute disease; for they impair nature's delicate machinery, and batter down the fortifications she has erected against disease and premature decay." CTBH 153

To love Christ is to love yourself. The commandment is, "love your neighbours as yourself." If you care about your own destiny, you will get rid of sin in your bosom. What is sin in the bosom? Death. Thou shalt not kill. You can be guilty of murdering yourself if you continue in such a course of holding such sins.

Christianity hurts self if we resist. As we consider our desire to be carried in the bosom of Jesus as lambs, we need to understand the times in which we live. If you do not yield your bosom to Jesus, this is the consequence;

"Behold, [it is] written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom, Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the LORD, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom." Isa. 65:6, 7.

When Lucifer is finally destroyed, do you know where the source of his destruction comes from? His bosom. If you don't kill your bosom it will kill you. We are nurturing something very dangerous; if we love it and hang on to it, it will kill us. Get rid of it, brothers and sisters. Let us go to God with clean pure hearts. Let us be willing to be wounded for his sake. Let us press together and not take offence at each other's wounds.

"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:37, 38.

If we will let Jesus into our bosom, we will act like lambs. In our actions that profess Christ, we will have good measure, goodness. It will be given into your bosom. If you let Jesus in, your bosom will be full, absolutely full of the presence of God. As His church gathers into his bosom, He can finish the marriage!

His bosom will be full of love. No offences. Now is a bosom full of mercy, love and truth. This is the experience of the 144,000. When they sing, they will sing from their bosoms, the song that no one else can sing. Why? Because in their bosom is jammed packed full of good measure. They can sing glory to God.

The Sabbath is a day where we get to remember God's great deeds. Let us remember the great deeds of one another. If we desire to remember the deeds of God, we cannot remember any negative. Do not be surprised at a hurt heart, not to think it strange, that we are off the path. If we can just remember one thing, not to run away from a hurt heart. If your heart condemns you, God is greater than your heart. Let your heart bleed and Jesus will carry you. No wonder they will be able to sit on His throne with Him.

Have you closed your heart to God to Him in the person of His saints? This is a last day text applicable to us now:

"Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, [if] we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter [and] former rain unto the earth." Hosea 6:1-3.

We are living in the last time of history, the 144,000 are almost made up, and people have had bosom relationships. Look at the pioneers, their hearts have bled. Let us follow the same path. So many people don't follow on and say, "that's it, how dare they hurt me." First it's black, then it's light; first it hurts, and then it feels nice. Pain now, pleasure later. It's much better to have pleasure now, pain later. Come and let us return unto the Lord. **Amen.**

Paul Godfrey, Australia



By Beholding

It is a great blessing to have eyesight. We can see the beauty of God's creation, and we can read the word of God. We can see where we are going, and we can avoid dangers.

But also we can use our eyesight to see evil and vanity, and we can read books inspired by Satan.

The marvellous thing is that we change into the same image that we are beholding. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor. 3:18.

Satan knows the effect of looking; therefore, he has invented books, magazines, movies, and theatres with sinful themes for the people to see, which will corrupt their minds and hearts.

Many people have no plans to do anything sinful, but they want to see only, and this has become the most common entertainment and pastime for them. And by looking at murders, robberies, adultery and vanity; after a while they lose their sinfulness in their minds, and they are ready to commit these acts themselves.

Eve did not realize the danger in looking. She wandered through the garden to the tree of knowledge to see it, perhaps from curiosity. But by looking, a desire was created in her heart.

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Gen. 3:6.

They regretted their sin, but the damage was done. The whole world plunged into sin and evil from which no one could escape by his own power and effort.

David was a man of God. He was a prophet and the leader of the nation. He knew the commandments of God and according to these commandments he did judge the people. But also he fell into great sin by looking.

"And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon." 2 Sam. 11:2.

The result of this looking was an adultery and murder.

John writes a counsel to us, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:15-17.

John mentions the lust of the eyes, which requires to be satisfied and it is a multi-billion dollar industry today to satisfy the lust of the eyes of the people. Parents do not realize the damage they cause in their children, by permitting them to watch television freely.

Many church-going Christians are doing a terrible mistake by letting their eyes watch worldly shows; even sports can contaminate our minds and hearts. They will fall into a lukewarm condition and eventually they will lose their faith.



Sister White gives us a clear message, "If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, they were safe. But soon some grew weary, and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before. Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and from His arm came a light which waved over the Advent band, and they shouted, 'Alleluia!' Others rashly denied the light behind them and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below." EW, p. 14, 15.

As long as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus we are safe. Not only once in a while, but daily; constantly talking to Him and meditating on Him. At the same time we are changing to His likeness more and more.

People love beauty, they travel long distances to see beautiful

places. They hang pictures on their walls of lovely landscapes and pretty flowers. They spend money on cosmetics to make themselves look better.

But the greatest beauty we see is in the character of Jesus. His sacrifice for fallen man has no comparison. His care and love toward the sinners should be our daily contemplation. As we contemplate we keep changing into the same image. Our characters will reflect His image perfectly. His righteousness will be our righteousness. Our faith will grow so that we can move mountains, and nothing will be impossible to us.

When children look to their parents and see Christlikeness in them they will turn to the same image. But often the parents who profess religion are not perfect; they do not reflect the image of Jesus and when children see their character faults they lose their respect toward their religion. They may be forced to religious activities and meetings, but when they get old enough they often give up religion completely.

Reading the Bible daily is looking to Jesus. Our sister in Venezuela told me that she had read the Bible through 56 times and still continued reading it every day. Bible reading will purify our minds and hearts. Besides the Bible, we have the Spirit of Prophecy books. Sis. White wrote over 100,000 pages in her lifetime. They are mediums for our salvation, therefore we should not ignore them. If you read 10 pages every day, you will finish reading them all in 30 years.

But if our eyes tempt us to see evil and vanity, then Jesus said what to do; and it was to pluck them out. It is better than to lose our salvation. So important is beholding right things that Jesus mentioned such drastic measures to prevent our eyes from seeing wrong things.

Our mind is like a computer. Whatever you put in, that comes out of it. Our eyes and ears are the avenues to our minds. Our thoughts, words and actions are a reflection of the things we have seen and heard.

If it is your desire to have a pure mind and heart, then be very careful what you behold, because despite what you want or do not want, you will change to the same image.

Therefore, keep Jesus before your eyes constantly and you will be safe; otherwise you will lose your faith and fall off the narrow pathway. And if you love to behold Jesus now in this life you will be granted the privilege to behold Him for all eternity. **AMEN**

Timo Martin, Canada

Oh Dear Jesus

*Please help me to understand
The darkness of the dead
It makes a shadow in my life
The anguish that my soul
Feels burns my mind and
Makes my body shake in
Terror and agony and with
Tears in my eyes I ask you*

*Please give peace to my mind
and faith to believe and not to
fail through this hard time
Please help me Dear Lord
Comfort my broken heart, restore
My soul and keep it strong
for struggles to come.*

By Lucy Flores

THE RIVER BOAT AND THE LUMBER RAFTS



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Do you like to go to camp meeting? Would you like to go to camp meeting by boat? A riverboat? The White family traveled about a hundred miles by riverboat as they went to the camp meeting in Minnesota in 1870. They did not go alone. There were other Adventist families making ten people in the group. In the White family there were Elder White and Sister White and Willie, who was fifteen.

They reached the Mississippi River at Dubuque, Iowa, early on a Wednesday morning in June and there they were to transfer to a river boat. They were to travel all day and all night on the riverboat. The next morning, they were to be met and taken to the Minnesota camp ground. What a pleasant day was before them!

When they got to the river, there was the boat and they hurried up the gangplank. The boat was due to leave at nine o'clock. It was a beautiful sunny day. The captain pulled the whistle. "Tooooooooot, tooooooooot!" And the engines started to run. "Chug, chug, chug, chug!" And the paddle wheels on the sides of the boat began to turn with a "Splash, splash, splash, splash!" And the boat with its one hundred passengers pulled away from the wharf.

Now many of the passengers remained on deck, especially Elder White and Willie and others of the Adventist group. Sister White did not. She would have liked to stay up on deck, but there were so many things that had been shown to her in vision that she must write out. She felt that she must use this quiet day of traveling in writing. The stewardess found a quiet place where Sister White could write. She had her pens and pencils and paper. So she spent most of the day writing, writing, writing.

But up on deck, what a glorious day it was and what a wonderful time the people had! The sky was clear and blue. The sun was bright and warm. They moved up to the front of the boat and Elder White and the boys watched the boat cut through the water as it made its way up the river.

As they looked up the river, they saw something. It was on the river, but it wasn't a boat. It was broad and flat and long. There were some men on it, and they wondered what this was. They watched

it until it came closer and closer and closer. When it came near the boat, they could see just what it was. It was a raft made out of lumber.

In the forests way up the river, the big trees had been cut and then were dragged to the riverbank. There at a sawmill, the logs had been cut into lumber. Then this lumber was tied together with great chains and ropes. With several men on this lumber raft, they would float it down the river to the cities where they could sell the lumber. It was a cheap way of shipping the lumber. There would be one or two men at the back with boards which had been made into a sort of rudder to guide the lumber raft as it made its slow journey down the river in the current.

The passengers were very much interested in this lumber raft. They thought the men had been very ingenious to devise such a means of transporting lumber. They were interested in the little shanty built on the raft as a place to cook. As they were watching intently as the lumber raft went by the boat, the men on the raft put their hands to their mouths so that their voices would carry and then they shouted, "Papers! Papers! We want papers;" They had been several days on the raft, and the men wanted something to read. As one of the men dove off the raft into the river and swam toward the river boat, the folks on the boat took their newspapers and twisted them a bit and then threw them out towards the raft. They were soon picked up and the man swam back to the raft. Then the man laid them out on the lumber raft to dry. As they saw the raft passing down the river behind them, the papers were getting dry and soon the men would have something to read.

This gave Elder White an idea. Perhaps they would meet another lumber raft. Why shouldn't they give them papers and tracts telling them about Jesus' coming again. Here was an opportunity for missionary work. "Willie," he called, "come here!" Fifteen-year-old Willie went to his father's side. He said, "Down in our stateroom, in my bag, there are some copies of the Review and Herald and the Youth's Instructor and some tracts. I want you to get some of those papers and bring them here."

While Willie was getting the papers, Brother White was thinking about how he could arrange these papers so as to get them onto



the raft without their getting wet. When Willie came with the papers, he laid them down on the bench near the railing of the boat, and then Elder White sent him again, this time to the kitchen of the boat to get some string. And he said, "I want you to go to the engine room and get some pieces of coal, solid pieces."

So Willie did as he was told. He got some string at the kitchen and he got some pieces of coal at the engine room and he brought them to his father.

And so Elder White took some of the papers and a tract or two and he rolled them tightly around the piece of coal. Then he took a piece of string and tied it tight around the papers to hold them firmly with the coal inside. He laid the little package down. He got another one ready. He got another one ready. Why do you suppose he tied the pieces of coal inside the papers? Why, of course, it was so that when he threw the papers with the piece of coal inside, it would carry them over onto the raft.

Then Elder White and Willie wondered, would there be another lumber raft? He had no way of knowing, but anyway, after a little time of watching, sure enough, there was one. They watched it come down the river towards them. Their boat was going chug-chug-chug up the river, and the paddle-wheels were going splash-splash-splash-splash. Would the lumber raft come close enough? Would he be able to reach them by throwing the papers with the coal? He watched and trembled a bit, wondering just how it would work out. And others were watching him too. The lumber raft came closer, closer, closer. Now it was right beside the boat. It wasn't too far away either. James White took a piece of coal with a paper and he gave it a throw: And he got another one, and he gave it a throw. Willie took one and he gave it a throw, and they all landed on the lumber raft. They saw the men scrambling over the lumber to get the papers. Then they saw them standing on the lumber, reading the Review and the Instructor and the tracts. Elder White said in his heart, "That's good missionary work;" It was a good way to share their faith.

So they got some more ready, and two or three times that day, they met the lumber rafts and Elder White and Willie threw the papers over for the men to read. Our early Adventists were always watching for ways in which to tell others the message of Jesus' coming soon. We too can find many ways if we watch.

As the sun was going down in the west, the Adventists gathered at the front of the boat. They were watching as it cut its way up through the water. Someone began to sing a hymn, and all the Adventists joined in singing. Then they heard clapping and tapping of feet and voices saying, "Give us some more;" "Try that again." As they looked around here was a large group of the passengers who had gathered to hear the Adventists sing the hymns of Jesus' coming soon. The Adventists sang another hymn.

Then one of the men on the boat, a business man, came to Elder

White and said, "Mr. White, it is rumored about the boat that Mrs. White is a public speaker. The passengers are requesting that she speak to them this evening in the ladies' cabin, if she will consent."

Tell me, boys and girls, how did the passengers on this boat know that Sister White spoke to large audiences? Ah, I tell you that in her day, she was well known as a public speaker, and the people always liked to hear her speak.

So Elder White said, "I'll see." He went down to where Sister White was writing. He said, "Ellen, the passengers have asked if you would speak to them this evening." They talked it over. Would it be appropriate? What would be the subject?

Then she said, "Yes, if they would like to have me talk to them, I will do so."

So the passengers were told that in a few minutes, Mrs. White would speak to them in the ladies' cabin. And for about an hour that night, Sister White spoke to the passengers about the love of God and of how nature testifies of this.

Then at nine o'clock, it was time to go to bed. So Elder and Mrs. White and their children went to their cabin for the night. But before they got into bed, they did something. What do you think they did? Yes, of course they did. They got down on their knees and had worship together and they asked God to send His angels to watch over them as they traveled through the hours of the night. Then they climbed into their berths and they went to sleep. As they went to sleep, all they could hear was the "chug-chug-chug-chug" of the engines and the "splash-splash-splash-splash" of the paddle wheels, and they went fast asleep.

And then in the middle of the night, there was a terrible CRASH!! The boat shook from end to end. Everyone was awake and they wondered what had happened. And then all was quiet, and all they could hear was the "chug-chug-chug-chug" of the engines and the "splash-splash-splash-splash" of the paddle wheels. Then all of a sudden they heard a terrible grating noise— "Br-r-r-r-ttttttttt!!!" Then all was quiet again. All they could hear was the "chug-chug-chug-chug" of the engines and the "splash-splash-splash-splash" of the paddle wheels, and they went fast asleep again.

In the morning, the passengers went to the captain. They said, "Captain, what happened in the night? What caused that terrible crash and all that noise?"

The captain said, "It could have been very serious. As we were plowing up the river in the middle of the night, we came to a bend in the river. Just as we came to the bend in the river, we met a lumber raft right in the middle of the river and there was no time for us to turn out and no time for the lumber raft to turn out, and we hit the lumber raft right in the middle, broke the chains, split the lumber raft in two, and as the lumber went by our boat, some of it got mixed up with the paddle wheels and that is what made that terrible grating noise."

We just hope, don't we, that the men on the raft were not right at the point where the boat hit the raft. But God sent his angel messengers to watch over Elder and Mrs. White and their children as they were on their way to camp meeting that night. I am so glad that God sends his angel messengers to watch over us. Sometimes we know when the angels have taken care of us; many times we don't know. But we can always ask the Lord to send His angels to watch over us, and we know that the Lord loves us and He hears our prayers and He sends His angels to be near those who serve Him.

So the Whites went to camp meeting. They found a way to share their faith on the way and God sent His angels to watch over them as they traveled through the night.

Story based on James White report in Review and Herald, June 5, 1870, and W. C. White's account as often told to his children.



Andie Seely At California Conference



Church Picnic, Toronto, Canada



Montreal, Canada



Bronx, USA



**Western Field
Conference, USA**