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“Therefore if any man be in Christ,
he is a new creature: old things are
passed away; behold, all things are
become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

something to suit your own ideas. God's true children will accept what the Bible says even though everything may not be perfectly clear to them now. Revelation 22:18 warns us, "If any man shall add unto these things (in God's Word), God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book."

We know that Satan and his agents have worked hard to cover up things that would convince us of the truth of the Bible. Dr. Carl Baugh tells about a huge seam of coal that men were digging in the United States. They uncovered many large human bones that were in with all the coal. This was powerful evidence of a flood, so it was ordered that this coal mine be flooded with water so no one could go into that area again. Today there is a dam sitting over this site.

Within 100 years of Paul's death, Tertullian (AD150 – 235), a church leader, was teaching oblations (special ceremonies) for the dead, making the sign of the cross on the forehead, and dipping people in the water three times to baptize. For those who questioned his practices he wrote: "If, for these and other such rules, you insist upon having positive Scripture injunction, you will find none. Tradition will be held forth to you as the originator of them, custom as the strengthener, and faith as their observer." Truth Triumphant 53.

Just 200 years after Jesus went back to heaven there was a crisis within the church. People would have to decide if the scriptures should be read and obeyed as they were written or whether man-made traditions would direct their lives.

American Union Western Field Conference

August 18-22, 2010

Leoni Meadows, Grizzly Flats,
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The Tongue Of The Learned

Part 1

"The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary; he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned" Isaiah 50:4

When you wake up in the morning, you probably say hi to your roommate or praise God before you begin your ordinary activities. Not all days are the same. Sometimes you will be woken up by a phone call. You will be surprised that we use approximately between 60% and 80% of our time communicating.

Importance of Communication

Derived from the Latin word "communis", means common. Therefore we can as well say that communication means sharing ideas in common. The ideas could be in the form of writing or a verbal message.

Before we go further, let us explore the importance of communication in the life of a common person. Communication is part of our lives. On average, I spend over 60% of my waking hours communicating. Have you ever estimated your percentage?

When do we learn language? It was found that, "after age 6, language learning is very difficult, and shortly after puberty the capacity to learn language virtually disappears." Pinker, S. (1994). *The language instinct: how the mind creates language*. New York: Ballantine.

A shocking revelation here is that "socially isolated individuals have a four times greater risk of death from heart disease than those who

have strong social support from relatives and friends. Their risk of an early death is greater than the risk of death from smoking." Ornish, D. (1990). *Dr. Dean Ornish's programme for reversing heart disease*. New York: Ballantine.

How important the art of communication is cannot be underestimated. Formal, informal, oral, written or gestures are types of communication. As well, communication can be downward, upward or sideways.

Due to abuse of communication, we destroy our relationships. "Unhappy relationships also diminish physical well-being. Marital arguments adversely affect our immune system." Kiecolt-Glaser, J., Fisher, L., Ogrocki, P., & Stout, J. (1987) *Marital Quality, marital disruption and immune function*. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, (49), 13-34.

It is revealed that the more college roommates disliked each other the more likely they were to contract colds and flu and to visit a doctor. Goleman, D. (1995). *Emotional Intelligence*. New York: Bantam.

Through communication, we create a social connection. That connection is directly proportional to the quality of the way we convey ideas to others. Partners who learn to express their love and respect for each other and who manage conflict in constructive ways nurture their relationships. Unremarkable day-to-day small talk cements the feelings two people have for each other. Individuals in long-distance relationships suffer the most from fewer opportunities to share small talk, especially face to face. Gerstel, N., & Gross, H. (1985). *Commuter marriage*. New York: Guildford Press.

Communication skills can help you get a job, receive a promotion, and perform successfully in the workplace. Once people are hired, communication skills are the determining factor in their success or failure on the job. Downs, C., & Conrad, C. (1982). A critical incident study of effective subordinancy. *Journal of Business Communication*, (19), 27-38

Relationship Between Communication And Spirituality

Thus communication is a skill which we ought to learn or improve on. Jesus Christ was so skilled that He kept the attention of very large gatherings during His teachings.

In the book of 1 Timothy 6:18 it reads: "...*That they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.*" You can see that it is important to communicate willingly and freely. One could ask, what do I communicate?

It is no wonder that most of us do not know how to use our tongue. If used well in persuading, "*by long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.*" Prov. 25:15. Or be used to promote health. "*But the tongue of the wise is health.*" Proverbs 12:18.

I pray for the tongue of the learned. "*The lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary; he wakened mine ear to hear as the learned.*" Isaiah 50:4

"*Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving. Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ...*" Colossians 4:2, 3

Before you speak, you must have the **knowledge** of the expected response from your audience or receiver. You need to have courtesy. If you are not courteous, expect to receive antagonistic and adversarial actions. Bear in mind the context and purpose of communication. If you listened carefully to each other's views, even disagreed, but exhibited mutual respect, compromise may be the result. Rothwell, J. (1999) *In the company of others: An introduction to communication*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

You need to recognize nonverbal cues. When your listener signals discomfort, you need to change your topic. Clearly, concisely, fluently, eloquently and confidently communicated messages are positively responded to. Without communication skills, you are incompetent. God has given us all another chance to learn these basic skills that nurture our relationships.

Moses knew he was "not eloquent" and was "slow of speech and of a slow tongue". However, God called him and told him "*Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say*". He went further to tell Moses, "*who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or*

the blind? Have not I the Lord? Exodus 4:10-13

Dear reader, it is important to refine one's way of conveying his/her ideas, opinions and emotions. In brief, you can see the importance of communicating competently. It is health to speak wise statements skillfully. Limited skills constrain your ability to respond appropriately even if you know what is required. Having a variety of skills allows you to make choices appropriate to the specific context. The ability to communicate a message concisely is an important skill.

Student teachers are taught how to teach and give instructions. I recall we learned instructional methods in teaching various subjects. Each subject has its own unique approach. For example: question and answer session, discussion, role play, debate, teaching and others. All these methods, if effectively used, a teacher will not have a dull audience.

Today we have learned that communication is part of us. Having learned its significance, let us continue learning how to communicate effectively in the subsequent articles.

In the subsequent two articles we are going to explore the barriers to effective communication and how to overcome them.

My last few words come from the following quotes: "*Go ye therefore and teach all nations...*" "*Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.*" Matt 28:19; Acts 15:35

Teaching and preaching is conveyed through communication. We see that through the Gift of the Holy Spirit, the commission of Jesus before He ascended to Heaven can be achieved effectively.

Dear reader, I have chosen this topic because I realized that many people are in trouble or have once been, and have fallen into trouble because of inappropriate language use. Or, we have in the past been misled into trouble or caused misunderstandings between brethren.

The benefits of effective communication should be embraced and considered in the people whom we send out to announce the coming of Jesus Christ. Let us learn from God as to how to communicate effectively. He has said "*I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.* And give you *the tongue of the learned, that you should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.*"

May I thank the readers, promoters and the publishers of these articles. God Bless you all. **Amen.**

Charles Mogunde, Kenya
morcha2005@yahoo.com

The First 200 Years of the Early Church



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Very soon after Jesus went back to heaven, Satan began to bring error into the church. While the apostle Paul was preaching he said, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Acts 20:29, 30.

One of the ways that Satan spread error was through a well-respected college in Alexandria, which was located in Northern Africa.

For more than 200 years before Jesus came to earth, there were Jewish leaders who went to this school. They were taught to compromise with pagan ideas and to accept the use of tradition along with the Hebrew Scriptures. That is why many of the leaders in Israel did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah when He came. They were looking for a Messiah who would defeat the Romans and make Israel strong and prosperous. They were not looking for – and did not want – a Messiah who came to provide a way of escape from sin and Satan's power. Because of these wrong ideas the Jewish leaders were able to kill the Son of God and not even realize the awfulness of their sin.

The Alexandrian college taught what is called the allegorical method. Rather than accepting events in the Bible as really happening, or places mentioned in the scriptures as being real cities or towns, they were taught to make them represent something. An example of this type of teaching comes from Rabbi Zakkai (around AD 70) where he taught that unclean animals listed in the Old Testament, such as the hare and the pig, referred to Greece and Rome rather than to the actual animals. Another teacher, Jerome, taught that the Holy City that John the Revelator wrote about was really talking about the present world.

Dr. Wilkinson tells us that Clement, one of the best-known teachers at Alexandria (CAD194), and his famous pupil, Origen, taught students how to allegorize the Bible. They taught that the Bishop of Rome (the pope) was the supreme leader and there was no salvation if you did not belong to the Roman Church. Origen said, "Both Jews and Christians believe that the Bible was written by the Holy Spirit, but we disagree with the interpretation of what is

contained in it. Nor do we live like the Jews, since we consider that it is not the literal interpretation of the law which contains the spirit of the legislation." (CopticChurch.net).

This same reasoning is given by churches today as to why they don't keep the seventh-day Sabbath. They say that they now keep the "spirit of the law" and that they do not need to keep the actual "words" of the law. We know that Jesus said in Matthew 5:17, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." We also are told in Revelation 14:12, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

We sometimes hear people questioning whether the Bible can be believed just as it was written. They claim that some of the stories just couldn't have happened the way they were told, so they look for other ways to explain them. Many of these arguments can be traced back to Clement and Origen. Origen discussed how the story of the Flood caused some problems since there couldn't possibly be room in the ark for all the different animals in the world. Origen taught that there was a real ark that floated on the water, but that represented the Church in the future which will escape from the fire at the end of the world.

Today you may have heard people question whether the literal six days of creation can be believed as Moses wrote them in Genesis. This is not new. Origen wrote almost two thousand years ago, "Could any man of sound judgment suppose that the first, second, and third days (of creation) had an evening and a morning, when there were as yet no sun or moon or stars? Could anyone be so unintelligent as to think that God made a paradise somewhere in the east and planted it with trees, like a farmer, or that in that paradise He put a tree of life, a tree you could see and know with your senses, a tree you could derive life from by eating its fruit with the teeth in your head? When the Bible says that God used to walk in paradise in the evening or that Adam hid behind a tree, no one, I think, will question that these are only fictitious stories of things that never actually happened, and that figuratively they refer to certain mysteries." (CopticChurch.net)

It is a serious thing to change God's Word and make it say

Everyone then had the opportunity to share a meal together and taste each dish, which had been prepared at the class, plus several extras, which were brought, ready-made from home. Everything was delicious!

The damp rainy Sunday deterred a few, but eighteen visitors and five members defied the weather and were in attendance.

We pray that the next cooking class would bring out more interested souls who want to reform their life and health. Praise be to God. **Amen.**

Maurine Gerald, Secretary, Hamilton Church.



Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?

Beside the pool of Bethesda were lying a great multitude of impotent people, blind, lame, paralyzed and invalids. One man there had been lame, unable to walk for 38 years. And most likely had lost all hope ever to be healed.

Then one day, suddenly a stranger stands beside him and asks with a tender voice, "Wilt thou be made whole?" That moment, hope came to his heart, but instead of saying, "Yes Lord, make me whole," he said, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool." He had no friend that could help him, he did not know anyone who could heal him.

Then Jesus said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."

That moment his whole body thrills with a new life, and without question he sets his will to obey, springing to his feet. After 38 years he can walk again, and live a normal life.

He stoops down to take his bed and when he lifts up his eyes again to thank Jesus, He had gone. All he sees are the crippled, blind, paralyzed and invalids, and Jesus, who could have healed them all, had gone.

With joy in his heart he goes and tells everybody of his wonderful healing. One out of this great multitude of invalids was healed. They all belonged to the same church. They all kept Sabbath, and obeyed the commandments, yet only one of them was healed.

Today the world is full of sick people. Also the churches are full of sick people. They are physically sick, mentally sick, and spiritually sick. The physically sick suffer pain and are often unable to be active and live a normal life. The mentally sick may not always need to be closed in the hospitals, but yet they suffer from their sickness. They can be depressed, miserable, have phobias and strange behaviours.

But the largest number of people are spiritually sick, and this is the most terrible condition, which causes the most suffering to people, and this includes most of the professed Christians. Sin causes spiritual sickness, which is compared to leprosy.

The spiritual condition of the church of God in the time of Isaiah was not good. "Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." Isa. 1:5, 6.

Spiritual sickness causes more suffering than physical sickness. It is more painful. When suffering from spiritual sickness many have committed suicide, like Judas and Pilate, the Roman governor.

On the other hand, a spiritually healthy person can be dying or

in prison like Paul and Silas and yet be happy and rejoice. The martyrs had physical pain caused by torture, but they felt happy that they could die for Christ who died for them.

A spiritually healthy person can be offended, hurt, abused and he is still happy, and still loves even his enemies. But a spiritually sick person is easily offended, he is easily deeply hurt. Little things upset him and make him angry. For small reasons he will break friendships, even in his own family.

A very common spiritual disease is jealousy. It is a fearful disease which causes much suffering. Solomon says, "Envy is the rottenness of the bones." Prov. 14:30.

Sister White writes, "Jealousy crowds God out from us." Test. Vol. 4, p. 155. Also, "Jealousy excludes one from the blessedness of heaven." Test. Vol. 4, p. 453.

Jealousy caused the fall of Lucifer and it will make us instruments of Satan. It is a natural fruit of selfishness.

Pride is a sickness that has destroyed much people. It has kept many from confessing their sins. It was pride that kept Satan from returning to God. Pride destroys our love to God and to our fellow man very quickly.

We can have a pride of dress, having the latest fashion, also a pride of opinion, which makes us feel right and others wrong. Pride of position has ruined thousands. Self-righteousness, which is spiritual pride is almost incurable, according to Sister White.

"The evil that led to Peter's fall and that shut out the Pharisee from communion with God is proving the ruin of thousands today. There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable." COL, p. 154.

People can be proud of their humility which they profess. Many people have this spiritual disease and do not realize it.

A spiritually healthy person is truly humble. Sister White writes, "I saw that the strength of the children of God is in their humility. When they are little in their own eyes, Jesus will be to them their strength and their righteousness, and God will prosper their labours." Test. Vol. 3, p. 307.

"It is painful to learn lessons of humility, yet nothing is more beneficial in the end." Test. Vol. 4, p. 378.

If you pray to God to make you humble, He will do it by His terrible way. King Nebuchadnezzar was made humble by seven years of insanity.

By trials and sorrows our pride is removed, because there is no

other way to remove this spiritual sickness.

Covetousness is a disease that takes our joy away. It makes us feel miserable.

Whatever little we have in this life is still more than what we deserve. The wages of sin is death, and if we receive what we deserve, it is death, but the hope of eternal life gives us reason to thank God day and night, even if we have nothing else.

A blind man said to the little boy, "I cannot see you, but thanks to God, I can hear you."

It is covetousness that makes us to complain and to feel unhappy. Our Lord, Jesus, the Creator of the whole universe had no place to lay His head and He did not complain.

Many other spiritual diseases cause much suffering to people, even to professed Christians. They can be more painful than physical diseases. First they begin with a little dissatisfaction. Something begins to bother us. Later it becomes more visible, when we start talking to others of our concerns. Then we pray less than before and our Bible reading slows down, also our missionary work dies out. Eventually we may lose our faith completely.

Jesus is the only doctor who can heal a spiritual sickness. As He walked through the multitudes of impotent people at the Pool of Bethesda and found one worthy to be healed, so is He going through the multitudes of spiritually sick people today, looking for ones that He can heal.

From the many Pharisees He found one that could be healed from his self-righteousness, and that was Paul, who, after healing became a great advocate of Christian religion.

Many professed Christians are suffering misery, depression, sadness. Satan is spreading spiritual disease all around, while Jesus is offering a healing to all who desire it. He is still today asking, "Wilt thou be made whole?" A terrible struggle is going on in human hearts.

"The world will never know the work secretly going on between the soul and God, nor the inward bitterness of spirit, the self-loathing, and the constant efforts to control self; but many of the world will be able to appreciate the results of these efforts. They see Christ revealed in your life." Test. Vol. 4, p. 376.

To have a humble disposition and an unselfish character is not a result of accident, but of soul struggle alone with God, about which others may not know anything,

As bad as we may be, sin sick and in pain because of it, God still loves us. The cross of Calvary expresses His estimate of the worth of a soul. He is still bending over the purchase of His blood, asking

Hamilton Cooking Class



April 25, 2010

After Brother Jerry Eaton had welcomed everyone to our cooking class and health seminar, we commenced with a prayer by Brother Evald Pedersen. Brother Jerry then spoke on nutrition. He discussed the effects of the lack of proper nutrition on the body and the inability of proper nutrition reaching the cells and vital organs. The effects of improper nutrition in the body can result in deranged or underdeveloped cells that can lead to cancer. The deranged cells occur when free radicals are introduced into the body. Animal fat, dairy products and junk foods create free radicals in the body. These fats are difficult on the digestion, causing stress to the system. He mentioned the importance of having these cooking classes to demonstrate that healthy cooking can be practiced through knowledge. This kind of diet is better for the system and is not difficult to prepare.

Brother Jerry also discussed juice fasts which are good to restore the system to health when the body is ill – for example, some forms of cancer. He had some printouts on Prescription for Natural Healing on cancer and diverticulitis available for those who were interested.

The first cooking demonstration was presented by Sister Franziska Pedersen, who did a Tofu Broccoli Quiche. She also spoke about the Tofu Zucchini Quiche which she brought along that would also be served during the class. She then made a Fresh Fruit Cake with a Carob-Peanut Butter Frosting.

Sister Wendy Eaton followed with a demonstration of a precooked Carrot Soup. She mentioned that a friend, whose husband had cancer, adopted a vegan diet through Sis. Wendy's advice, and took medical instruction from a homeopath to become cancer free. He ate this carrot soup and consumed fresh juices to heal and restore his body He was told by doctors that nothing could be done to restore him to health, that he should go to palliative care and expect death. But through the change of diet and lifestyle, he is now cancer free. Sis Wendy also demonstrated her Parsley Spread, and her Soy-Oat Patties.

Br. Jerry continued with making Sunflower-Oat Pancakes as well as Tofu Vegetable Stir Fry, which he used to fill tortillas to make enchiladas.

Sister Franziska then made soy butter and spoke on the availability and the use of a Soy Milk Machine which she showed to our visitors. Some in the audience were interested in purchasing a soy milk machine; she gave them information on pricing and locations of stores that sell them.

While the tables were being prepared for the meal, Brother Jerry held a question and answer session. The audience was very enlightened with much information on health reform.

now they have no cloak for their sin." **John 15:22.** Sincerity in wrongdoing ceases to be possible when the light reveals the better way. Sincerity then obliges a man to change his course.

One minister told me that it is all right to keep the seventh day, but where shall we begin to count?

Turn to **Exodus 16** and the story of the manna. God said He wanted to prove or try the people as to whether they would walk in His law. The plan was that the people should gather their food every day from the first to the sixth. Each day for five days they were to gather only as much as they needed for that day, planning to have nothing remain over until the morning. On the sixth day, however, they were to gather a supply for two days, the second portion being for use on the seventh day, when no manna fell. This was the Lord's arrangement.

Now the count of the days was not left to man's choice. God Himself did the numbering. And if anyone purposely or otherwise, tried to make a change and did not accommodate himself to God's order, there resulted only confusion and loss, besides definite reproof from the Lord. Evidently some attempted a change by trying to keep the food over until morning; but it bred worms and stank. **Verse 20.** Others went out on the seventh day to gather manna possibly because they failed to secure the double portion of the sixth day, but found none. **Verse 27.** It was absolutely impossible to change the count.

Now note the message which came as a result of their careless disobedience. "How long refuse ye to keep My commandments and My laws?" **Verse 28.** The test of loyalty was upon the matter of right counting--counting as God counted, with the Sabbath as the great objective.

It may be of interest to you to know that in early days the Hebrew people were accustomed to relate each day of the week to the Sabbath by a very unusual method; they named the days as, first into the Sabbath, second into the Sabbath, and so on through the entire week. The Sabbath was really counted every day. And never forget that by the three miracles every week, God pointed out the particular and absolute seventh day of the week ; first by granting a double portion of manna on the sixth day; secondly withholding it altogether on the seventh day; and third by preserving the extra portion on the seventh day.

God blessed the seventh day, His Sabbath. He put His presence into that particular day and into no other. And if I find Him as my heart really longs to know Him, I must begin to count as He counted, making my first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh correspond to His. And when I do so, I am rewarded by actually finding Him in the Sabbath. I have rest. The true and intelligent Sabbath keeper therefore has in his service a blessing that not even a sincere Sunday keeper will ever know. **Amen!**
Cornelius Ezra D'Almeida, Ghana

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with tenderness, pity, and love, "Wilt thou be made whole?"

Jesus, our precious Redeemer invites us, "Come unto Me and be ye healed and saved." He will fill our hearts with joy, perfect peace and happiness that the world can never give us; and this is not for a moment, but for eternity. By coming to Him we fill His heart with joy that His sacrifice on the cross was not in vain. AMEN.

Timo Martin, Canada



Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbour As Thyself

The Ten Commandments given at Mount Sinai are the law of freedom with which we shall be judged. In other words, all what the judgment is about is whether we have accepted the freedom granted by the law or preferred to remain in bondage, slaves of sin. Jesus came to set us free. To accept Him in our heart is to accept the law, since He is the incarnation of the law, and to accept the law is to accept to be free indeed.

In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus clearly explains what is entailed in every precept of the law, namely, LOVE. *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* In this summary of the commandments Jesus explains what they actually are: love for God and for our neighbour. How should we love our neighbour? Like we love ourselves.

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord expresses this same rule in other words, *"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."* Matthew 7:12. This love that the Lord expects from us He is ready to give us, because He knows that we are not capable of loving in an altruistic way. The law of freedom that He expects us to keep, He is also ready to give to us because He knows that in our carnal nature it is impossible for us to keep it. That is the reason why a spiritual birth is indispensable so that we may know and live in accordance to God's will and rejoice in His peace at all times.

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Do we actually love ourselves? The greatest problem of our times is that love has waxed cold and the Bible explains why: *"Because iniquity abounds"*. In the German translation, instead of iniquity it says unrighteousness and in the Greek version anomia, *nomos* meaning law and *a-* without: In other words, love has waxed cold because there is no law any more, because man has treaded on God's commandments, because God's law is not written in his heart, there where love should dwell. Can we see the relation between love and the keeping of God's commandments, or even better to say, having God's law written in our heart?

How is love measured in our society? Mostly with permissiveness. Everything is allowed; there is no limit to our desires, dreams or covetousness. But the word of God tells us, *"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient; all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not."* 1 Corinthians 10:23. (Instead of lawful in the Greek version it says "it is in my power to do" and in Spanish "it is allowed").

How do we evaluate ourselves according to worldly standards? We usually value ourselves according to our capacities, our talents, our education, our social position, our achievements and define our worth as a person dependent on these virtues. This often leads to two types of complexes: Inferiority and superiority complex; and

pulsing and worshipful hearts. It was the rest of communion, of reciprocal affection, of heart understanding. And I believe that I have often found in my Sabbath keeping, a little fragment of the restful joy and the joyful rest of that first Eden day when God rested and worshiped with man. It is this beautiful experience that I wish you all to know.

That the blessedness of the first Sabbath might be perpetuated, that its experiences might be multiplied and known eternally by all who should live upon earth, God arranged that each succeeding Sabbath should be a repetition of the first. The record is, God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it, a statement which carries in it the very fullness of divine purpose, divine power, divine presence and wisdom.

Please note, firstly, that the Bible text speaks of the seventh day, secondly, that it declares that this day is sanctified. That it is set apart or appointed to holy or sacred use. It is the seventh day, not a seventh part of time that is brought to view. The evidence you have is that the first seventh day is now to be identified with Saturday. There are many facts that show that Saturday is the original seventh day; there can scarcely be a mistake. Without question, the fourth commandment calls attention to the seventh day known at the beginning. Does it not?

The Sabbath kept by the Saviour was the same as that given at Sinai by God Himself speaking directly to the people at Sinai.

Let me call your attention to the statement made in **Luke 23:56**, that after the crucifixion, the women who had been the most devoted Disciples of Christ kept the Sabbath day according to the commandment. The cycle of seven days, continued unbroken from creation until now, was so important that our Lord has gave it emphasis.

The Sabbath that the women kept is the day, which came just before that other day which was called the first day. It was the next day, the day of the resurrection.

What first day was it? Why, the scripture distinctly states that it was the first day of the week. Friends, there is no missing link in the connection. As you see, there is the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, followed by the first day of the week, the week which we all know to be our week of the present time. So we know that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, which is the Sabbath of creation, is the seventh day of our week. It is therefore the day which we are to observe and in which we shall find blessing.

And do you remember the story of the burning bush? **Exodus 3:1-6**. God's presence was revealed to Moses and the word came, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy." The presence of God made the very surroundings holy. His presence, His blessing of the seventh day makes the seventh day holy.

When God blessed the seventh day, He simply put His presence into that day for all earth's history and beyond. He did this for man. You know that Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man." And how wonderful then, was the making! Every seventh day brings His blessed, holy presence. The holy day carries its sanctifying, cleansing, uplifting power into the heart of God's worshiping ones, and makes them glad in the gift of holiness. The Author of the Sabbath was Jesus Christ. Read **John 1:1-3,14** and **Colossians 1:13-16**. It is His presence which the seventh day encloses. It is His life of which I partake in Sabbath keeping. And do I not therefore preach Him when I truly preach the Sabbath? This Sabbath truth is among the grandest of all the grand things brought to view in the word of God!

For instance, if the seventh day is the Sabbath day, and if we are morally bound to make it our day of rest, why do Christian churches around the world not see and acknowledge it? There are many reasons which have led the professed Christian world to observe Sunday rather than Sabbath. The Sabbath has been set aside for the same reason that other great moral duties have been neglected or rejected. You will remember that the apostle Paul clearly foretold a time when professed Christians would not endure sound doctrine but would heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, and would turn away their ears from the truth. **2 Timothy 4:3,4**.

A brief examination of the word of God shows that this evil course has been common all through the ages. It has always been apparently easy for men to estimate lightly the word of God. Surely it is so now, when higher criticism finds ready access to both pulpit and pew, placing the writings of inspiration on the same level as the works of Shakespeare. The day has come when even the Ten Commandments are regarded by many as out of date and in need of revision.

For instance, you have heard it said that truth cannot be known, and that the Bible, like a violin, plays whatever tune is desired and that this is God's plan. The statement is frequently made that the truth of today is the error of tomorrow, and vice versa. But Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth," **John 8:32** and "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine..." **John 7:17**. When a man hungers and thirsts for truth, the Holy Spirit reveals to him the deep things of God and makes them a part of his very life. Read **1 Corinthians 2:9-12** and **John 6:45; 16:13-15**.

Again you will hear it taught that if you are only sincere in what you do your service is accepted. This sounds good but it is misleading. Sincerity is necessary but it never excuses ignorance.

Has not my sincere observance of Sunday been acknowledged of God? I have surely tried to be a Christian. Yes, you have undoubtedly enjoyed God's love because you gladly did all you knew to be right. But suppose you see the truth of the fourth commandment and then fail to follow it. Jesus said regarding those in His day, "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin; but

Christ In The Sabbath

I want to acknowledge that that is a very beautiful truth to find the Sabbath a blessing – that is, the seventh day Sabbath. You probably know we have been taught that it is Jewish, a matter of bondage, a yoke which no one can wear with pleasure. Of one of the questions I have in hand here, it reads: “**Why do you not preach Christ instead of so much Sabbath?**” Is not the preaching of Christ the all-important thing? I wonder if we actually understand the expressions “*preaching the Sabbath* and *preaching Christ.*” What is the Sabbath? Who is Christ?

To determine the character of the Sabbath, it is necessary to look back to the beginning of time, to those days before sin came. There we find God’s perfect plan. There we see what should have been always, and what will be when the reign of sin is ended.

The story is that God’s work was completed and all was very good. The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. Then God rested. He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. **Genesis 2:2.** In the Paradise home, that home resplendent with the glories of the better world, the great Author of life kept Sabbath with the two beautiful beings who were to have dominion over the earth. And while His created beings kept Sabbath, the heavenly chorus “sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” **Job 38:7.** Surely that first Sabbath must have been a delightful day, and its service glorious beyond description.

God was not tired when He rested. The Sabbath was not originated nor given to man because of weariness on the part of either God or man. Of the Creator, it is written that “He fainteth not, neither is weary.” **Isaiah 40:8.** And man, who was made in His image, knew nothing of physical deterioration and decay until after the seeds of sin had been sown. If sin had never entered the world, there would have been no such thing as tired nerves or tired muscles, no breaking down of the tissues of life, no sickness and no death. Therefore, as the Sabbath was given before the FALL, its great and primary purpose was not that man should merely cease from his regular employment, but that he should enjoy the same rest the Maker of the world Himself enjoyed.

Dear friend, establish this in your thinking, for it is vital to an understanding of the whole matter. He who sees in Sabbath keeping nothing more than the laying aside of his secular labour for a certain twenty four hours, and the enjoyment of the privileges of rest, change, and church going, has not yet found the secret of the Sabbath as it was given to mankind.

As we have just read, He who made heaven and earth never wearies. He is the great I AM, the Self-existent One, who inhabits eternity, with whom years are not. Yet we read that He rested. More than this, the Bible tells us that He rested and was refreshed. **Exodus 31:17.** His was the rest of a divine joy in beholding the perfection of His wonderful handiwork and in receiving from His earth children the love and adoration that sprang from their quick

both make us unhappy because they are a great impediment in our relation with others. We are either too shy or too arrogant and in both cases we cannot relate in a naturally and genuine way with our neighbour.

Another standard used to evaluate ourselves is the way people treat us. Are we accepted and appreciated or unloved and rejected? There is no perfect balance in this sense. Some people like us while others have hurt us badly, even if unconsciously. It is through this acceptance and rejection from people since our childhood that we are capable to love ourselves or not. One way or the other we are all hurt children and need to be healed. The only healing is found in the arms of our heavenly Father, who paid such a high price to set us free!

Apostle Paul who founded a church in Corinth, where there was a temple to Aphrodite, the goddess of erotic love, felt the need to explain to his converts what genuine, godly love—agape-- consists of. Does this love come naturally from our heart? Absolutely not. We do not bear all things, we are often provoked and keep a grudge. How many people are there who are not able to forgive, although maybe they say the Lord’s Prayer every day? Forgiveness is actually a clue to divine love. It is impossible to love someone whom we cannot forgive or accept. It is also impossible to love ourselves if we cannot forgive and forget our own mistakes. Forgiveness is not in our human capacity, but the Lord is able and willing to grant us not only the forgiveness of our sins, but also mercy so that we may forgive others. Forgiveness means freedom from guilt and bad feelings.

This reminds me of a book I read a long time ago written by a fervent Dutch missionary whose family, as Christians, had hidden Jewish people in their home and ended up in a concentration camp in Germany. There she saw her sister die, but she herself managed to come out and she preached the gospel of forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ around the world, even when she was advanced in age. Once, when she was preaching in Germany about forgiveness, she had a very interesting experience. After she was through with her speech, a man approached her with a big smile and an outstretched hand. Suddenly the remembrances of her time spent in that terrible ghetto came to her mind and her heart became hard and cold as ice as she recognized in that man the cruel watchman in that camp. She had just delivered a powerful preaching about forgiveness and now she was badly tested. The man had also become a Christian. She knew she had to act out of principle and not follow her feelings or thoughts, so she stretched out her hand and as she shook hands with him she felt that the precious gift of forgiveness was being granted her from above. The ice had melted and she felt warm and loving.

Forgiveness is indeed the first step to be taken in order to receive another gift: Agape-love, a kind of love that suffers long, does not behave itself unseemly, thinks no evil, endures all things.

This is the kind of love that Jesus showed us when He lived upon this earth and mostly when He was nailed to the cross. He took upon Himself our faults and the faults of our debtors. Therefore, what do we need in order to have this kind of forgiveness and godly love? Let us read Ephesians 3:17, “*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.*” Paul writes to the Corinthians that Christ was made for us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption which means that without Christ we may have much knowledge, but no wisdom; we may practice much of our own righteousness, but not the only one that counts before God. Without Christ we cannot be sanctified and therefore not redeemed. So whom do we need in order to be able to love ourselves and our neighbour? CHRIST. Why? Because He is the only One who loved us to death! When we measure our value with the price that was paid for us on the cross, we are automatically free from all complexes and filled with a sweet feeling of peace and joy that nobody can rob us of. “*Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith.*” Hebrews 12:1, 2. **Amen.**

Teresa Corti

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Come Out Of Her My People

Part 12 (Revelation 18:1-4)

How prophecy was fulfilled concerning a separation in the Seventh-day Adventist church...

When the last call for reformation was answered, the church was shaken, and a separation took place. The following Testimony was fulfilled:

"I saw some with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle... Some I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading... I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels, and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard, and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not hear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people." EW 269-270

Whenever the Bible (Amos 9:9) or the Testimonies speak of shaking or sifting, they speak of separation. We understand this from the following:

"I was pointed to the providence of God among His people, and was shown that every trial made by the refining, purifying process upon professed Christians, proves some to be dross. The fine gold does not always appear. In every religious crisis, some fall under temptation. The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves. Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church." 4T 89

The predicted separation caused by the shaking, when the standard was exalted, already occurred at the time of the crisis, (TM 514) when the church faced the war question in 1914-1918. They (the members of the church) had then to decide either to obey God's Law, or take up arms. Sad to say, less than 5 per cent of the members (ChS 41) STOOD IN DEFENSE OF THE LAW OF GOD. The great proportion decided to lower the standard.

A Testimony written around the year 1900 shows the circumstances under which this separation would take place:

"As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril, make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another go out from us." 6T 400

Jacob, as a good master of a family, is in care to provide for those of his own house, food – conveniently, and shall not God provide for his children, for the "household of faith?" And not only so, but every man had his money restored in his sack's mouth.

Thus Christ, our Joseph, gives out supplies "without money and without price." Therefore the poor are "invited to buy." (Rev. 3:17, 18). Ah! But this put them into great dismay or panic (v-28). "Their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another. What is this that God hath done to us?" It was, however, a very merciful event. **Guilty consciences are apt to take good providences in a bad sense, and to put wrong constructions even upon those things that make for them.** They flee when none pursues! You see, wealth sometimes brings as much care along with it as want does, and more too! If they had been robbed of their money, they could not have been more frightened than they were now when they found their money in their sacks. Thus, he whose ground brought forth plentifully said, "What shall I do?" (Luke 12:17).

Secret Of Happiness

"Paul shows what risks men will run to become rich. But many are determined to be rich; this is their study, and in their zeal eternal considerations are overlooked. They are blinded by Satan and make themselves believe that it is for good purposes they desire this gain; they **strain their consciences**, deceive themselves, and are constantly coveting riches. Such have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. They have sacrificed their noble elevated principles, given up their faith for riches, and if not disappointed in their object, they are disappointed in the happiness which they supposed riches would bring.

They are entangled, perplexed with care; they have made themselves slaves to their avarice and compelled their families to the same slavery, and the advantages they reap are 'many sorrows.' 'Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.' Godliness with contentment is great gain. Here is the true secret of happiness, and real prosperity of soul and body." (1T 542)

Yet, in their dire circumstances it was very amazing. They knew that the Egyptians abhorred a Hebrew (Gen. 43:32), and therefore, since they could not expect to receive any kindness from them, they concluded that this was done with a design to pick a quarrel with them, and the rather, because the man, the lord of the land, Joseph, had charged them as spies.

Their own **perverse consciences** also were awake, and their sins set in order before them; and this put them into agonizing confusion! But, this can be our hope, that, "**the conscience is awakened at conversion.**" (COL 98-9). When men's spirits are sinking, everything helps to sink them further! "**Indecision hardens the**

conscience." (2T 263). A corrupted and struggling conscience can, however, be set straightforward by such an awakening and quickening. "**God's Law confronts the conscience.**" (1SM 240). "**The conscience is capable of hearing the faintest whisper of Christ's voice.**" (ML 322)

Eat!

When the events of Providence concerning us are surprising it is good to inquire what it is that God has done and is doing with us, and to consider the operation of His hands. "**The conscience, must, therefore, be kept sensitive by watchfulness and prayer.** If we would live a true Christian life, the **conscience must be quickened by constant contact with the word of God.** All the precious things which at infinite cost God has provided for us will do us no good; they cannot strengthen us and produce spiritual growth unless we appropriate them. We must eat the word of God – make it a part of ourselves." (3T 373; 7T 195)

"Humble sanctuaries will be erected where those who accept the truth may find a place to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience." 6T 101

By The Way

In this reflection of Joseph and his brethren, we can consequently conclude that after the tokens of true reconciliation follow the instances of a sweet communion. Jesus has given us the charge to "love one another." That we live in peace, that whatever occurs, or **whatever former occurrences are remembered by a condemning conscience, we fall not out**, for we are brethren, we all have one Father.

"**The conscience does not condemn a person who keeps God's commandments.**" SD 45. We are His brethren and we shame our relation to Him, who is our peace, if we fall out. We are guilty, "verily guilty," and instead of quarrelling with one another, have a great deal of reason to fall out with ourselves. We are, or hope to be, forgiven of God whom we have all offended, and therefore should be ready to forgive one another.

We are "by the way," a way that lies through the land of Egypt, where we have many eyes upon us that seek occasion and advantage against us, a way that leads to Canaan, where we hope to be forever in perfect peace. What God here did for Jacob He has, in effect, promised to do for all of His people that serve Him and trust in Him. "They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied." Psalm 37:19

May **YOUR CONSCIENCE** be illuminated, quick, and pure! "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" Josh 24:15. **Amen John Theodorou, USA**

that it was committed against warnings, or admonitions. When we come to share with others in their calamities or mishaps, it will be a comfort to us if we have **the testimony of our consciences** for us that we did not share with them in their iniquities and actions, but, in our places, witnessed against them. This shall be our rejoicing in the day of evil, and shall, thereby, take out the sting. Note: **“No torture is keener than the stings of a guilty conscience.”** (DA 223)

Tender

Joseph's tenderness towards them upon this occasion is to be praised and lauded. He retired from them to weep (V-24).

Though his reason directed that he should still carry himself as a stranger to them, because they were not as yet humbled enough, yet natural affection could not but work, for he was a man of a tender spirit. This represents the tender mercies of our God towards repenting sinners. (Jer. 31:20). "Since I spoke against him I do earnestly remember him still." (Judg. 10:16).

Be Ready

Joseph imprisoned Simeon (v-24). Why Simeon? Well, he chose him for the hostage probably because he remembered him to have been his most bitter enemy, or because he observed him now to be the least humbled and concerned. "He bound him before their eyes" to affect them all; or perhaps it is intimated that, though he bound him with some severity before them, yet afterwards, when they were gone, he took off his bonds.

The report was later made by Jacob's sons to their father; that they were obliged to leave Simeon a prisoner there, until they should bring Benjamin, the youngest son, with them there to Joseph. When we go abroad, we should consider how many sad accidents that we little think of, may befall us before we return home. "We know not what a day may bring forth;" we ought therefore to be always ready for the worst.

For Or Against?

The father, Jacob, said, "Me have you bereaved." He seems to lay fault upon them; knowing their characters, he feared they had provoked the Egyptians, and perhaps, forcibly, or fraudulently brought home their money. Jacob had melancholy apprehensions concerning his family. We often, too, perplex ourselves with our own mistakes, even in matters of fact. True grief and stress may arise from false intelligence and suppositions. Jacob said further, "All these things are against me." Ah! But it proved otherwise, that all these were for him and were working together for his good and the good of his family; yet here he thinks them all against him. Note that through our ignorance, pride, mistakes, and the weakness of

our faith, we often apprehend that to be against us which is really for us. We are afflicted in body, state, name, and relations; and we think all these things are against us, whereas these are really working for us the weight of glory. Jacob's thoughts furthermore, were that, "Benjamin will not go with you, for you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave." He plainly intimates a distrust of them, remembering that he never saw Joseph since he had been with them. You see, it is bad with a family when children conduct themselves so badly, ill considerate, or evilly, that their parents know not how to trust them! It's a horrific relationship; creating broken families; broken homes; early deaths.

Plead!

Judah, on the other hand, urges Jacob to consent that Benjamin should go down with them, howsoever much it went against Jacob's feelings and previous determination. Ah! Judah's conscience had lately smitten him for what he had done a great while ago against Joseph (ch. 42:21); and, as evidence of the truth of his repentance, he is ready to undertake, as far as a man could do it, for Benjamin's security. He will not only not wrong him, but do all he can to protect him.

This is the working of the conscience; this is restitution, or compensation, as far as the case will admit; when he knew not how he could ever restore Joseph, he would make some amends for the irreparable injury he had done him by doubling his care concerning Benjamin. This is the haunted conscience awakened that was violated, even if once, and became benumbed, weak, seared, and hardened.

But, "man cannot repent unless the Spirit is awakened." (6BC1056.) **The conscience can be delicate but capricious**, too. It's interesting, you see, that it is not at all inconsistent with the honour and duty which children owe their parents humbly and modestly to advise them, and, as occasion is, to reason with them; as Judah did with his father, Jacob. "Plead with your mother, plead," (Hos. 2:2). Jacob, consequently, yielded, though they were his inferiors, but tenderly being urged by Judah, seeing there was no remedy, consented to the necessity of the situation, saying, "If it must be so now, take your brother."(v-11). A wounded conscience – victorious!

"Place your mind and will where the Holy Spirit can reach them, for He will not work through another man's mind and conscience to reach yours. With earnest prayer for wisdom, make the word of God your study. Take counsel of sanctified reason, surrendered wholly to God. We do not half pray. We do not half believe. "Ask, and it shall be given you." (Luke 11:9) (7T 214).

What Shall I Do?

Meanwhile, Joseph continued to retain Simeon as hostage and dismissed the rest of them. They came for corn, and corn they had;

Consider also this other parallel prophecy, which indicates that a separation would occur in the ranks of the Advent people:

"As the storm approaches, a LARGE CLASS, who have professed faith in the third angels message, but who have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive, and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their FORMER BRETHERN." GC 608

"After the predicted separation, the LARGE CLASS continues without a work of reformation. The prophesied revival and reformation take place in the ranks of their FORMER BRETHERN." GC 608

Both parties develop their characters until the coming of Jesus. Consider the following:

Succeeding Steps Taken By The Large Class

1. THEY UNITE WITH THE WORLD

"By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light." GC 608

"It is a solemn and terrible truth, that many who have been zealous in proclaiming the third angel's message, are now becoming listless and indifferent! The line of demarcation between worldlings, and many professed Christians is almost indistinguishable... Many who once were earnest Adventists are conforming to the world, -- to its practices, its customs, its selfishness....

"Instead of leading the world to render obedience to God's Law, the church is uniting more and more closely with the world in transgression. Daily the church is becoming converted to the world." 8T 118-119

"The world must not be introduced into the church, and married to the church, forming a bond of unity. Through this means the church will become indeed corrupt, and, as stated in Revelation, A CAGE OF EVERY UNCLEAN AND HATEFUL BIRD." TM 265

2. THEY RECEIVE STRONG DELUSION

"Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith." 6T 401

"One who sees beneath the surface, who reads the hearts of all men, says of those who have had great light: They are not afflicted and astonished because of the moral and spiritual condition; Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. I, also will chose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear; but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not. God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Isa. 66:3-4; 2 Thess. 2:11, 10, 12

"The Heavenly Teacher inquired: What stronger delusion can beguile the mind than the pretense that you are building on the right foundation, and that God accepts your works, WHEN IN REALITY, you are working out many things according to worldly policy, and are sinning against Jehovah? Oh, it is a great deception, a fascinating delusion, that takes possession of minds, when men who have once known the truth, mistake the form of godliness, for the spirit and power thereof; when they suppose that they are rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, while in reality, they are in need of everything." 8T249-250

3. GOD'S SPIRIT AND PRESENCE ARE REMOVED FROM THEM

"He will take His Holy Spirit from the church, and give to others who will appreciate it." RH, July 16, 1895

"Some who have been dishonoring God repented and humbled their hearts before Him. But the glory of the LORD had departed from Israel; although many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking." 5T 210

"It is with reluctance that the Lord withdraws His presence from those who have been blessed with great light, and who have felt the power of the word, in ministering to others. They were once His faithful servants, favored with His presence and guidance; BUT THEY DEPARTED FROM HIM, and led others into error, and therefore are brought under Divine displeasure." 5T 212

"Like ancient Israel, the church has dishonored her God, by departing from the light, neglecting her duties, and abusing her high and exalted privilege of being peculiar and holy in character. Her members have violated their covenant to live for God and Him only. They have joined with the selfish and world-loving. Pride, the love of pleasure, and sin have been cherished, and CHRIST HAS DEPARTED. His Spirit has been quenched in the church." 2T 441-442

"MY FATHERS 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

“THE CHURCH IS IN THE LAODICEAN STATE. THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS NOT IN HER MIDST.” (NL, Ed 6, p. 3)

4. IN THE FINAL TEST, THEY JOIN THE ENEMIES

“And when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side.” GC 608

“Those who have, step by step, yielded to worldly demands, and conformed to worldly customs, will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death.” 5T 81

“To stand in defense of truth and righteousness, when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord, when champions are few, --- THIS WILL BE OUR TEST. At this time, we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.” 5T 136

5. THEY WILL BE LEFT WITHOUT THE SEAL, AND WILL RECEIVE THE PLAGUES

“The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions His messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: ‘GO YE AFTER HIM THROUGH THE CITY, AND SMITE: LET NOT YOUR EYE SPARE, NEITHER HAVE YE PITY: SLAY UTTERLY OLD AND YOUNG, BOTH MAIDS, AND LITTLE CHILDREN, AND WOMEN: BUT COME NOT NEAR ANY MAN UPON WHOM IS THE MARK; AND BEGIN AT MY SANCTUARY. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

“Here we see that the church—the Lord’s sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light, and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles, and the marked manifestation of God’s power, as in former days. Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say, The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. Thus ‘Peace and safety’ is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet, to show God’s people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins. (Isa. 58:1).

“THESE DUMB DOGS, that would not bark, are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children, all perish together.” 5T 211 (Isaiah 56:10-11)

6. THEY WILL BE HOWLING IN AGONY, IN THE TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE

“Loud, wailing cries were heard in every direction. ‘It was you who kept me from receiving the truth which would have saved

me from this awful hour.’ THE PEOPLE TURNED UPON THEIR MINISTERS with bitter hate and reproached them, saying, ‘YOU HAVE NOT WARNED US. You told us that all the world was to be converted, and cried, Peace, peace, to quiet every fear that was aroused. You have not told us of this hour; and those who warned us of it you declared to be fanatics and evil men, who would ruin us. But I saw, that the ministers did not escape the wrath of God. Their suffering was tenfold greater than that of their people.’ EW 282 (JER 23:1) SEE ALSO EW 37

7. THEY PROSTRATE THEMSELVES AT THE SAINT’S FEET

“You think, that those who worship before the saint’s feet (Rev. 3:9) will at last be saved. HERE I MUST DIFFER WITH YOU; for God shew me that this class were professed Adventists, who had fallen away, and ‘crucified to themselves, the Son of God afresh, and put Him to open shame. And in the ‘hour of temptation,’ which is yet to come, to show out every one’s true character, they will know that they are forever lost; and overwhelmed with anguish of spirit, they will bow at the saint’s feet.” WLF 12

Dear readers,

Next month, we will consider the succeeding steps of the former brethren--the REMNANT--in comparison to THE LARGE CLASS we have just contemplated.

In closing I would like to share with you all the following words of encouragement as the hour of temptation which is yet to come in the previous quote is here now, and we are in it now.

“Divine grace must be received daily or no man will stay converted. We must have a daily application of the salt of God’s Word.” OHC 214

“Only those who have been diligent students of the scriptures, and who have THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive.” GC 625, 1911.

John Warncken, Australia

INDEX TO THE MESSENGER

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Your Conscience



“And they said one to another, **We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.**” Gen 42:21.

Wrong

Here is the penitent reflection Joseph’s brethren made upon the wrong they had formerly done to him. They talked the matter over in the Hebrew tongue, not suspecting that Joseph, whom they took for a native of Egypt, understood them, much less that he was the person they spoke of! They remembered with regret and seared consciences the barbarous cruelty wherewith they persecuted him and abandoned him; “We are verily guilty concerning our brother.” Actually, we do not read that they said this during their three days of imprisonment; but now, when the matter had come to some issue and they saw themselves still embarrassed, now they began to relent. Perhaps Joseph’s mention of the “fear of God,” (v-18) awakened their conscience and put them under consideration and revealed this reflection?

But now let us try to understand the position or form of conscience. Well, it is a “remembrance”; simply to bringing to mind things long since said and done, to show us wherein we have erred! “A clear conscience is better than drugs, restores health, raises esteem, and is impossible, without divine aid and principle to love honestly for the sake of right.” (ML 177; SD 11).

Though it was long ago, as the reflection of Joseph’s brethren was here mentioned, it was more than twenty years after the sin was committed! As time ordinarily does not wear out the guilt of sin, so it will not blot out the records of conscience. “No man or body of men has the power to free the soul from guilt. Christ removes the repentant sinner’s burden of guilt and sin.”(DA 806; 1T 160). Now, when the guilt of this sin of Joseph’s brethren was fresh they made light of it, and sat down to eat bread; but now, long afterwards, their consciences reminded them of it.

You see, the benefit of **affliction or severe sickness often proves to be the happy and effectual means of awakening conscience, and bringing sin to our remembrance.** (Job 13:26). The evil of guilt concerning our brethren; of all our sins; it was this that conscience scolded or rebuked them. Now, whenever we think we have some wrong done to us, we ought to remember the wrong we have done to others. (Eccl. 7:21, 22).

Sting

Reuben alone remembered, with comfort, that he had been an only advocate for his brother, and had done what he could to prevent the mischief they did him. (v-22); saying; “Spoke I not unto you, saying. Do not sin against the child?” It is an aggravation of any sin

Sabbath afternoon was dedicated to the health message. Brother Ajucum from Puerto Rico shared with us the health vision that was mentioned in the life of Daniel (Daniel 1:8). Daniel purposed in his heart not to partake of the king's meat and he was found to be of fairer countenance after a 10 day trial; and after three years of study, he was found to be ten times wiser than his fellow students. We too need to take a firm stand as did Daniel and refuse to partake of any foods or unhealthful practices that will be a detriment to our health. A lengthy question and answer period followed, with many interesting health questions.

The Sabbath drew to a close and Brother Acevedo continued with the study that he began the evening before. He now focused on the topic of "How to Shine". The believer's human nature is to merge with the Divine Nature of God. We are not God, but we can participate in Divine Nature. We become one with Jesus. By studying the life of Jesus, His human nature, His private and public life, His obedience to the law, His victory over sin, His personality and His character, we were given a clearer vision of the possibilities of the Christian who is connected with the Divine. We are to be hidden in Christ. How can we shine? Christ in me. That is the secret. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Sunday morning came all too soon--the final day of the conference. The day began with some words of encouragement from Brother Guillaume. We all came to attend the conference with a purpose. It was not to have a vacation, a social event, to admire the trees, or to have fun. We came together to grow spiritually. We can all return home with new purpose, new ideas and new energy to take up the work of the Lord.

For our final service before the closing of the conference, Brother Dering shared with us some encouraging thoughts to consider. We need to consider what our destination is. When we begin our spiritual journey, the enemy comes and tries to discourage us from following Him. Today we need to be making preparations for the final crisis that will descend upon this earth. We will face trials but trials have always brought people together. If we are under the wings of Jesus we will find safety.

The time finally came for us to say farewell. The ministers in attendance each gave a short word of encouragement in closing and we sang our parting song.

The fellowship was wonderful. The services were uplifting. The unity of the different cultures of people present was beautiful. We separated with new zeal for the service of the Lord. I share here only a small portion of the blessings that were received with the desire that you can all learn how to "Let your light so shine before men" and make earnest efforts to study further into this subject in order to be that City that is set on a hill, that cannot be hidden.

May God help us to be those lights that will go searching into the dark corners of this earth, bringing light to those in darkness; searching for those hidden jewels that are lost, by shining our light into the darkness. **AMEN**

Wendy Eaton, Canada



Betty Lugo, Nidya Sanchez and Daysi Perez from New York



Br. Jerry Eaton with Br. Simon and Br. Sebastian from Florida

Lost

In the well-known hymn, 'Amazing Grace', one line says, "I once was lost, but now am found." But how do we know that we are found?

In Luke chapter 19: 10 it says: "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." What is the meaning of the word LOST? From the Longman dictionary, "lost" means not knowing where you are or how to find your way. God knew from the very beginning that we as humans need help to not get lost. God sent angels to Adam and Eve. He sent Prophets to the Israelites, and He also sent His Son to guide us and to find us. In John 15:16 the first part says "You did not choose me, but I chose you."

But, what is the reason why we get lost? In my experience I get lost because I don't have the proper directions or information. Secondly, it is because I get distracted, and thirdly it is because something attracts my eye. That is what happened to Eve. The angels admonished Adam and Eve to be on guard against Satan. The angels advised Eve not to be separated from her husband. If they were not together, they were going to be in greater danger. The angels told Adam and Eve to follow the instructions that God had given in regard to the tree of knowledge of good and evil. If they had obeyed they would have been safe.

Sometimes we get lost taking the wrong bus, on the first day of school, perhaps in the airport or in a country while we are travelling. Then, after we realize that we are lost, our first reaction is frustration or anger. We blame ourselves for not having a map, or the right information. Sometimes there are information centers where we can ask for information to find our way.

Being lost is not a pleasure. You can lose money. You can lose your flight, a class or a job. But these things you can always get back. But what about when we feel spiritually lost? Can we recognize the first symptoms? Some of the symptoms are discouragement, temptations, influences, distractions and attractions. They are those that don't let us focus on our daily spiritual life. Not reading the Bible or the Testimonies of Sister Ellen White, not coming to church or prayers meetings are also some of the signs. Sometimes we prefer to read books of fiction, books that have action and a good plot. Yet the Bible has history and a plot. It has real heroes, danger, love, action and best of all, the author is God and Jesus and it is written by prophets, apostles and disciples. Satan is very good at taking us to wrong places, and then when we are lost and lonely, we feel guilty and miserable. It is not easy then to find our way back.

Like I mentioned before, when you are lost you look for an information center on your map. You can also get the directions off of the Internet. In the same way, when we feel spiritually lost, the church is our refuge. The Bible is our map that tells us DON'T turn left. DON'T turn right. KEEP straight. Keep GOING. Just KEEP your eyes upon JESUS. Every Sabbath, the elders, the ministers, youth and children come to the pulpit and have wonderful services

and give us directions on how to get to Jesus. They tell us how not to get lost and lose our salvation. When we are in a place that we don't know and we only have one flashlight, if we don't turn it on, we are not going to find our way. In the same way we have our Bible, but if we have it closed all the time and we don't read it, we are never going to understand the word of God. Jesus said "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Now when we feel spiritually lost we have to pray and ask God and Jesus to help us.

The following is an experience when I got lost in the airport in Mexico. I had been in that airport so many times that I never thought that it could happen to me. Although I was not completely lost, because I knew where I was, it happened on my way back to Canada when I was travelling with my son, Mathew.

After we checked in our luggage and we passed customs, they gave instructions to all who were going to Canada to go to "National Flights". It was very strange to walk in the opposite direction that we were supposed to walk, but we followed the instructions. A little bit later Mathew got upset because the airport was very crowded. We decided to go for a walk; we separated from the group that was going back to Toronto. Like Eve, I was mesmerized by one of the stores. Finally we went back. I looked at the time on my watch. I realized that two hours had passed and in 30 minutes we must be flying. But it was strange that they hadn't called us to the plane yet. "Something must be very wrong," I thought. I went and asked at the information desk. The lady looked at me and she said, "where have you been? You have to run to 'International Flights', if you don't want to lose your flight!" So I took Mathew with my left hand and I told him, "we are about to miss our flight. We have to run. Please don't let go of my hand. Don't stop". I never thought I could run so fast in an airport.

While I ran I had a lot of thoughts come to my mind. I even thought that I had one strong reason to stay in Mexico because my mother was in the hospital at the time. But I had a thousand reasons to return home. My family was waiting for me. I was feeling so frustrated, because I got distracted. Suddenly I heard my name. They started paging me that I had to be at the gate. We kept running, and again I heard my name. Mathew told me, "Mommy, they are calling you." I told Mathew, "don't talk and run." Finally, I heard my name a third time, but this time they said that my luggage was going to be removed from the airplane. I really wanted to stop and blame somebody for that. It was not my fault. I didn't want to be lost. I didn't want to go in the wrong direction, but I kept running. Mathew sometimes said, "you are squeezing my hand very hard." Finally we reached the place where you show your passports. I tried to open my purse and pull out the passports and tickets but I was so exhausted. I just couldn't do it. The flight attendant asked me one question, "are you travelling with a Canadian or Mexican passport?" I said "Canadian" and she said "GO". It was the first time that I didn't have to show my passport or the boarding pass to get on a plane. It was a pleasure and satisfaction to reach something that you know

is yours. When we were entering the airplane I didn't even want to look around. Finally Mathew said, "Mommy we made it", and I said, "yes, Mathew we made it" and we smiled and hugged.

When Jesus comes there is not going to be first, second or third call. When He says, "It is Finished" it is because He knows for whom He is coming; Jesus knows the names of those who is going to be saved. There is not going to be time to run, even if we try. We know that is not going to work. Right now is the time to admonish the world and admonish ourselves if we are feeling weak or lost. Right now is the time to take our children, our youth, our families and friends and bring them to Jesus and show them the great sacrifice that God made for each one of us and the price that Jesus had to pay for our salvation.

Imagine that you are at Golgotha, the place where Jesus was crucified. You are in the multitude of people. There is Jesus with His crown of thorns. His hands are stretched upon the cross. Imagine the terrible sound of the hammer, and the nails going into the hands and feet of Jesus. From the book **The Desire of Ages**, page 745 it says "As soon as Jesus was nailed to the cross, it was lifted by a strong man, and with great violence thrust into the place prepared for it. This caused the most intense agony to the Son of God." Imagine Him when He was thirsty and they gave him vinegar to drink.

It is hard to imagine all the details of the suffering that Jesus went through for you and for me. The cup that Jesus drank was bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God.

Please dear brother or sister, focus on Jesus. Don't look at the mistakes of others. On the contrary, help, and with love, admonish if you see that somebody needs help and is lost in his spiritual life. We know that we are in the right place. We have faith that Jesus is coming. Please don't get distracted or captivated by worldly things. It only takes minutes to lose something. Pray for one another. Look at Jesus on the cross and don't turn your eyes from Him. **AMEN!**

Lucia Flores, Canada



To Support This New School In Kenya
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"Let your light so shine before men" Mat 5:16.

The evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in this city was seen in the North Eastern American Field Conference which was held from June 4 to 6, 2010 in the small town of Port Murray, New Jersey, an hour and a half drive from New York City. This beautiful country area was the setting for the conference. Members from all over the Field and beyond attended.

The theme of the conference was, "Let your light so shine before men" Mat 5:16.

Brother Rolando Quezada opened the conference with a hearty welcome to all who made the sacrifice to attend. Sabbath was drawing nigh and Brother Eaton gave us a meditation comparing the Sabbath day to prayer. We cannot explain how God answers our prayers. We only need to trust in Him. It takes holiness to keep the Sabbath; and the Sabbath, as well as prayer, reminds us that we are not holy.

In order for us to be able to let our light shine, we need to have a knowledge of God. Brother Acevedo presented a brief history of Ancient Israel; their high privileges, great commission and eventual failure in fulfilling God's expectations for them. Israel has been rejected as a nation and therefore spiritual Israel has now been given the responsibility of being this light in the world. What the Lord expected from Ancient Israel, today He expects from Spiritual Israel. Not focusing on the laws, but by a revelation of Jesus Christ's character in the life of the saints, the keeping of the law will automatically follow.

Sabbath morning dawned to a bright and warm day. The warmth of the fellowship was felt by all in attendance. For morning worship, Brother Simon encouraged us to be connected to Jesus as the branches are to the vine. It is not enough to take the name of "Reform", but we are to bear fruits. We are to surrender our lives to Jesus and let Him clean us completely.

Nearly 100 people were in attendance during the Divine Service. During the Divine Service, Brother Dering shared with us lessons from the story of Mary Magdalene. Someone who appears hopeless can be saved. Mary was brought to Jesus by the Pharisees and accused of adultery; however, from this experience her character was transformed in a marvelous manner. Jesus' forgiving love changed her completely. God decides who will be saved, not us. Man is often wrong in his judgments. Who would have thought that the thief on the cross would repent and find salvation? From all outward appearances it seemed impossible. No matter how bad you have been in the past, Jesus can save you if you come to Him and allow Him to change your life. The fragrance from the alabaster box that Mary broke filled the room. Likewise the light shining from a true Christian will fill the atmosphere with a sweet fragrance that will flow out to all others in the room.