

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



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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- Tel: 416-252-1197 Fax: 416-252-6625
- Email: timom@sympatico.ca
- Web: www.imsmessenger.org



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A DRAMA

The entire world, the universe, is watching the dramatic deadly contest between what is true and what is false, between light and darkness, between life and death; between Jesus Christ and Satan! In essence it's an unceasing **game of life!** Jesus laid down His life in defense of the truth. Upon this contest lies our destiny. There's a battle going on for our souls and minds. As the world fades, heaven becomes brighter, between the forces of darkness and light.

We are living on the edge of the world! The world is but a speck in the celestial magnificence of the universe. But, God nevertheless, has a great interest in the world.

At an International Astronomical Society of Astronomers, one speaker rose up and described the stupendous magnitude of the celestial system and the immeasurable expanse of the galaxies that make up the millions and millions of unending galaxies. He continued, "but, the planet earth, as part of only one galaxy, however, is but a speck in the vastness of this phenomenon, and man is an insignificant speck." He paused, and there was an awesome silence that followed. A short gentleman with long white hair and a baggy sweater rose up and said, "yes, much of what you said is true, that man is but a speck in this celestial system, but not insignificant, because God created the astronomer." The man was

the brilliant scientist, the late Albert Einstein.

ON DISPLAY

You see, man is not insignificant. Man is not merely a "speck!" We are important to God; each and every living creature on earth. Why? Because we were created in God's image! We were not created as monkeys, crawling worms, or amoebas! We were made like Him. So, we are important to Him.

A small child came home from school and told his mother that the teacher was discussing evolution and that we all come from monkeys! The mother paused in thought a moment and said, "well, that's her problem."

Although we're all created by God, we vary in our characters; we look, act, speak, feel differently. We all have peculiar idiosyncrasies. Isn't that wonderful? Variety! Even baked loaves of bread have various dents interspersed throughout the surfaces. It would be very boring if we all looked and acted alike, wouldn't it? The Word of God writes, "For I think that God hath set forth us, the apostles, last, as it were appointed to death; for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." (1 Cor. 4:9). You see, we are on display to the world!

GHASTLY WAR

Ah! But man is being challenged before the world and in the sight of the heavenly host! Not only the world but there was a war in heaven between Michael (Jesus Christ – equal with God), and his angels and the dragon (Satan) and the dragon fought with his angels. Read: (Revelation 12:7-12).

You see, this is the history of the world and will continue until the end. Two armies are in a violent conflict, but it is a spiritual conflict, not one with swords and spears and lasers like in the imaginary dissolutions portrayed in Satan-like battles in the movie "Star Wars." But, the war is true and real, pitting violent forces against one another in a life and death struggle for the **mind!! He who gains the mind is the victor!** Give your mind, therefore, to the Lord that it may be under the Spirit's control. Treasure your mind! But especially the minds of the children! Watching TV renders the mind passive, wayward, pernicious, and weak! "The mind is intoxicated with amusements it craves." (SD 131). "The mind's not elevated, exercised, consecrated to the highest standards. Satan has control of many believers." (MM 108; CD 244).

QUESTION!

I have a pondering question for everyone. What's the present world called? Let's read together from Galatians 1:4. It reads, "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil age." You see, it's an "evil world!" Ah! But, this evil world blames God for this evilness; for not interceding in the world conflicts, suffering, sicknesses, diseases, and poverty. "It's God that is indifferent," they say. Others say, it's God's wrath falling on the world because of declining moral values, and lack of Sunday worship! "Where is your God?" they say.

Oh! Let them say what they want. That does not make it true! We are to defend God's character in all circumstances and at all costs, for God's character is being challenged. Go to the Word of God only, our only foundation, and security.

BATTLE OF TEMPTATION

Now, how is this fierce battle revealed between good and evil? Oh! If we could only roll back the heavens above and see the pitched battles, we would understand... and change. Well, the battle is revealed by **temptation!** Satan knew he could tempt Jesus, but Jesus knew that Satan was an evil liar! Read Mathew 4:8-11, in the battle of temptation when the devil took Christ to a high mountain top and "offered him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them." Jesus answered, "Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Moreover, Jesus told the Pharisees, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father, you will do, He was a murderer from the beginning, and he is a liar, and the father of lies."(John 8:44). Satan "as lightning fell from heaven." It was the first fire coming from heaven. "Be sober, be vigilant, because

your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour, for he knows his time is short."(1Peter 5:8) (Luke 10:18).

BANISHMENT!

Truly and emphatically, it's a **war of ideas!** It's two groups of angels, two governments. One cannot have two governments! But, Satan wanted his form of government; his system. Furthermore, Satan tries to hinder the work of God. Satan is the adversary, the accuser! The name Satan is defined as "opposer." The power of God, however, restrains him. The first war, therefore, in the world was an invention of the devil. War is not of God; it is of the devil!

Satan was the first created angel; a highly anointed angel; the most beautiful angel in heaven; a cherubim. He was, furthermore, the choir director of the angelic host. He was "perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." (Ezek 28:15) (Ezek 28:1-4, 14, 15). He walked among the planets (stones of fire). But, he was banished from heaven; "corrupted by his wisdom and beauty." (Ezek 28:17). Banishment from the presence of God forever; a terrible sentence! "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." (Rev 12:7-12.) When rooted in God, and in heaven, there is safety.

But Satan's doing everything to impede us from going there, an eternal life, the desire to live. When we are sick we want a cure and want to get well again and have vitality and strength.

We were not created to die... but to live forever. How is it said, "pride comes before the fall?"

All the alliances and intrigues, and clever plans cannot save us from destruction if we're an enemy of God.

WHY?

So what happened to Lucifer? What caused his fall? It was jealousy, pride, envy, covetousness, and rebellion! (Isaiah 14:12-14). These are the things, the tendencies that entered the mind of Lucifer. **He wanted God's seat!** He was driven by ambition. It was an attempted coup. He wanted to take God off His throne! Ah! But his power was aborted. The first rebellion in heaven; the coup was not successful. Lucifer was cast down from Heaven; cast down onto earth; cut down into the ground. (Isaiah 14:12).

One of Satan's final accomplishments and objectives is, for gathering, "the spirits of demons, working miracles that go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty – Armageddon." (Rev. 16:14,16).

"In the final judgment, and the Kingdom Age, the saints will reign

with Jesus in Heaven in the Holy City, and Satan will be bound for 1000 years. Satan will be loosed at the end of the 1000 years, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

And they went up on the breadth of the earth and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Rev 20:6-10).

THE MAN!

Satan was the real king of Tyre, who instigated the earthly ruler! But, at the end of the 1000 years, prophecy will be fulfilled, and Satan will be exposed. "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness; I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee." (Ezek 28:17).

You see, Satan's plans were absurd! He thought his plans were better than God's. He wanted to return to heaven and take God's throne." For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will be like the Most High."(Isa. 14:13, 14).

Satan wanted that which many want today. That which they did not work for! They lie, kill, steal, covet for it in the world. Satan was derided in hell – destroyed in hell! "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." (Isa. 14:15).

"They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, is this the **man** who opened not the house of his prisoners? Who made the world like a wilderness, and destroyed its cities, and who opened not the house of his prisoners?" (Isa. 14:16, 17). We see here the mocking title... "the man." Ah! Do you see here that Satan is materialized into man! He will be materialized! Manifested! God will materialize Satan, so that "every eye will see Satan," as "every eye will see God!" They ask, "Is this the man?" Mankind will see Satan, starkly see him, for the first time! A cadaverous man; sickly looking, gaunt, defeated, ugly, useless, pallid, wretched man! This man we worshiped, and blindly followed! He's not beautiful anymore. Those that serve him are his prisoners. But, only God can open the doors and free the prisoners!

You see, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and friends, Satan has no more power! (v-16, 17). No more power to impress mankind, to imperial mankind, to imprison mankind! But, if we become enemies of God, no power can save us. It's a frightful thought.

VIRUS OF DEATH!

Satan inveigled, or seduced one-third of the angels in heaven, and left two-thirds. That is; Satan enticed one out of every three angels. The duped angels are irreconcilable, irretrievable, and irredeemable! Lost! Lost! Lost! "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven and did cast them to the earth." (Rev 12:4). Followers of Satan have the idea that God is hiding something, withholding something, some secret mystic knowledge of a powerful unknown nature, a puzzling and momentous force, and that there might have been some justification in Satan's decision. This is just another satanic scheme, a scam of things. But, Satan, in fact left the presence of God. Satan was very dissatisfied. It was like an insidious virus of death!

AGAPE

A querying thought among many is: 'why didn't God destroy Satan at the onset of his rebellion? We find the answer in 1 John 4:8, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." You see, God is love, true love; (GR - agape!) If God summarily destroyed Satan, the world and angelic host would view God as stern, cruel, unmerciful! Satan would have been an exulting martyr. You see, true love is not controlling and obsessive.

HIGH RISK FACTOR

Man is morally free. But, freedom was given up by Satan for a "morsel of bread." Say you just purchased a new car. The sticker price is still on the window; the new-car smell wafts throughout it. You are approached by your teen-age son, who asks you for the car to go out with some friends. Would you give it to him? Think for a moment. Would you? YES! You would because you love him! You're willing to take a risk. Love takes a risk. "The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying, Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you." (Jeremiah 31:3.). If you believe it's a myth, then you'll be unprepared for any unforeseen circumstances. This love is real. Don't just be a spectator.

God took a risk with Satan. God takes a risk with us. God gives us freedom; undeserving freedom. But God loves man, and that's why He gave us freedom. Freedom, however, is a risky thing. But, God does not force man's decision, but by all of our own volition. Persecutions, cults, fanaticism, spiritualism, Satanism, greed, corruption, and a plethora of evils pervade this sin-filled world. One has to "run the gauntlet" daily to survive! "For the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 6:23).

SACRED WILL

Man's decision and will, however, is man's choice. The will is sacred. The will respects your choice. If you want to go to hell, you

go to hell. God puts you where you want to go. If you want to go to hell he puts you there. If you want to go to God He will put you there. (Rom 6:23).

In the American Civil War, there was a married man with four children that was called to active duty in the Army. He was the sole breadwinner, but still had to serve as the war escalated. His best friend heard of his plight and offered to serve in his place in this deadly war. The friend was immediately sent to the front lines and shortly after was killed in action. His friend retrieved the body, brought it back home and buried him in the church ground cemetery. The inscription placed on the stone slab was, "He died for me."

Jesus Christ, too, died a humiliating death on the cross. He was our benefactor who allowed Himself to be nailed to the cross because of His love for us in this motley world. It was his choice... His sacred will! He took the cross for us... our cross! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Satan and his companions mocked Jesus on the cross, saying, "If you are the son of God, come down from the cross!" (Matt. 27:40).

VICTORY TROPHY

There is no need to die spiritually! Jesus died for you... Jesus saves! He gives us salvation; he "salvages" us! Jesus carries the trophy of victory for us. But, "the wounds and scars of our warfare will be as trophies of victory." (ML 326). He became righteousness for us. We, therefore, have the overwhelming victory. It is ours! "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." (Rev 12:11).

"We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor that He by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone." (Heb 2:9).

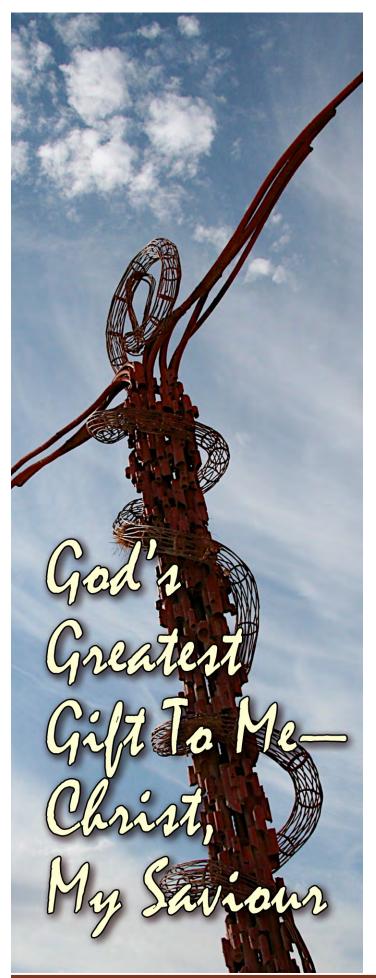
In the brutal **War Of The Worlds** there will be no rest and will persist between the sinners and the saints, and between good and evil. It will be fierce... to the very end; as long as life lasts! "We are individually responsible for its outcome." (MH 453). "The Bible is the armory where we can equip ourselves against evil in the world." (AA 502). "Do not lay off the armor or leave the battlefield in this warfare until victory is gained." (MYP 104).

Ah! But, we can be sure to achieve victory and immortal honor in this bitter contest "against spiritual wickedness in high places, world rulers of darkness, powers of evil, the enemy, temptation, sin, appetite, passion, Satan, and against SELF, the greatest battle ever fought!" We can overcome! The victors will receive the crown of life! The victory is ours!! Amen!

John Theodorou, USA



Br. Idel Suarez keeping fit at the conference in Korea



"And they journeyed from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea to compass the land of Edom; and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way." Num. 21:4.

The Lord does not remove all the difficulties and trials and hardships from the pathway of His people. He would have them learn to put their trust in Him, believing that the invisible God is their mighty helper. The children of Israel became accustomed to the presence of the pillar of cloud that covered them as a canopy by day, and was a pillar of fire by night. They came to look upon the cloud as a common thing. They did not appreciate the fact that they were favoured with the presence of the only-begotten son of God, who was equal with God; and, in spite of all their perversity, their murmuring and rebellion, he had done wonderful things for them in all their journeyings.

The Lord had said, "Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions; for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. For mine Angel shall go before thee." Ex. 23:20-23, first part.

The one great object of the care and guardianship of Christ was the church in the wilderness. He said of Israel, "I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour; I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee; therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life." Egypt was desolated with plagues and became a wasted land, in order that Israel might be freed from bondage; but the people did not appreciate the goodness and mercy and love of God. The Lord, their Redeemer, undertook to lead and guide them, but when He brought them into strait places, they were discouraged because of the way, and spake against God and Moses, saying: "Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died." Num. 21:5.

The Lord had fed them with the bread of heaven, even with angel's food, (Ps. 78:25) and yet they murmured against Him. By His power He had held in check the wild beasts of the forests, and the reptiles of the wilderness, so that they had not hurt His people; but now He removed His restraining hand, and let the poisonous serpents do as they would have done all along the way had the Lord not restrained them. The real trouble that now came upon them served to bring them to their senses, and to awaken their paralyzed thoughts as to what course to pursue.

Look and Live

"Therefore the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us... And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole; and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived." Num. 21:7-9.

Throughout the camp of Israel there were the suffering and the dying who had been wounded by the deadly sting of the serpent. But Jesus Christ spoke from the pillar of cloud, and gave directions whereby the people might be healed. The promise was made that whosoever looked upon the brazen serpent should live; and to those who looked the promise was verified. But if anyone said, "What good will it do to look?" shall certainly die under the serpent's deadly sting; if he continued to talk of his deadly wound, and declared that his case was hopeless, and would not perform the simple act of obedience, he would die. But everyone who looked, lived.

Jesus said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:14, 15.

"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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16, 17.

Christ is speaking to us now as certainly as He spoke to the children of Israel in the wilderness. He is the Healer of both body and soul. Our attention is now called to the Great Physician. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

Just as long as we look at our sins, and talk of and deplore our wretched condition, our wounds and putrefying sores will remain. It is when we take our eyes from ourselves, and fasten them upon the uplifted Saviour, that our souls find hope and peace. The Lord speaks to us through His word, bidding us "look and live."

He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God has sent speaketh the words of God; for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.

There is every reason why should be encouraged to hope for the salvation of our souls. In Jesus Christ every provision for our salvation has been made. No matter what may have been our sins and shortcomings, there is a fountain open in the house of David for all sin and uncleanness. "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18, 19. This is the word of the Lord. Shall we accept it? Shall we believe on Him?

David had been bitten by the fiery serpent—he had been poisoned with the venom of sin-yet hear the words that describe his experience after looking upon the uplifted Saviour. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile... I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. For this shall everyone that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found; surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come night unto him. Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance." "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit... The Lord redeemeth the souls of his servants, and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate." Ps. 32:1, 2, 4-7; 34:22.

Look Not to Self, But to Christ

It is in looking upon our sinful condition, and talking and mourning over our wretchedness, that distress becomes more keen, and pain accumulates. Let the sinner arise in the strength of Jesus, for he has no strength of his own, and let him assert his liberty. Let him believe that the Lord has spoken truth, and trust in Him whatever may be the feelings of the heart. Let the sinner say, I will look away from my own misery, from the wound of the serpent, to the uplifted Saviour, who has said, "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. Look upon Jesus. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

Let no one make his feelings his idol, and bow his soul down to worship and serve his sensations. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Matt. 4:10. It is your privilege to believe that Christ has borne your sins; for God hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. You are under the shelter of the sure refuge, under the cover of the atoning blood of the acceptable sacrifice.

All legalism, all the sorrow and woe by which you may encompass yourself, will not give you one moment of relief. You cannot rightly estimate sin. You must accept God's estimate, and it is heavy indeed. If you bore the guilt of your sin, it would crush you; but the Sinless One has taken your place, and, though undeserving, he has borne your guilt. By accepting the provision God has made, you may stand free before God in the merit and virtue of your Substitute. You will then have a proper estimate of sin, and the godly sorrow of true repentance will take the place of hopeless discouragement and grief, for you will turn from sin with grief and abhorrence.

Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. Do not think for an instant that any human being has a more loving heart, and a more tender compassion for you, than He who died on Calvary to save you.

Christ is the friend of sinners. When the scribes and Pharisees accused Him of eating with publicans and sinners, Jesus said, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matt. 9:13. If you feel yourself to be the greatest of sinners, then Christ is just what you need; for He is the greatest of Saviours. Lift up your head, and look away from yourself, away from the poisoned wound of the serpent, to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world. What will all your groaning and the torturing of your soul avail? You may entertain thoughts that condemn you, but in them there is no salvation. Put away your thoughts, and receive the thoughts of God, through which your mind may be elevated, your soul purified and uplifted. The Lord says, "For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer." Why will you carry your burden of sin, when Christ has come to be your burden bearer? Roll your sins at the foot of the cross. Unload! Unload! He takes away the sins of the world. "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

You have been pronounced a sinner, and Christ has announced Himself a Saviour. Accept the remedy God has provided for you in a sin-pardoning Saviour. How would you have felt had you been in the camp of Israel and seen the people groaning and shrieking in distress because of their swollen and painful wounds, when the brazen serpent was uplifted, and when by one look they might be healed? Would you not have exclaimed, "Why do they not look at the uplifted serpent? How strange it is that they do not perform the one simple act by which they might receive healing!" But is it not as inconsistent for you to refuse to look at the crucified Saviour? Heed the invitation, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:6, 7.

God does not ask you to feel that Jesus is your Saviour, but to believe that He died for you, and that His blood now cleanseth you from all sin. You have been bitten by the serpent, and as the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness that the dying might look and live, so Christ was lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life... Look to the uplifted Saviour, and, however grievous may have been your sins, believe He saves you. All remedies and medicines of the world would have failed to cure one soul who had been bitten by the venomous serpent; but God had provided a remedy that cannot fail. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Peter Looked Back

"And Jesus said unto him, no man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62.

Looking unto Jesus, Peter walks securely; but as in self-satisfaction he glances back toward his companions in the boat, his eyes are turned from the Saviour. The wind is boisterous. The waves roll high... for a moment Christ is hidden from his view, and his faith gives way, he begins to sin. But while the billows talk with death, Peter lifts his eyes from the angry waters, and fixing them upon Jesus, cries, "Lord, save me." Immediately Jesus grasps the outstretched hand, saying, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt." Matt. 14:31.

Walking side by side, Peter's hand in that of his Master, they stepped into the boat together. But Peter was now subdued and silent. "The impulsive, self-sufficient, warm-hearted Peter" had no reason to boast over his fellows, for through unbelief and self-exaltation he had very nearly lost his life. When he turned his eyes from Jesus, his footing was lost, and he sank amid the waves.

When trouble comes upon us, how often we are like Peter! We look upon the waves, instead of keeping our eyes fixed upon the Saviour. Our footsteps slide, and the proud waters go over our souls. Jesus did not bid Peter come to Him that he should perish; He does not call us to follow Him, and then forsake us. "Fear not," He says, "for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire; thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour." Isa. 43:1-3.

In this incident on the sea He desired to reveal to Peter his own weakness, to show that his safety was in constant dependence upon divine power. Amid the storms of temptation he could walk safely only as in utter self-distrust he should rely upon the Saviour. It was on the point where he thought himself strong that Peter was weak; and not until he discerned his weakness could he realize his need of dependence upon Christ. Had he learned the lesson that Jesus sought to teach him in the experience on the sea, he would not have failed when the greater test came upon him.

Day by day God instructs His children. By the circumstances of the daily life He is preparing them to act their part upon that wider stage to which His providence has appointed them. It is the issue of the daily test that determines their victory or defeat in life's great crisis.

Only through realizing our own weakness and looking steadfastly unto Jesus can we walk securely." DA 381-382.

"The brazen serpent was uplifted in the wilderness that those who

looked in faith might be made whole. In like manner God sends a restoring, healing message to men, calling upon them to look away from man and earthly things, and place their trust in God. He has given His people the truth with power through the Holy Spirit. He opened His word to those who were searching and praying for truth. But when these messengers gave the truth they had received to the people, they were as unbelieving as the Israelites. Many are cavilling over the truth brought to them by humble messengers." MS 75, 1899.

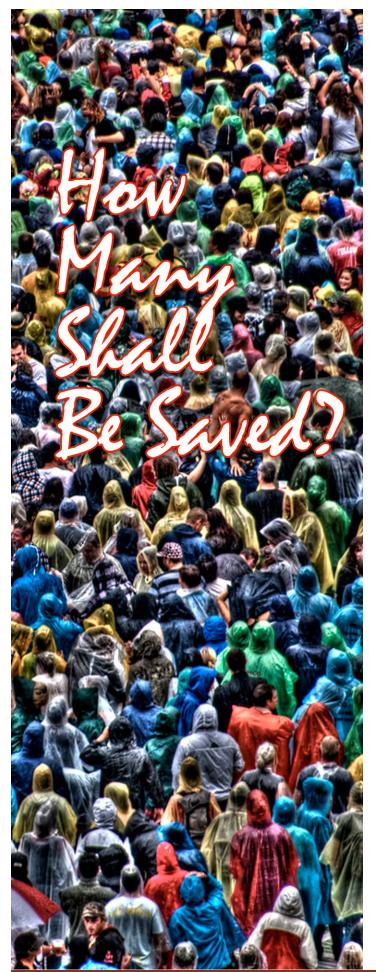
Dear reader, the way to heaven is through faith in the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Be not among the number to whom the Saviour said, "Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life." Oh, how He longed to save them; for while we were yet sinners (not waiting for us to make ourselves good) Christ died for us. **AMEN**.

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia





General Conference President Br. Idel Suarez at the conference in Korea



"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you [yourselves] thrust out." Luke 13:23-28.

The question we want to study is, how many shall be saved? We shall address this question but also consider whether we are among the truly gracious in this world. Whether we are among the few. We shall make these truths as clear as possible and straight to the point. The scripture reading calls for a straight to the point approach and so do the times in which we live.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." Matt. 7:13.

How many? And many be there be which go in thereat. We have a broad path and many of this world go down that path. Because strait is the way that leadeth unto life and few there be that find it.

The Scripture is telling us that there is a broad road that leads to destruction, to hell. The majority, the large populace, go down that road. There is a gate and few people actually find the gate. Out of those few that find it, there are fewer still that enter in as we compare with the scripture we just read.

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke 13:24

The many that are seeking to enter in are the few that found it. The majority of the world has gone on the main road to destruction. There are a few people who have found this gate and many Jesus says shall seek to enter in and shall not be able.

It goes on to say he is talking to one of his followers who asks, how many shall be saved? He answers, "When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are." Luke 13:25

Who is standing without? A follower of Christ asking the question: How many shall be saved? Christ says when the door is shut and; "When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door,

saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you [yourselves] thrust out. Luke 13:25-28.

For us to consider how many will be saved, in the antediluvian world there were millions of people and the Bible says that few were saved. This gives us a biblical account of what few is. "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." 1 Peter 3:20. But even of the eight, Ham was taken over by the curse.

Few will find it and few again will actually be saved. They were saved by water and as these few faithful people multiplied and repopulated the earth, there weren't many righteous people left.

"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock [whence] ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit [whence] ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah [that] bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him." Isa. 51:1, 2.

How many people were faithful to be called, that God could early on establish his seed? Him alone. Abraham came from those that came from the ark. There was few, 8 and even in that 8 they weren't all true and out of that offspring there only turned out to be one. Abraham alone. Genesis gives us another picture of those that were following God.

"And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" Gen. 18:20-23.

This is the question. "Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that [are] therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which [am but] dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for [lack of] five? And he said, If I find there forty

and five, I will not destroy [it]. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do [it] for forty's sake. And he said [unto him], Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do [it], if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy [it] for twenty's sake. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy [it] for ten's sake. And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place." Gen. 18:24-33. The numbers are dropping quickly. How many will be saved?

"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [his] righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds;) 1Pet. 2:6-8.

Lot was vexed with the way the city was. But how many came out with Lot or from the cities? There were four cities that were destroyed, not just Sodom and Gomorrah. In four cities, how many people came out? Four. Only a few. What happened to his wife? She was turned into a pillar of salt. What happened with his daughters? How many were saved really? Four came out but only one was saved.

So the application goes that **many** have gone down the road to Sodom and Gomorrah and few, four, came out but out of those four not all made it, only one.

"For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun." Numbers 26:65 Only two from Egypt made it to Canaan.

Millions, over a million people came out. Not all came out by Moses but two of those that came out entered into the Promised Land. Egypt is the world, it is the broad road. The Israelites were the few that found the gate out, but they all died at the gate, except for two.

Let us look at the time of David. "Help, LORD; for the Godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men." Psalm 12:1

In the time of David to actually find someone upright was so hard. Even Solomon says, "I have searched among the women and I find none." In a thousand men there is one. In the time of Elijah how many prophets of Baal? 400 prophets within Israel and only one stood for God on Mt. Carmel.

Zion was the city, the headquarters in Jerusalem. "And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city." Isaiah 1:8

What happened to the city? How many dwell in a city? Thousands, millions. How many dwell in a cottage? Less than ten?

"Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, [and] we should have been like unto Gomorrah." Isaiah 1:9

In the time of Jeremiah we see the outline that God has given that has been set behind us in history. "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be [any] that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it." Jer. 5:1 It says Jerusalem, not Damascus or Jericho or any other wicked city.

What was about to happen to Jerusalem in Jeremiah's time? It was about to be destroyed by Babylon. In Isaiah it says if it wasn't like the little remnant we would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah, destroyed.

Ezekiel has a vision given of what he was to do. Does God know the amount of hairs on your head? Is he acquainted with every particle on this earth? Indeed he is. "And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause [it] to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the [hair]." Ezek. 5:1

He has taken all his hair off and divided it into sections. "Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, [and] smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them." Ezek. 5:2.

How much of the hair is gone? Three parts of three. One was burnt, one taken by the sword and one was thrown in the wind.

"Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts. Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire; [for] thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel. Thus saith the Lord GOD; This [is] Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries [that are] round about her." Ezek. 5:3-5.

There were a few he was to take out and put in the fire for a different purpose than the others. They were to be purged and refined. All of this planet shall go through fire and some shall be saved through the fire. There was a few to be taken and this is Jerusalem.

John the Revelator saw that in the future that the whole world wandered after the beast and he also saw that the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed. This may be discouraging, so few saved.

"Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved." Romans 9:27

A left over. We can see in history that there was a remnant and there is a remnant and there shall be a remnant. The Scriptures give us across history how many were saved in each dispensation. It doesn't only leave us with the stories of what happened but illustrations to compare to.

We are aware of the comprising of God's church and the place where the wheat and the tares come. "There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and [they] of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth." Psalm 72:16

A handful of corn. What is a handful compared to the vintage of the crop? The whole collection. What is a handful? Have you gone to a big silo and taken a handful of grain? What is a handful compared to the rest?

"As the lily among thorns, so [is] my love among the daughters. As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so [is] my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit [was] sweet to my taste." Song of Solomon 2:2, 3.

Here God is likening his people to the lily among the thorns. Which come up more easily? Thorns or lilies? How many thorns do you see compared to lilies?

The lily, the upright, compared to all the people in this world, the thorns. There the lily is in the pricks of persecution and then it likens Jesus, God as an apple tree among the forest. When do you walk through the bush in Australia and come across an apple tree? You don't, but if you did it would be very special. Out of all the gods of this world how many are there that are true? There is one. So like the apple tree among the trees, there is only one. So the lily among the thorns is but few.

Another illustration is in Micah. This is often the sentiment of Christians when they coming into a small congregation, the same sentiment. "Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: [there is] no cluster to eat: my soul desired the first ripe fruit. The good [man] is perished out of the earth: and [there is] none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net." Micah 7:1, 2.

Woe is me, we are like the few left over, all the grapes, the big harvest and now there is none. If we understand the parable of the wheat that the tares were gathered first and the wheat was left. The main harvest is taken and the gleanings are left. The gleanings are a representation of Gods people.

"And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim. Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two [or] three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four [or] five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel." Isa. 17:5, 6.

How many? Once all the grapes have been taken, the olives have been taken off the trees, what is left? One or two on one branch, four or five on another. In the parable, the tares were gathered in bundles to be burned and then the wheat was put in the garner.

"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Malachi 3:17

When was the last time you were walking on the ground and you stubbed your toe on a diamond? When was the last time you saw a piece of gold on the floor of your house? All the jewelry that we see has come out using large amounts of energy, found in the ground.

If you are walking in the bush, when do you find these precious stones? The Bible teaches that in God's house there are many vessels, some of wood, hay and some precious vessels. How often do you see wood in a house? How often do you see bricks, clay, tin and metal?

God is giving an illustration that His jewels are precious and the rest are just your common pea gravel. How many shall be saved? This is not meant to discourage us but it is a truth. Jesus said many shall seek to enter in but shall not be able.

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left [us] of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Hebrews 4:1

We should fear that we actually don't claim the promise; that we take the wrong road and make our own decisions.

How many shall be saved and why? Professors

In these illustrations, the Amorites, and the Moabites are not spoken of. It is spoken of Jerusalem – God's people; and out of those few there are a few. Not because I want it this way but it is what is revealed: to profess but not to have heart religion.

We need to ask the question, are we a professor or are we striving to enter in at the strait gate? When the wheat and tares are growing, you can almost not see the difference between the two until the harvest comes and the grain is full but the wild tare is empty; there is no seed, it's just something that gets blown with the wind. There is no weight in it. The professor and the truly gracious, there is not much difference outwardly between the two, they look the same

but one has a heart religion and the other doesn't. Outwardly they look identical. The Bible says, don't pull up the tares as you may pull up the wheat also because you can't distinguish between the two. A professor can have repentance, cry and acknowledge and loathe the sin but he will not be saved.

A dog loathes the food and throws up. It loathes the food because the food is troubling him. But when the dog throws up the food, the trouble has stopped and he goes and eats it up again.

With repentance that is not genuine one may say "I don't like sin," but as soon as the stress of sin is over, he will go back and eat it.

"As a dog returneth to his vomit, [so] a fool returneth to his folly." Proverbs 26:11 So the swine to the mud hole, according to Peter.

A professor may cry and have emotion when it comes to an awakening. A professor may have conviction but not all conviction leads to conversion. A professor may like to do many things of God but still perish. They have a form of godliness.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:5

The form is there but there is no power or body in it. Professors have fallen by the thousands. We profess to believe in Jesus Christ. May our profession have a heart behind it. Many will seek to enter in and profess but shall not be able to, because of a lack of power and body.

A professor may have faith but it profits him nothing if he doesn't have charity (love). Professors may be praying, fasting and tithing people, but unless they beat their breast like the Publican they will not be saved.

In Luke 18:10-13 is a story about a Pharisee, a hypocrite that prayed in the temple saying, "thank you, Lord, I pay tithe and do and do all these things," and he never went to his house blessed.

The hypocrite may show repentance, a spiritual awakening, a loathing of sin, a faith, praying and fasting and committing his possessions to God and he's not saved. Those who are truly gracious indeed repent, indeed have a spiritual awakening, loathe sin, have faith, pray, fast and tithe and are saved. The externals are exactly the same. Many professors. Are we professing only? There is a professor that has a religion that lies in his tongue.

"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men." Isa. 29:13

He draws near to God with his mouth and honours God with his lips but the heart is far from him. The professor that professes in word only. In their life they are the same as the world. They are the same as the world but can just talk better. Good speech will not unlock the gates of heaven.

"The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall." Proverbs 10:8

There is a covetous professor. Someone who has a religion for recognition because if we keep God's sayings, we shall increase our favour with man and God; and so many a professor like to increase their favour with man and so pursue a form of godliness, to impress, to covet position, and to rule.

Judas' religion lay in the money bag. He was there for the money. The Bible says, "let us not care for the flock of God with constraint or filthy lucre but of a ready mind." There is a haughty professor, a person who is a Christian but doesn't fear God.

"And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, [as] they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots [they are] and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you." 2 Peter 2:13

This is a professor. They are with the people here, and doing these things, yet feasting with you.

"For when they speak great swelling [words] of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, [through much] wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." 2 Pet. 2:18-21.

Here is a people eating and drinking with the people of God and they do not fear. Their haughtiness, wantonness with vanities, they do not understand that God is not mocked. What we sow we shall also reap.

"Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds [they are] without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots." Jude 11. 12.

Here in the Christian church are professors that are covetous, haughty, they do not fear. The word of God is saying that these

people are spots in your feasts of charity. Among God's people these spots exist, many of them. The haughty professor does not fear God. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. There is a circumstantial professor also. A professor that as long as their ideas are good and their circumstances are good, they will follow, but when things come across them and cut across their circumstances of ease, they will not walk anymore.

When the feeding of the 5000 was going on, Jesus gained many disciples. Circumstantial, things are good we will be part of it. When things go wrong, we better get out of here.

When Jesus said, "except ye eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you," those disciples walked no more with Him from that time onwards. Those disciples were at the gate. There were only a few that found it but many of the disciples, the 70 left, and left only a few. Even in that few, there was still one who was a devil. The circumstantial professor will be there when it's good but won't be there when it's bad.

There is also the formalist or legalistic professor. As long as it's the same, the traditions of men are performed, there is the liberal



professor. They pretend to be against forms and duties but neglect the order of God. They are free-willers. They are independent. They do what they like.

There is a willingly ignorant professor. Someone afraid to know more for fear of the cross.

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water." 2 Peter 3:5

I don't want to know, because then I will be accountable. You already are accountable. There is a professor that will judge his standard against another. They compare themselves with themselves.

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." 2 Cor. 10:12

They say, "as long as I am as good as the other or better, God will receive me." How much do these characteristics of professing, where we have the talk, compare ourselves with ourselves, and as long as everything is good I'm here, or as long as there is not too much detail of God's will in my life I will be there.

What sort of Christians are we today? There is the professor for God and the world. He's like the frog of Egypt. He lives in the water and out of the water. His religion alters as fast as does his company. When he is in one crowd he behaves in one way, when in another crowd, he behaves in another way. He can serve God at church and the world at work.

He is a person that commits spiritual adultery, according to James 4:4. He can throw stones with both hands. He is for God and against God. All these professors the Bible says will have weeping and gnashing of teeth.

To profess is to seek after God, to seek to enter in but you are not able. The professors will look to escape hell but shall fall in it. They shall look to heaven but it shall be shut to them and they will expect Christ's compassion in the day of judgement and find there is none.

No wonder the Bible says that there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. It doesn't say there will be weeping of gnashing of teeth to the ones that go down the broad road of destruction. They expect to go to damnation because that is the road they are on but the weeping and gnashing of teeth refers to those who come to church and have a form of godliness, that actually engage in religious exercise. They are the ones who will have the weeping and gnashing of teeth because they will look to heaven but it's locked.

They will say "Lord, Lord didn't we do these things?" God will say, "I don't even know you."

They will try and avoid hell but they will be there. We need to consider very, very carefully what sort of Christian we are. Are we a Christian because our mum and dad were and we were dragged along? Do we actually have a form of religion in our mouths only?

Do we profess in any one of these departments? Do we have a secret desire to be the first? It's in humanity, you can't deny it.

This study is to help us to identify to strive to enter in at the gate. Seeking is not enough, you must knock and knock with all your might. **KNOCK LOUD**. The instruction that the Bible tells us is that we are to ask, we are to knock and seek.

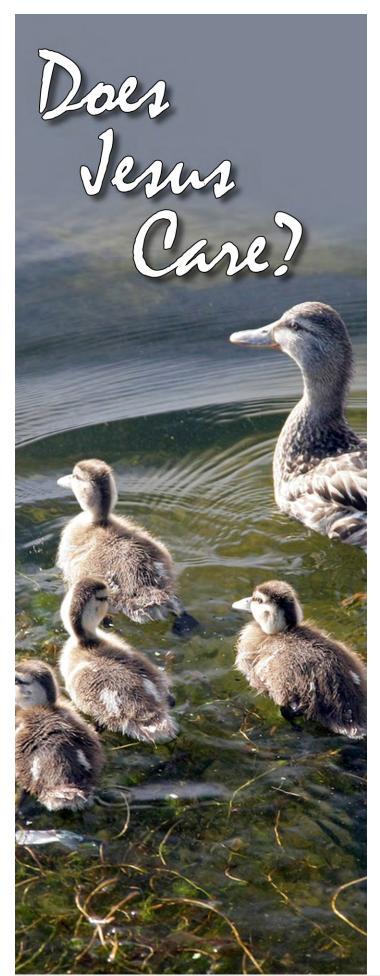
I encourage each one to pray to Jesus for awakening in our hearts. That we can be aware of our condition. You know not that you are poor, miserable, blind and naked. You don't know. The professors don't actually know these attributes. They genuinely think they are ok. We have twelve considerations for us to conclude with:

- 1. Pray to Jesus for an awakening of heart that we may be allured to Jesus.
- 2. Ask for a deeper awakening of our sin and about grace, health, and Jesus righteousness.
- 3. Cry for a spirit of discernment.
- 4. Study the Scriptures to show yourself approved.
- 5. Take heed that a sin in your life doesn't go unrepented.
- 6. Remember that only a few are saved and for us to be saved is only by the mercy of God; for us to plead for mercy, "have mercy on me a sinner."
- 7. Be thankful for conviction, for conviction is the beginning of conversion. When conviction strikes, don't shun it, but thank God.
- 8. Be willing to see the worst of your condition. How many of us aren't willing to see where we are really at. It's better to see it now than to see it in hell.
- 9. Beware of little sins. The little things.
- Take heed of bad company and evil communications for it will corrupt your good manners. By beholding you will become changed.
- 11. Seek to have association with those who have a high standard in their action. Associate with them. Beware of the thoughts that bid you to delay repentance. There are many thoughts that come to us, tomorrow is a better day. Don't have these thoughts, beware of them.
- 12. Keep in remembrance that God's eye is upon your heart.

There are a few that shall be saved; this is the answer to the question, "how many shall be saved?" A few. Do not be discouraged, strive to enter in.

Amen.

Paul Godfrey



Is Jesus really concerned about our problems and difficulties? Do our sorrows mean anything to Him? Many people think that God is so busy, looking after the affairs of the universe that He does not have time for each person. Often we pray to God asking many things, and when we do not receive them, we may think that He does not care about us anymore, or maybe our sins are so great that He cannot answer us and bless us.

Two sisters, Martha and Mary, invited Jesus to their house. "Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered, and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10: 40-42.

Did Jesus not notice that one sister was doing all the work and serving and the other did nothing? Why did Jesus not say to Mary that she should really help her sister. Did Jesus care or did He not. Martha did not expect this kind of answer.

Jesus recognized that one thing was needful, and the other, serving and working, was not. To listen to the instruction of Jesus was so much more important that it would have been better for Martha also to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to His words. From this event we learn that Jesus did care. We also should leave the housework and come to the prayer meetings to listen to the word of God. This way we also would choose the good part, like did Mary.

In another incident, it seemed that Jesus did not care about a problem that one man had. "And one of the company said unto Him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. and He said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12: 13-15.

If a man's life and happiness would depend on the things that he possesses, then Jesus would have said so, and done something about his problem.

Jesus gave instruction about our possessions. "If any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." Matt. 5: 40.

Jesus, by His own example showed that our happiness does not depend on the things that we possess. He who owns the whole universe, came to this world with nothing, in order to prove that our happiness does not depend on riches and possessions.

"Affliction and adversity bring disappointment and sorrow; but it is prosperity that is most dangerous to spiritual life." MH 212.

In His love and care towards us the Lord has to let trials and affliction

come upon us in order to save us into eternal life.

In another occasion the disciples expressed doubt; they were questioning if Jesus really cared for them. "And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest Thou not that we perish? And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And He said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?" Mark 4: 37-40.

When others were fighting for their lives in a great storm, Jesus was peacefully sleeping.

Did Jesus care for His disciples during the great storm? He surely did. This is the only way He can build up our faith. When the storms are raging around us, and everything seems hopeless, then when He saves us from it, we learn to trust Him more.

When you became a Christian, did you expect that now because God cares for you, you will have no more problems, difficulties, and no more sorrows and trials? The opposite in reality is true. Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

When we are surrounded with difficulties then let us remember the Bible promise, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28.

What are the biggest concerns and the greatest worries that we have? Are they not to have food, drink, clothing, and a place to live? These belong to our survival. And most often our worries are not for today, but for the future.

But all these concerns are needless. Jesus made a promise, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:31-33.

In the model prayer Jesus said, "Give us this day our daily bread." Matt. 6:11. He did not ask us to pray, "Give us this day our weekly or monthly bread."

How can we overcome our daily worries and cares? A child was playing with his little toy sailboat on a lakeshore. Suddenly the wind blew it too far that he could not catch it. He had a terrible worry, how to get his boat back. Suddenly he lost his balance and fell into the deep water and he did not know how to swim. Other children went to seek help and finally someone came to the rescue. He was

rushed to the hospital and the sailboat was forgotten, it was not important any more. The life was in question.

So it is with us, also. The little worries and cares are forgotten when greater problems come upon us. What are the greater concerns to us? Are they not to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling?" Phil. 2:12. Also, "what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life." Matt. 19:16.

Is not the salvation of our souls the only important thing that should occupy our minds? All other things are less important and should not take us away from working out our salvation. We are not to worry about pennies when we are about to lose thousands of dollars. Even if we would lose this life, we would not worry when we can gain the eternal life.

Apostle Paul learned the value of eternal things and for this reason all temporal things here he discarded. He writes, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Phil. 3:7, 8.

But Paul did not stop here. His concern changed. There was something more important to him than his salvation. "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." Rom. 9:3. It was the salvation of others that was more important to him than his own salvation. This is the reason why he worked so hard trying to save others.

Paul was hated and persecuted, in prison and often had to flee to save his life. But he did not complain. He understood that all these trials had a purpose, and that purpose was for his eternal salvation.

In the Laodicean message we read, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent." Rev. 3:19. This rebuke and chastening proves to us that He loves us and cares for us. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada



"I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons." (Psalm 16:7). Even though the translation of this verse is faithful to the Greek version, let us use the Spanish translation that makes the verse more understandable since instead of reins or kidneys, it says conscience.

The psalmist says that even in the night hours his conscience instructs him and he blesses the Lord who speaks to his conscience and shows him the way to go, "thou shall show me the path of life." It is at night, when all activities are over, that we remain face to face with ourselves. Then, the remembrances of our life experiences are vivid in our mind. Our conscience can be our most terrible accuser if we have done something wrong, but if we humble ourselves before God and acknowledge our bad deed, we receive the blessing of forgiveness and with it a peaceful conscience.

In Psalm 32 David speaks about this experience. Day and night he was tortured by his conscience, but when he confessed his transgressions he found great relief since the Lord pardoned his iniquity.

The conscience is a mechanism that God placed in each man in order to guide thoughts, judgment and deeds. It is like a barometer that shows us whether the winds come from the north or from the south, whether our thoughts and deeds are inspired by a good or an evil spirit. The seat of our sense of discernment is our conscience.

Can everyone trust his own conscience? Have all people a sense of discernment that shows them what is good and what is wrong? *Grosso modo* they do, but God is not satisfied with general concepts; He goes into details. "*He desires truth in the inward parts.*" (Psalm 51:16).

Apostle Paul writes, "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly." (Hebrews 13:18). What counts for the apostle is not what may happen to him, but that he may not be accused by his conscience. An honest life is his top priority. Peter has the same goal and expresses it in the following way, "...or this [is] thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully." (1 Peter 2:19).

Our conscience is related to the free will with which God created us, with our privilege to choose.

Unfortunately, already at the beginning of the history of humanity, our fore-parents made the wrong choice and became slaves of Satan and of sin. We were born into that bondage and that is why our conscience is not capable to discern clearly between good and evil.

God, in His great mercy, sent His only begotten Son as our Liberator, Teacher and Example. But we cannot really follow Jesus unless something supernatural happens in our life: a new birth; until the Lord gives us a new heart with new principles. The Holy Spirit is



given to us so that we may acknowledge the need we have of this miracle in our life.

When we hear the good news of the gospel, faith is awakened. When we understand our real condition, that we need a Saviour, and we experience God's love and mercy for us personally, we take the decision to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Apostle Peter explains, "The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God." (1 Peter 3:21). In a clearer language, baptism does not clean us from the filthiness of our flesh, but gives us a good conscience toward God or like Paul writes to the Hebrews, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14). When the apostle Paul lived without God, although he was a religious man, he was an enemy and persecutor of the children of God. But when he had a personal encounter with Christ, his spiritual eyes were opened and he saw himself like God saw him and he despaired.

This terrible and at the same time wonderful experience made out of him a true Christian who acted under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. That is why he writes to the Romans, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost." (Romans 9:1). The Holy Ghost should direct our conscience so that we may appear before God without fault.

In John chapter 8 we read the story of the adulteress who was accused by the Pharisees who wanted to stone her. When Christ told them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7), we read, "And they which heard [it], being convicted by [their own] conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, [even] unto the last..." (Verse 8.)

What do we learn from all this? First, that in the presence of Jesus our conscience is awakened and we are led to put aside our self-righteousness. That is why Paul tells the Corinthians to cast down "imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God" and to bring "into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5). It is important to understand that only when our thoughts are in captivity to the obedience of Christ we are free indeed.

The second thing that we learn from this story is that when our conscience is moved by the Holy Spirit we turn our eyes upon ourselves and not upon others. When the Pharisees looked into their own hearts, they lost the power to stone the woman.

They were still in a situation in which the word of God could touch their conscience. It is very good when our conscience accuses us because it is a sign that the Holy Spirit still works in us. The Holy Spirit convinces us of sin, righteousness and judgment, tells us the Holy Scriptures. To come to the conclusion that our righteousness

is only like filthy rags and that as we are we cannot stand before God, horrifies us and makes us terribly sad. But the Lord says to us, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee." (Isaiah 44:22). If we have lived the miracle of conversion, we shall do like Paul, "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and [toward] men." (Acts 22:16).

May the Lord help us to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to our conscience so that we may walk in the way of sanctification. Amen.

Teresa Corti

IMS PUBLISHING ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to advise you of the literature that are available for purchase. Over the next few issues we will be highlighting different publications and pamphlets/flyers. They are great for missionary work and make excellent gifts.

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- 35 Reasons why I keep the Sabbath, by Robert Corneia
- •The Sabbath Commandment, Hasitbeen changed? H. Dering
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- The Humanity of Christ, by E. G. White
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Dr.Kang & Pum-Seo at the conference in Korea

(**REVELATION 18:1-4**)

The history of the church of God presents a striking similarity in all reformations. God's dealings with His people is unchangeable. (GC 343) On condition of obedience and faithfulness alone, He recognizes them as His own. This has been repeated again and again in all periods of the Christian era, and there is no exception with the Advent people in the last period of the church - the period of Laodicea.

In the time of Christ when the Jews rejected the Saviour He separated from the organized Jewish Church and established the Christian Church. This experience has been repeated in all succeeding ages. The Spirit Of Prophecy states, "The Sanhedrin had rejected Christ's message and was bent upon His death, therefore Jesus departed from Jerusalem, from the priests, the temple, and the religious leaders, the people who had been instructed in the law, and turned to another class to proclaim His message and to gather out those who should carry the gospel to all nations." DA 232.

Looking back into history we find that reformation has always begun inside the church, but it was always completed outside the church. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the Word of God. (GC 45)

Again I must say, that in the Laodicean church the same experience is repeated. The call for a revival and reformation was extended to the backslidden people in 1888, and 1914, etc. and a few endeavoured to carry out this work, but they could not complete it inside the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They were cast out and continued the work of reformation outside

Brethren, we need to know our history, and to discern the times and places involving our stand as THE I.M.S. S.D.A.R.M CHURCH. Our own salvation depends on this, to a point. Time is now very short as Jesus is soon to return, and we must call out the souls that Jesus has in other folds. We are to go first to the lost sheep of Israel, crying aloud and sparing not, (Isa. 58:1) saying, "Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye partake not of her plagues, for her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Rev. 18:4-5

The only hope for the Laodiceans is a clear view of their standing before God, a knowledge of the nature of their disease. They are neither cold nor hot, they occupy a neutral position, and at the same time flatter themselves that they are in need of nothing. (4T 87)

"The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denounciation, and is applicable to the people of God at the present time." 3T 252

What was written in 1896 concerning what would happen to the church if she did not renounce her pride and self-confidence? What pronouncement was made in 1903 to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church by Sister E.G. White, using the word "harlot" when referring

- 1. "Let men be lifted up in pride, and the Lord will not sustain them and keep them from falling. Let a church become proud and boastful, not depending on God, not exalting His power, and that church will surely be left by the Lord to be brought down to the ground. Let a people glory in wealth, intellect, knowledge, or in anything but Christ, and they will soon be brought into confusion." 8T 127
- 2. "Who can truthfully say, our gold is tried in the fire, our garments are unspotted by the world? I saw our instructor pointing to the garments of so-called righteousness. Stripping them off, He laid bare the defilement beneath. Then He said to me 'Can you not see how they have pretentiously covered up their defilement and rottenness of character? How is the faithful city become a harlot? My Father's house is made a house of merchandise, a place whence the divine presence and glory have departed! For this cause there is weakness, and strength is lacking." 8T 250

Dear reader, we will now see how the Seventh-day Adventist Church has repeated the history of all those who have gone astray in their relation to earthly governments, and I will now reveal the apostasy which has taken place in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, from the pen of sister E.G. White from 1852 to 1913, which was her last call for a thorough reformation. Brethren, I ask you to prove these things for yourselves and hold fast to that which is good, from these clear statements it is easy to determine that the loud cry of the third angel's movement (The International Missionary Society of the Seventh-Day Adventist Reform Movement Church) separated from those who were representing the third angel's movement (The Seventh-Day Adventist Church) when she, the SDA church refused to accept the 1888 message of Christ our Righteousness; then in 1914 she committed the last phase of apostasy. (see also The Seven Churches, page 9; 8T 247; D and R 373)

I will begin the next article about the condition of the church and a call for revival and reformation, from 1852 to 1913 (part four), and until then I would like to share a quote from Synopsis of the Present Truth page 201, comments from brother Uriah Smith. It can thus be shown unmistakably that we have reached the last period, the Laodicean state of the church. And now under the tremendous pressure of the spirit of the world and of the apostasy that prevails in these last days, even that people who have the truth for this time, and should feel its searching power, and be animated with its life-giving spirit, are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. But Christ is at the door: the judgment is impending, the king is soon coming in to see the guests. How important, then, that some message be given us adapted to our condition and our dangers. Such a message we have in this last address to the church. To heed to this will be our salvation, to reject it will be our eternal ruin.

Brethren, we, THE I.M.S. S.D.A.R.M. Church are the prophesied Loud Cry, the other angel of Revelation 18:1-4.

John Warncken, Australia

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never felt before. He knew now that Jesus was with him and no matter what anyone else did to him, even if they took his life it didn't matter because Jesus would one day take him to heaven to be with Him. It was at that moment that Asif surrendered the rest of his life to Jesus. He prayed, saying, "God, this life is for you; as long as I am on earth, I will work for you."

Sometime before dawn, Asif managed to escape and made his way home.

When he tried to tell his parents of the experience the next morning, they were not impressed. "You are a Muslim," his parents told him. "If you accept Jesus, you must leave this house."

So Asif had no choice. He took his Bible and left. He went to a larger city where he met a pastor at a Christian bookstore. The pastor taught Asif and later baptized him. From the first moment of his newfound faith, Asif felt a strong desire to share who Jesus was and what He had done for him with those around him, regardless of their religious backgrounds. Because of this, his troubles with the police and city leaders began almost immediately.

"A landlord came to me and said, 'Where are you going? And why are you preaching this "gospel"? These are Muslim people. Why are they accepting Jesus?'"

Seeing that Asif was undeterred, this landlord and some other Muslims took him and beat him with heavy sugarcane stalks. They stomped on his leg and broke it again. As they pounded his body, they shouted. "You dog! You low-class scum! Why did you come here and make our people Christians?" They ordered Asif to leave the city immediately.

Despite their further threats, he refused.

As they were beating him, he prayed for them, "Please, God change their minds and their hearts." Then he cried out to God to help him and give him strength.

Many weeks later, after Asif had recovered from his injuries, the landlords and the police closed down a meeting where Asif was sharing about Jesus again. Asif was taken to the police station where he was severely beaten.

When Asif was asked how he could endure this and not be discouraged, he quoted Philippians 1:29, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake."

Asif continues to evangelize whenever and wherever he has the opportunity.

What can we learn from the story of Asif? Firstly, there is no person in any class of society, country, or religion that cannot be reached

LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT



CHILDREN'S CORNER

It was the year 2001. Asif [not his real name] was carefree as he sped his motorcycle down the street of his Pakistani town. He enjoyed being noticed by the young women as he sped by. In the traditional Muslim culture of Pakistan overt glances would have been very inappropriate, but still Asif could tell when he had been seen. He was young, and he felt powerful as he drove past, relishing the murmur of the motorcycle's engine in his ears and the feel of the tires gripping the road. He smiled to himself and twisted the accelerator to give the bike a quick burst of speed.

Suddenly where the beautiful sky had been he saw only dirt, and where his motorcycle had raced along beneath him, it now felt like it was flying over his head. For the next few seconds all was clouds of dust and spinning. The next thing he knew he was lying on his back with his motorcycle next to him on the ground, its engine coughing and then dying. He heard the echo of squealing tires as the car that hit him sped away. He had never even seen it.

Then he noticed the splitting pain shooting up his leg. When he looked at it, he could tell from the way his foot lay off to the wrong side that it was broken. He tried to stay calm, but panic was gripping his heart and he wanted to scream.

Before he lost his composure, though, he felt a reassuring hand upon him. A woman had come out of the crowd of passers-by and knelt beside him, laying her hand on his leg. He was calmed for the moment and surprised as she began to pray.

Through the pain, Asif heard the name of Jesus in her prayer. Despite his immediate thankfulness that someone had stopped to help, a wave of anger came over him at the mention of that name. "How can this woman pray to Jesus, a mere prophet? Doesn't she know that I am a Muslim, a follower of Mohammed, the great prophet? Why isn't she praying to Allah?"

Yet Asif was suddenly distracted from his anger by the energy he felt running through his body as she prayed. It was different from anything he had ever felt before. His anger began to fade as his leg straightened itself and the bone came back into place. Eventually

he sat up and carefully examined his leg. It was completely whole.

As he stood, he noticed that there was no more pain either. He picked up his bike and walked home.

Some time later, the same woman brought him a Bible. He never saw her again after that.

Hungry to know more about this prophet who had healed his leg, he began to read the Bible, especially the New Testament and the miracles of Jesus. Asif's question weighed heavier: If Jesus was truly only one of the many prophets, how could he perform such amazing works? As Asif lay on his bed, he wondered, "Who is Jesus? I know many prophets have come to earth, but none has had the power of Jesus."

Asif was so perplexed by how a minor prophet such as Jesus could heal him two thousand years after His death that he took his questions to the mulvi (religious leader) at his mosque.

"Why are you talking about Jesus?" the mulvi sneered. "Do you have an interest in him?"

"How could I not have an interest?" Asif responded incredulously. "He healed me."

The Mulvi and others at the mosque took Asif and locked him in a room. They forced poison down his throat thinking that if he died before fully accepting Christ, he would still make it to Paradise They left him there overnight for the poison to work. Asif felt sick and thought he was dying. He vomited repeatedly and threw up blood.

However, around midnight he found himself still alive and lying in the dust, caked with his own blood and vomit. The room was dark and he didn't have the strength to get up. He didn't know what else to do, so he prayed. He called out to Jesus and told Him he wanted to accept Him into his life before he died.

Asif then felt a calm peace and assurance; a peace that he had

by the love of God. Secondly, God still works miracles of healing today. Thirdly, and most importantly, two people in this story had the courage to stand up for Christ in the midst of a country that is not very sympathetic to Christianity. In fact there is outright persecution for those who leave the traditional religion of their forefathers. This woman had the courage, in a strongly Muslim country, to step out and pray for this man who was her "enemy", in much the same manner that the Good Samaritan helped the Jewish man on the road to Jericho. If the roles were reversed, this young Muslim man likely would not have helped a Christian woman who was injured, but would rather have seen it as a just punishment for her erroneous religious beliefs. Then Asif had the courage to preach Jesus Christ at the peril of his life. He lost his family and friends, but he found a Friend who was closer than any earthly ties - Jesus Christ. A broken leg on the street without Christ caused him distress, but a broken leg with Christ brought only thoughts of the privilege he had to suffer for the One he loved. Even though his life was threatened, he continued to preach.

What is preventing you from preaching Christ? Do you face persecution as did Asif? Or are you just afraid you will lose your familiar friends? Are you afraid that your co-workers or friends will laugh and scorn you? Then you are like the disciple Peter – willing to fight, but unable to handle ridicule. Let us learn from these modern day Christians to have courage to preach Christ and Him crucified wherever we are. If we have been blessed to live in a free country, where Christianity is accepted, then what is holding us back? These Christians in this story were not deterred by persecution. What excuse can we offer to our Saviour and Redeemer and to our friends who may not be saved because we did not tell them about Jesus? If we learn to love Jesus as did Asif, then there is no holding us back. We will be a tremendous power for good. The beauty and love of God will be bursting from our very being. The light will be beaming out of our lives. People will notice that these people have been with Jesus. Let's learn of Jesus; to love and obey Him; study His life and character and pray that Holy Spirit will reproduce His character in your life so that you can be this tremendous power for good in this world.

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Mail them to: P.O. Box 6122 Station A, Calgary, AB T2H 2L4

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Additional Information:

Contact Br. Oscar Oviedo anytime at gatoscar_2001@yahoo.com or + 1 403 542 4276







