



# *The Reformation* **Messenger**

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Birds of the Air

Page 14

**“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?” Matthew 6:26**



**WE BELIEVE:** The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the 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.

#### ABOUT THE COVER

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# ESCAPE!

“For to me to live is Christ,  
and to die is gain.”  
Philippians 1: 21



## I.D.

Living in a world that is wildly careening and unmanageable can often be a toilsome experience.

When Paul said, “For to me to live is Christ,” he did not mean that he did not live for anything else but that the dominant note, the great consuming passion underneath everything, was his love for Jesus Christ—it simply explained everything he did—not an “Escape” but a “zealous passion.” So, you see, when we tell God that we want at all costs to be identified with the death of Jesus Christ, at that instant, a supernatural identification with His death takes place, and we know with a knowledge that passes knowledge that our “old man” is crucified with Christ for a new life; and we prove it by the amazing ease with which the new supernatural life of God in us enables us to do His will. That may explain why Christianity is actually a personal, passionate devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## RESURRECTION

Ah! But our sanctity (and sanity), however, is pummeled by Satan, whose aim is to resurrect that “old man,” to divert our lives into our desires, possessions, personal matters, pleasures, and doubts. Oh! But then a crisis arises and reveals our love for Jesus Christ (a test) on this journey to the kingdom of God. But, again, and again, the world—the universe we awaken to is not one of order, but a great big, howling confusion. It’s “toilsome!” Man seeks, he waivers, he wrestles, he falls, he rises—he falls—seeks—prays. He is born—studies—works—marries—then dies! But, until one seeks God’s beautiful way, life will indeed—be dead.

## MOUNT ATHOS

A few years ago I was invited by a close Greek friend to visit Mount Athos in Greece. It is a mountain and a peninsula in Greece; a World Heritage Site, and autonomous polity in the Hellenic Republic. Because of its isolation, Mount Athos has remained as one of the most unspoiled parts of Greece. Its landscape is both stunning and wild! Athos is home to 20 stavropegial (from Greek: *stauros* 'cross' and *pegnami* 'to confirm'—is an Eastern Orthodox Christian monastery subordinated directly to a Patriarch or Synod, rather than to a local Bishop. The name comes from the byzantine tradition of summoning the Patriarch to place a cross at the foundation of such monasteries) Eastern Orthodox monasteries under the direct jurisdiction of the patriarch of Constantinople.

Greeks commonly refer to Mount Athos as the “Holy Mountain” (Greek: *Agion Oros*), centuries old. The peninsula, the easternmost “leg” of the larger Chalkidiki peninsula protrudes 31 miles into the Aegean Sea at a width of between 4.3 and 7.5 miles and covers an area of 129.58 sq. miles. King Xerxes the Persian King cut a canal across the peninsula for his ships to pass. It took him three agonizing years to complete the canal passageway for his ships to pass. It is a rugged sea-battered peninsula.

The actual Mount Athos has steep, densely forested slopes reaching up to 6,670 ft. Its snow capped peak is usually crowned by white clouds, an awesome sight to see. The surrounding seas can be dangerous. In ancient Greek history two fleet disasters in the area are recorded: in 492 BC Darius, the king of Persia, lost 300 ships

under general Mardonius; and in 411 BC the Spartans lost a fleet of 50 ships under admiral Epicleas.

Though land-linked, Mount Athos is practically accessible only by frail ferry boats for direct access to monasteries along the eastern coast. The number of daily visitors to Mount Athos is restricted and all are required to obtain a special entrance permit valid for a limited period. Only males are permitted to visit the territory, which is called “Garden of the Virgin” by the monks. No female animals are permitted on the peninsula—even hens!

Greek mythology in antiquity is rich regarding Athos; being mentioned by Homer, Herodotus, Strabo, and citing the establishment of many cities populated by many from various colonies.

Residents on the peninsula today must be males aged 18 and over who are members of the Eastern Orthodox Church and must be either monks or workers. The residency of monks centuries ago numbered over 33,000; but now only 3,000 inhabit the spacious mountain in clinging and aging monasteries. Monks started arriving at some time before the ninth century AD.

In 885 AD, Emperor Basil I, proclaimed the Holy Mountain a place of monks, and no laymen or farmers are allowed to settle there. The building of the monasteries were largely funded by Emperors, and passed through many eras (Ottoman, Russian Tzars, etc.,) until the restoration of the Byzantine Empire came, after having suffered a harsh economic environment, and becoming a self-governing region, according to each monastery.

According to a decree in October 1913 (“following ancient privilege”); Mount Athos was governed by representatives of the 20 Holy Monasteries—and headed by the “Abbot” elected by the brotherhood for life. He is the lord and spiritual father of the monastery; a conglomeration of (sketes, cells, huts, retreats, hermitages); “dependencies” of some of the 20 monasteries—17 of which are Greek; the remaining three which are Serbian, Bulgarian, and Russian.

Before one enters the mountain by ferry boat, visitors must have been issued a form of Byzantine visa, using the Julian calendar (having a difference of 13 days from the Gregorian calendar; and is still used on Mount Athos). Stays are allowed for only a few days—gratis. Reasons for the visit are asked; tourism and sightseeing are not valid, but pilgrimage or study is. Laymen are required to have short hair, and any non-cleric arriving on Athos with long hair has his hair cut— gratis, too.

There is a prohibition on entry for women, called (Greek: *avaton*); to make living in celibacy easier for those who have chosen to do so. Monks feel that the presence of women alters the social dynamics of the community and therefore slows their path towards “spiritual enlightenment.”



The Athonite monasteries possess huge deposits of invaluable medieval art treasures, including icons, liturgical vestments and objects (crosses, chalices) codices and other Christian texts, holy relics, etc. There must be close to 18,000 icons on the Mountain today spanning the centuries, countless treasures,

and skeletal remains of early monks and patriarchs.

Today, many of the Greek monks also speak foreign languages. Since there are monks from many nations in Athos, they naturally speak their own language; American, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Bulgarian, Serbian, etc. Many are highly educated: physicians, lawyers, professors, engineers, writers, actors, singers, students, skilled workers. Some young men are sadly “escaping” from a doldrums existence, families, loved ones, and into seclusion; lost to the realities of existence.

Because of the Byzantine time reckoning, the liturgical day begins at sunset and not midnight as civil time, causing disorientations for boat schedules, and liturgical services, causing disruption in sleeping, praying (3–5 vesper calls in 24 hour span), worshipping, eating times, rest, etc., e.g., one early morning—2 a.m. arising to breakfast of octopus stew!

In a taste of monastic life, all the monks still lodge to-



day, namely in: seats, in cells, huts, retreats, caves (for the most austere), sketae (communal way—a community of Christian hermits following monastic rules, allowing them to worship in comparative solitude but with a level of mutual practical support and security); all together known as “dependencies.”

The daily schedule is: praying (services in church or in private), common dining at the sound of the bell—2 meals a day (no speaking is allowed) (a monk reads from the New Testament aloud from a pulpit in the dining hall) (vegetarian, except fish—never meat), working, (according to the duties of each monk—agriculture, fishing, woodcarving, spirit distillation, iconography, tailoring, book binding, etc.) and rest.

The gates of the monasteries close at sunset and open at sunrise. Vesper services can be 4–5 times a day, beginning at 4 a.m. at the sound of the bell. The whole brotherhood meets for the Divine Liturgy service, on Sundays (Greek: *Kypiakon*) and on greater feasts (lasting days); traditional rituals embrace: chanting, all under melancholy candles and oil lamps, and sweetened by the mysticism of the occasion by myrrh incense) all in colorful ceremonial dress and awe-inspiring wonderment—a cloistered world of stalwart hermits and monks—an ascetic life—an Escape to the wilderness—total solitude and complete withdrawal from secular life.

### DEAD TO IT ALL?

The monks in the early ages, furthermore, shut themselves away from everything to prove that they were dead to it all, and when they got away they found themselves more alive than ever. Earlier some monks were even lowered by rope into a deep crevice in the mountain, and left there to die—to come to an end of this world; to experience true “separation from it all” and communion with God.

But, death is God’s delightful way of giving us life! Jesus never shut Himself away from things—away from it all! The first place He took His disciples to was a marriage feast. He did not cut himself off from society. He was not aloof. So much was He not aloof that they called Him a glutton and a winebibber (Luke 7:34). But there was one characteristic of Jesus—He was fundamentally dead to the whole thing, it had no appeal to Him. The “hundredfold” (Matthew 19:29; 13:23; Mark 10:30) which Jesus promised means that God can trust a man anywhere and with anything when he is fundamentally dead to things.

### GOD’S GIFT

One must be willing to have a humble and submissive spirit—to die as Jesus did throughout His life. Yes, our Lord died once on the cross; but in another sense He also died every day. The cross was the culmination of an entire lifetime of dying. He was willing to be misunderstood and maligned, to give up home and comforts, to take the role of a servant. That was His “death.”

We must be willing to die in that way as well. When we die with Him, God’s gift to us is “the life of Jesus.” “Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body” (2 Corinthians 4:10), the most attractive life ever lived. His beauty will gradually grow in us and become our beauty as well. “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed but not in despair. . . . always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus.” 2 Corinthians 4:8, 10

### EXUBERANCE!

Remember this saying: “A picture is worth a thousand words.” You have heard it many times before. Ah! But the portrait you draw of Jesus with your humble tranquil presence in the face of grievous wrong is worth many words on the subject. Some may see the life Jesus revealed in you and long to enter into that life. That is how dying daily can help bring life to another. You see—dying daily for Christ requires dying daily to self.

Finally, we use the phrase “drawing on the resurrection life of Jesus,” but try it; you cannot draw on it when you like, ‘ehh? You will never get one breath of that life until you are dead, that is, dead to any desire that you want a blessing for body or soul or spirit. Immediately when you die to that, the life of God is in you, and you don’t know where you are with the exuberance of it.

Although the bird-cage-like communal life of the monks is serene on the precarious cliffs of Mt. Athos, a noble jesture and to be wistfully admired, it is supposedly a physical escape (in essence) and merely temporary for all—those in seclusion or the bustle of a turbulent life. (2 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

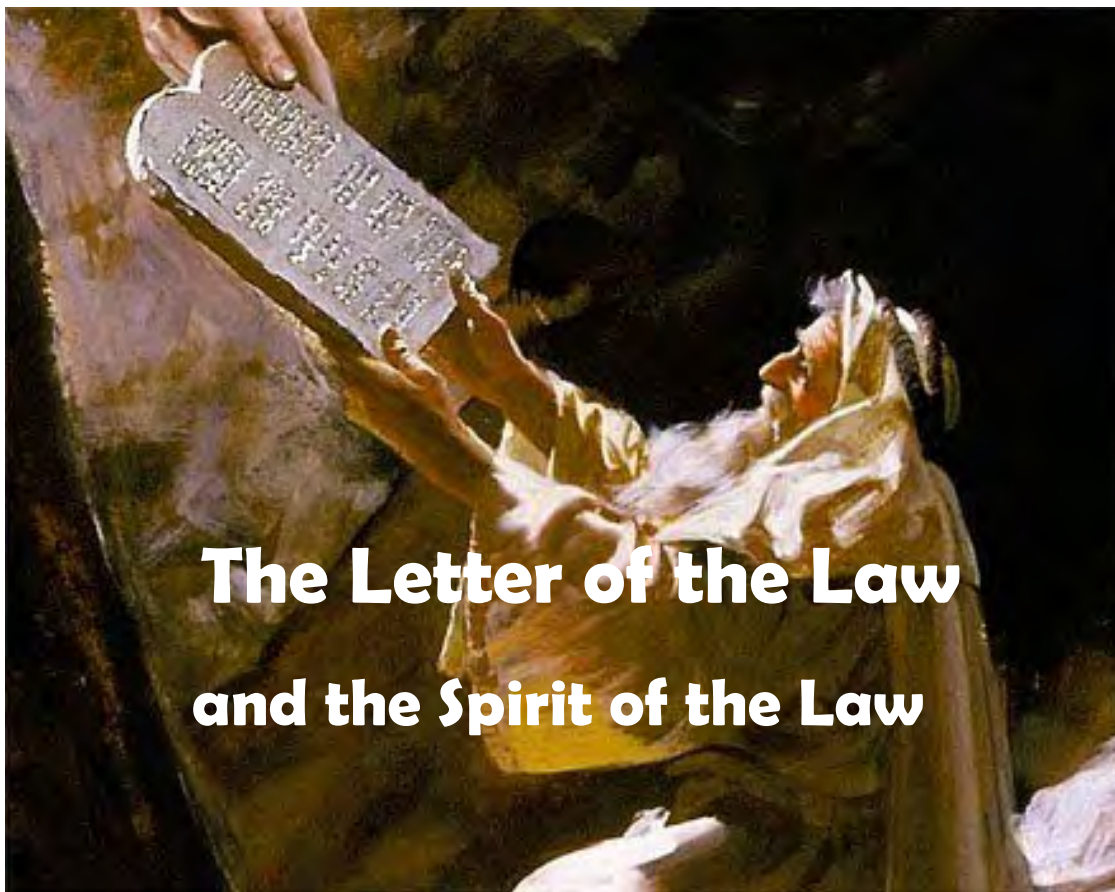
Christ, the Saviour, loves us and wants to give us the true, lasting “Escape” spiritually from all our woes

This is your ESCAPE!

Amen <>< <>< <><

*John Theodorou, U.S.A*





## The Letter of the Law and the Spirit of the Law

How many professed Christians keep the letter of the law and expect to be in heaven and to have eternal life? They do not realize that there is a great difference between keeping the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. This divides the professed Christians into two groups. Those who keep the letter of the law are divided into many church organizations, and those who keep the spirit of the law belong to only one church.

The letter of the law says, "Thou shall not kill." But the spirit of the law says, "Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you." Matthew 5:44. The letter of the law says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Matthew 5:27. But the spirit of the law says, "That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:28

In a similar way, we can keep every commandment according to the letter of it or according to the spirit. To keep the letter of the law is sufficient for church membership, but it is not enough for our salvation. This kind of obedience will not give us happiness, nor perfect joy and peace.

Paul writes, "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." 2 Corinthians 3:6

was discerned, he saw himself a sinner. Judged by the letter of the law as men apply it to the outward life, he had abstained from sin; but when he looked into the depths of its holy precepts, and saw himself as God saw him, he bowed in humiliation and confessed his guilt. He says, 'I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.' Romans 7:9. When he saw the spiritual nature of the law, sin appeared in its true hideousness, and his self-esteem was gone." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 29

"Sin did not kill the law, but it did kill the carnal mind in Paul. 'Now we are delivered from the law,' he declares, 'that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter' (Romans 7:6). 'Was that then which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful' (Romans 7:13). 'Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good' (Romans 7:12). Paul calls the attention of his hearers to the broken law, and shows them wherein they are guilty. He instructs them as a schoolmaster instructs his scholars, and shows them the way back to their loyalty to God." —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 213

Also Paul writes, "But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter." Romans 7:6

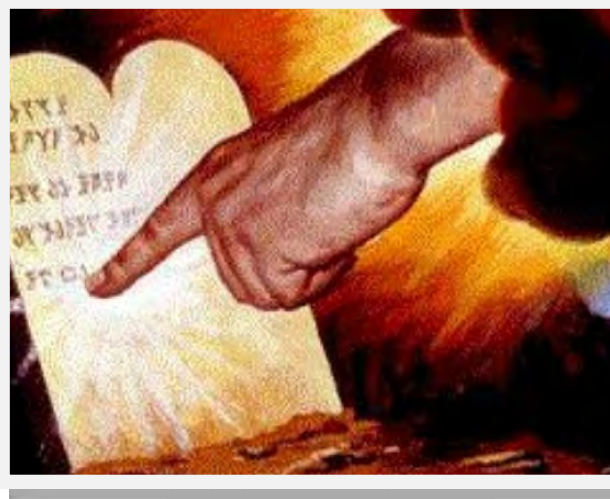
Sister White writes, "God's unchangeable law of Ten Commandments, however, Paul still kept in spirit as well as in letter." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 190

"Paul says that as 'touching the righteousness which is in the law'—as far as outward acts were concerned—he was 'blameless' (Philippians 3:6); but when the spiritual character of the law

"If the law extended to the outward conduct only, men would not be guilty in their wrong thoughts, desires, and designs. But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 211

Keeping the letter of the law only, or keeping the letter of the law and the spirit of the law also, makes these completely different religions. When a person follows the letter of the law only, he goes against his own will; but when he follows the spirit of the law he does that what he really wants to do. Before he looked to others to follow their example, but now with the spirit of the law he looks to Christ and follows Him only. If no one else wants to do missionary work, he will do it because Christ did it. Christ in your heart makes obedience to the law enjoyable.

Jesus explained the spirit of the law to His disciples. "For I was an hungred, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: Naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me. . . . And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:35–36, 40



Jesus also explained the spirit of the law in His sermon on the mount. "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." Matthew 5:41. The first mile is to keep the letter of the law. But the second mile is to keep the spirit of the law. All who are satisfied to obey the letter of the law only will fail in their efforts, because God will not give us His divine power to keep only the letter of the law. But if we ask for His power to keep the spirit of the law, then we will receive His divine power, and we will be able to move even mountains.

Jesus explained the spirit of the law further, "Jesus said unto him, 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." Matthew 22:37–40

Paul also learned that without this supreme love all other talents are without value. Let us all have the same experience that Paul had and learn the value of the spirit of the law and stop obeying the letter of the law only. Amen.

**Timo Martin**

**"Christ proclaimed over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, 'I am the resurrection, and the life.' He, the world's Redeemer, has bruised the serpent's head, depriving him of all power ever to make men feel his scorpion sting; for He has brought life and immortality to light. The gates of eternal life are thrown open to all who believe on Jesus Christ. . . . In dying, Jesus has made it impossible for those who believe on Him to die eternally.**

**"Christ lived and died as a man, that He might be God both of the living and of the dead. It was to make it impossible for men to lose eternal life if they believe on Him. The life of men and women is precious in the sight of God; for Christ has purchased that life by being executed in their stead. Thus He made it possible for us to attain to immortality." –*Lift Him Up*, p. 345**





# In the Footsteps of the Master

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps." 1 Peter 2:21

"Who went about doing good." Acts 10:38, first part

"We need not go to Nazareth, to Capernaum, or to Bethany, in order to walk in the steps of Jesus. We shall find His footprints beside the sickbed, in the hovels of poverty, in the crowded alleys of the great city, and in every place where there are human hearts in need of consolation. In doing as Jesus did when on earth, we shall walk in His steps." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 640

"For three years the disciples had before them the wonderful example of Christ. Day by day they walked and talked with Him, hearing His words of cheer to the weary and heavy laden and seeing the manifestations of His power in behalf of the sick and afflicted. When the time came for Him to leave them, He gave them power to work as He had worked. He bestowed on them His grace, saying, 'Freely ye have received, freely give.' They were to go forth into the world to shed abroad the light of His gospel of love and healing. The work He had done they were to do.

"And this is the work we also are to do in the world. In sympathy and compassion we are to minister to those in need of help, seeking with unselfish earnestness to lighten the woe of suffering humanity. As we engage in this work we shall be greatly blessed. Its influence is irresistible. By it souls are won to the Redeemer. The practical carrying out of the Saviour's commission demonstrates the power of the gospel. This work calls for laborious effort, but it pays; for by it perishing souls are saved. Through its influence men and women of talent are to be brought to the cross of Christ." —*Welfare Ministry*, p. 117

## REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

"And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise." Luke 10:30–37 (full story from verses 25-37)

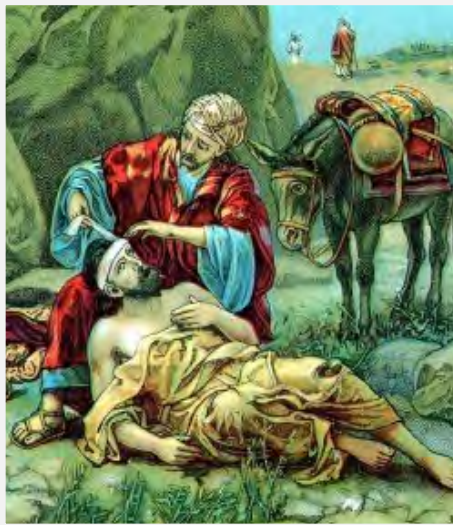
"The spirit of the good Samaritan has not been largely represented in our churches. Many in need of help have been passed by, as the priest and Levite passed by the wounded and bruised stranger who had been left to die by the wayside. The very ones who needed the power of the divine Healer to cure their wounds have been left uncared for and unnoticed. Many have acted as if it were enough to know that Satan had his trap all set for a soul, and they could go home and care not for the lost sheep. It is evident that those who manifest such a spirit have not been partakers of the divine nature, but of the attributes of the enemy of God." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 294



"We may be active, we may do much work; but without love, such love as dwelt in the heart of Christ, we can never be numbered with the family of heaven." – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 158 (Matthew 20:1–7; Matthew 21:28–31)

"Church members are to do evangelistic work in the homes of their neighbours. . . . Visit those who live near you, and by sympathy and kindness try to reach their hearts. Visit the sick and suffering, and show a kindly interest in them. . . . Eternity alone will reveal how far reaching such a line of labor can be." —*The Review and Herald*, November 21, 1907

"The Samaritan had fulfilled the command, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself,' thus showing that he was more righteous than those by whom he was denounced. Risking his own life, he had treated the wounded man as his brother. This Samaritan represents Christ. Our Saviour manifested for us a love that the love of man can never equal. When we were bruised and dying, He had pity upon us. He did not pass us by on the other side, and leave us, helpless and hopeless, to perish. He did not remain in His holy, happy home, where He was beloved by all the heavenly host. He beheld our sore need, He undertook our case, and identified His interests with those of humanity. He died to save His enemies. He prayed for His murderers. Pointing to His own example, He says to His followers, 'These things I command you, that ye love one another'; 'as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.' John 15:17; 13:34." – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 381



### PRAY FOR THE SYMPATHETIC HEARTS

"Just as surely as we believe in Jesus Christ and do His will, not exalting self, but walking in all humility of mind, just so sure will the Lord be with us. . . . Pray Him to give you a heart of flesh, that can always feel and be touched with human woe; a heart that will not turn a deaf ear to the widow or to the fatherless; that has bowels of mercy for the poor, the infirm, and the oppressed; that loves justice and hates robbery; that will not make a difference in your favor but will consider the needy. Then the promises revealed in Isaiah 58 will be experienced by you. —*Letter 24*, 1889

"And, behold, one came and said unto Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? . . . Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." Matthew 19:16, 21–22

"In the estimation of heaven, greatness of character consists in living for the welfare of our fellow men, in doing works of love and mercy." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 613

"Christ looked into the face of the young man, as if reading his life and searching his character. He loved him, and He hungered to give him that peace and grace and joy which would materially change his character. 'One thing thou lackest,' He said; 'go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.'

"Jesus saw in this ruler just the help He needed if the young man would become a colaborer with Him in the work of salvation. If he would place himself under Christ's guidance, he would be a power for good. In a marked degree the ruler could have represented Christ; for he possessed qualifications, which, if he were united with the Saviour, would enable him to become a divine force among men. Christ, seeing into his character, loved him." —

*ibid.*, p. 519

### RICH YOUNG MAN FAILED THE TEST

"Christ gave this man a test. He called upon him to choose between the heavenly treasure and worldly greatness. The heavenly treasure was assured him if he would follow Christ. But self must yield; his will must be given into Christ's control. The very holiness of God was offered to the young ruler. He had the privilege of becoming a son of God, and a coheir with Christ to the heavenly treasure. But he must take up the cross, and follow the Saviour in the path of self-denial.

"Christ's words were verily to the ruler the invitation, 'Choose you this day whom ye will serve.' Joshua 24:15. The choice was left with him. Jesus was yearning

for his conversion. He had shown him the plague spot in his character, and with what deep interest He watched the issue as the young man weighed the question! If he decided to follow Christ, he must obey His words in everything. He must turn from his ambitious projects. With what earnest, anxious longing, what soul hunger, did the Saviour look at the young man, hoping that he would yield to the invitation of the Spirit of God!

"The ruler was quick to discern all that Christ's words involved, and he became sad. If he had realized the value of the offered gift, quickly would he have enrolled himself as one of Christ's followers. He was a member of the honored council of the Jews, and Satan was tempting him with flattering prospects of the future. He wanted the heavenly treasure, but he wanted also the temporal advantages his riches would bring him. He was sorry that such conditions existed; he desired eternal life, but he was not willing to make the sacrifice. The cost of eternal life seemed too great, and he went away sorrowful; 'for he had great possessions.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 519–520

"God has set His own standard of character for all who would become subjects of His kingdom. Only those who will become co-workers with Christ, only those who will say, Lord, all I have and all I am is Thine, will be acknowledged as sons and daughters of God. All should consider what it means to desire heaven, and yet to turn away because of the conditions laid down. Think of what it means to say 'No' to Christ. The ruler said, No, I cannot give You all. Do we say the same? . . .

"The ruler's possessions were entrusted to him that he might prove himself a faithful steward; he was to dispense these goods for the blessing of those in need. So God now entrusts men with means, with talents and opportunities, that they may be His agents in helping the poor and the suffering. He who uses his entrusted gifts as God designs becomes a co-worker with the Saviour. He wins souls to Christ, because he is a representative of His character." —*Ibid.*, p. 523

"When Jesus presented to the rich young ruler the condition of discipleship, Judas was displeased. He thought that a mistake had been made. If such men as this ruler

could be connected with the believers, they would help sustain Christ's cause. If Judas were only received as a counselor, he thought, he could suggest many plans for the advantage of the little church. His principles and methods would differ somewhat from Christ's, but in these things he thought himself wiser than Christ." — *Ibid.*, p. 719

#### ZACCHAEUS PASSED THE TEST



"And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see Him: for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came

to the place, He looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That He was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:1–10

"When the rich young ruler had turned away from Jesus, the disciples had marveled at their Master's saying, 'How hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!' They had exclaimed one to another, 'Who then can be saved?' Now they had a demonstration of the truth of Christ's words, 'The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.' Mark 10:24, 26; Luke 18:27. They saw how, through the grace of God, a rich man could enter into the kingdom.

"Before Zacchaeus had looked upon the face of Christ, he had begun the work that made him manifest as a true penitent. Before being accused by man, he had confessed his sin. He had yielded to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and had begun to carry out the teaching



of the words written for ancient Israel as well as for ourselves. The Lord had said long before, 'If thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase.' 'Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God.' Leviticus 25:35–37, 17. These words had been spoken by Christ Himself when He was enshrouded in the pillar of cloud, and the very first response of Zacchaeus to the love of Christ was in manifesting compassion toward the poor and suffering." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 555

In *The Desire of Ages*, p. 638, it is written, "Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish."

"When you succor the poor, sympathize with the afflicted and oppressed, and befriend the orphan, you bring yourselves into a closer relationship to Jesus." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 25

### HEAVEN'S IMPERISHABLE RECORD

"Every act of love, every word of kindness, every prayer in behalf of the suffering and oppressed, is reported before the eternal throne and placed on heaven's imperishable record." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 133

"It were well. . . to remember the record kept on high—that book in which there are no omissions, no mistakes, and out of which they will be judged. There every neglected opportunity to do service for God is recorded; and there, too, every deed of faith and love is held in everlasting remembrance." –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 639

"Those who will receive the most abundant reward will be those who have mingled with their activity and zeal, gracious, tender pity for the poor, the orphan, the oppressed, and the afflicted." –*The Review and Herald*, July 3, 1894

"Every act of justice, mercy, and benevolence makes melody in heaven. The Father from His throne beholds those who do these acts of mercy, and numbers them with His most precious treasures. 'And they shall be

Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels.' Every merciful act to the needy, the suffering, is regarded as though done to Jesus." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 25

"Angels are commissioned to be our helpers. They are passing between earth and heaven, bearing upward the record of the doings of the children of men." –*The Southern Watchman*, April 2, 1903

### KINDNESS IS THE KEY TO GREATER EVANGELISM

"Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him." Acts 10:38

"And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And He touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them." Matthew 8:14–15

"It was the outcast, the publican and sinner, the despised of the nations, that Christ called and by His loving-kindness compelled to come unto Him. The one class that He would never countenance was those who stood apart in their self-esteem and looked down upon others." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 164

"If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 189

For further study, Acts 4:32–35; 2:1, 29–33, 38, 39, 43–47; James 2:15–17

May this article encourage the members of the church to take advantage of the opportunities in the neighbourhood for ministry. May its instruction guide you in intelligent, conscientious, loving service, so that there will be an abundant harvest of souls won for the kingdom of God. This is my sincere wish and prayer. Amen.



“Remember Lot’s wife” (Luke 17:32) is one of the shortest verse in the Bible and it has a message for all generations.

Several times people have asked me why Jesus uttered these words. There are so many characters in the Bible who are worthy of admiration, great men of faith, but Jesus asked us to remember Lot’s wife—why? For example, there are men of great faith like Noah who preached for 120 years. The Bible says of him, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” Hebrews 11:7. For 120 years he preached about the flood with fear and trembling; an event which he had not seen nor experienced before. He was called a hero of faith.

Look at the patriarch Enoch, and what is written of him, “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” Hebrews 11:5. He walked with God for his entire life and every breath of his was a prayer unto God. Finally, God saw that he was not worthy to die and decompose in the grave. Rather He took him to heaven without seeing death. “Hundreds of years he walked with God. He lived in a corrupt age, when moral pollution was teeming all around him; yet he trained his mind to devotion, to love purity. His conversation was upon heavenly things. He educated his mind to run in this channel, and he bore the impress of the divine. . . . He was a representative of the saints who live amid the perils and corruptions of the last days. For his faithful obedience to God he was translated.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 121

Then there is Abraham who is said to be the father of faith. The record tells us that, “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.” Hebrews 11:8. He was a man who lived according to all the instructions given from God. By faith he left his country, not knowing where he was going. It was because of his faith that he did not fear to sacrifice his son.



What about Elijah? The Bible says, “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.” James 5:17

But Jesus never said remember Abraham, Noah or Enoch or Elijah. So what is the important lesson He wanted to teach us about Lot’s wife? Lot’s wife was living in Sodom, one of the most wicked cities in existence, similar to our cities today. All around her was so much evil such that God saw that it would be better to destroy this city. But before it was destroyed, great privileges and opportunities were given to Lot’s wife. When Lot saw two strangers passing by he took them to his house. Lot’s wife cooked for them and they saved Lot from the angry mob. After supper they had time to chat with these strangers as ordinary men. It was at midnight that these two strangers revealed their real characters to Lot’s family. They told them about their mission. All were convinced that these were messengers from above because of the miracle they performed that night. All these things happened in the sight and hearing of Lot’s wife.

The following morning, “Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.” Genesis 19:14. After a long time of lingering and wasting time these strangers took Lot, his wife and two daughters by the hand and led them out of the city giving them instructions to flee to the mountains to save their lives. Lot’s wife was privileged to be pulled out of the doomed city, “And while he lingered, the



men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city." Genesis 19:16. Still Lot's wife was not saved. Hence the words of Jesus, "Remember Lot's wife."

All that heaven could do to save Lot's wife was done. Angels were sent to her house in human form. She was privileged to cook and provide hospitality for them. Also, these angels had shown their power by saving Lot and his family from the wicked men outside their door during the night. Lot's wife was a witness to all these happenings. Finally, when they were told to leave the city they kept on lingering. Lot's wife, with her husband and daughters, was also led out of the city by angels. In the end, the sad history is written that she was not saved.

We also need to remember Lot's wife. After heaven had done all it could, still she was not saved—and our end should not be like hers. We are more privileged than Lot's wife. We have the history of her fate before us. We have been entrusted with the most precious message ever given to any generation. As a people, we have been blessed with a clear understanding of prophecy. We know what is coming upon the earth. We know what Jesus is doing right now in the sanctuary above. We know what will happen to the saints and the wicked when Jesus will appear.

We have an understanding of the most powerful positive evidence in the Bible to prove that these are the last days and Christ is coming again very soon. We understand the importance of paying tithes and offerings; we are health reformers. Every Sabbath we go to church; we understand the importance of the Sabbath meeting. Still Christ's message to you and me is "Remember Lot's wife." She was exposed to all the truth; she knew the will of God—she was next to salvation, but totally lost. With all the truth we have and heard we are close to salvation. But we need to remember Lot's wife's case. She was almost saved but totally lost. I say to all: Be on your guard; for as an angel of light Satan is walking in every assembly of Christian workers, and in every church, trying to win the members to his side. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." Galatians 6:7. All the truth Lot's wife had was a mere assent to the truth, without the Spirit's power which brings sanctification and transformation of character. Hence the warning given to all is: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" 2 Corinthians 13:5

"Do you believe that the end of all things is at hand, that the scenes of this earth's history are fast closing? If so, show your faith by your works. A man will show all the faith he has. Some think they have a good degree of faith, when, if they have any, it is dead, for it is not sustained by works. 'Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.' James 2:17. Few have that genuine faith which works by love and purifies the soul. But all who are accounted worthy of everlasting life must obtain a moral fitness for the same. 'Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.' 1 John 3:2–3. This is the work before you. . . You must experience a death to self, and must live unto God. 'If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.' Colossians 3:1. Self is not to be consulted.

"Pride, self-love, selfishness, avarice, covetousness, love of the world, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, evil surmising, must all be subdued and sacrificed forever. When Christ shall appear, it will not be to correct these evils and then give a moral fitness for His coming. This preparation must all be made before He comes. It should be a subject of thought, of study, and earnest inquiry, What shall we do to be saved? What shall be our conduct that we may show ourselves approved of God?

"When tempted to murmur, censure, and indulge in fretfulness, wounding those around you, and in so doing wounding your own soul, oh! let the deep, earnest, anxious inquiry come from your soul, Shall I stand without fault before the throne of God? Only the faultless will be there. None will be translated to heaven while their hearts are filled with the rubbish of earth. Every defect in the moral character must first be remedied, every stain removed by the cleansing blood of Christ, and all the unlovely, unlovable traits of character overcome." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 705

"REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE." May the Lord bless you as you meditate upon these words. Amen.

**David Gwina**

# Birds of



# the Air

“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?” Matthew 6:26

Wild birds are not dependent at all on mankind for their care. It is God who provides for them. At the same time, however, He expects them to use the abilities He has given them to forage for their food, and build their own nests. Very few men are as hard working as a sparrow, particularly when it has a nest full of babies to take care of.

In a similar fashion, God expects man to accept the responsibility of working for the necessities of life. God has ordained natural laws to produce food. The food is there, but the birds must go and get it. He who provides for these birds can be counted on to provide for mankind also for the necessities of life. God has promised to provide if we are willing to work for them.

Our bread and water has been promised. “Bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.” Isaiah 33:16. “And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.” 1 Timothy 6:8. It is not God’s plan that the accumulation of abundance of material wealth to be used for oneself. That idea comes from the enemy and leads men to amass more than their share of the good things in life.

Jesus spoke a parable of such a man, “And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul

shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” Luke 12:16–20

It is this perverted desire for more material wealth and the best things of this earth that fosters selfishness and leads to crime, violence and war. The Gentiles seek these, but they are not appropriate for the citizens of the heavenly kingdom.

If God provides so bountifully for the lesser creatures of His creation, how much more will He provide for the well-being and happiness of man who was created in His image?

Then why are there so many poor people on this earth? Some are poor of their own making, either choosing to spend their finances unwisely on pernicious habits, or to not work at all. Paul writes, “that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” 2 Thessalonians 3:10. Others are poor as a test from God. “Providence, though unseen, is ever at work in the affairs of men. God’s hand can prosper or withhold, and He frequently withholds from one while He seems to prosper another. All this is to test and prove man to reveal the heart. He lets misfortune overtake one brother while He prospers others to see if those whom He favors have His fear before their eyes and will perform the duty enjoined upon them in His Word to love their neighbor as themselves and to help their poorer brother from a love to do good. Acts of generosity and benevolence were designed by God to keep the hearts of the children of men tender and sympathetic and to encourage in them an interest and affection for one another in imitation of the Master, who for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 270

## BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING

While the animals have a simple faith and trust that their needs will be provided for as they work, God has



promised to provide for us if we ask, pray and work. There are, however, several types of prayers. There is the prayer of doubt, the prayer of presumption and the prayer of faith. The prayer of doubt is the prayer of one who is hoping, but not trusting. They are not sure that the answer will be provided. They rejoice to see answered prayer, yet when they pray they are unsure. They are anxious. The prayer of presumption is a prayer that God will do everything with no effort on man's part. However, as we read, God provides all the necessities of life, and gives man the ability to work for themselves. Man must cooperate with the agencies God has provided and he must work. The prayer of faith is the calm, abiding trust in God. No matter what happens in this life they can say like Job, "the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." Job 1:21

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

The word "careful" is from the Greek word "Merimnao" which means to be "anxious". Paul's admonition is that we should not be full of painful anxiety. Those experiencing anxiety are those who are depending on themselves in the midst of life's difficulties, and not trusting in God. We can rise above this anxiety by "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7

We are human, and we, thankfully, have a loving and understanding Saviour. There is nothing that disturbs the Christian's peace that is too small for God to notice. There is nothing too great for Him to care for. He knows exactly what you need. He wants you to have everything that is for your good. Then why should we be burdened with the cares of this life if He is willing to help you bear them?

The promise is that through prayer and supplication you may discuss all your needs with Christ. In Philippians 4:6 we first see the word "nothing" and then the word "every thing" is used; a positive contrast. We do not need to worry about anything if we take everything to God in prayer.

Paul uses the terms "prayer" and "supplication" here. Prayer is communicating with God in the widest sense.

Supplication is praying for a specific object or need in mind. Many pray but do not supplicate. Their prayers are always general, but when we do supplicate, we will see definite answers to prayer and our faith will grow stronger.

We also need to pray with thanksgiving. It must never be left out of our devotions. We can thank God for the blessings and we can thank Him also for the trials. It helps to remind us of our past mercies and prepares us to receive further blessings. God is in control of all affairs in our life for our own good; for character development.

We do not bring our requests to God to inform Him about our needs. He knows our necessities before we even ask Him. "For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him." Matthew 6:8

### PEACE OF GOD

If we trust in God, His peace will be given to us (Philippians 4:7). We will have peace *with* God. It is not possible for the Christian to be at peace at all times with all men. However, this should not disturb our peace with God in our hearts. This peace is grounded on faith in God and a personal knowledge of His power and care. It extends from His abiding presence and produces confidence, trust, and love. This peace is beyond human understanding, or comprehension. It is beyond human reasoning or our highest possible imaginations. This peace will keep our thoughts and our minds centred in, and united with, Christ. Nothing in this world can disturb our peace. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life,



nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

### HOW DEPENDENT ARE WE ON GOD?

All life on this planet is dependent on the daily blessings that God provides. "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:28. God is very near. How ungrateful many people have been for the bountiful blessings given from above.

Not only is our initial dependence on the Creator at our birth, but that all our activities throughout life, whether

physical, mental or spiritual are derived from Him. "Through the agencies of nature, God is working, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, to keep us alive, to build up and restore us. When any part of the body sustains injury, a healing process is at once begun; nature's agencies are set at work to restore soundness. But the power working through these agencies is the power of God." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 112–113

**Science Says:** There is no God. They look to the Big Bang Theory and Evolution as the source of all life on this planet. Therefore, they do not need God today. Man is the master of this earth. "Again, worldly wisdom teaches that prayer is not essential. Men of science claim that there can be no real answer to prayer; that this would be a violation of law, a miracle, and that miracles have no existence. The universe, say they, is governed by fixed laws, and God Himself does nothing contrary to these laws.



Thus they represent God as bound by His own laws—as if the operation of divine laws could exclude divine freedom. Such teaching is opposed to the testimony of the Scriptures. Were not miracles wrought by Christ and His apostles? The same compassionate Saviour lives today, and He is as willing to listen to the prayer of faith as when He walked visibly among men. The natural cooperates with the supernatural. It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 525

**God says:** "Ask, and it shall be given you." Matthew 7:7. Re-read this last sentence above. Although we read in Matthew 6:8 that God knows our needs before we ask Him, we must ask. He will not bestow until we ask. How simple just to ask.

The truth is that God is in control of all nature and what science does not take into account is that, "God is perpetually at work in nature. She is His servant, directed as He pleases. Nature in her work testifies of the intelligent presence and active agency of a being who moves in all His works according to His will. It is not by an original power inherent in nature that year by year the earth yields its bounties and continues its march around the sun. The hand of infinite power is perpetually at work guiding this planet. It is God's power mo-

mentarily exercised that keeps it in position in its rotation.

"The God of heaven is constantly at work. It is by His power that vegetation is caused to flourish, that every leaf appears and every flower blooms. Every drop of rain or flake of snow, every spire of grass, every leaf and flower and shrub, testifies of God. These little things so common around us teach the lesson that nothing is beneath the notice of the infinite God, nothing is too small for His attention.

"The mechanism of the human body cannot be fully understood; it presents mysteries that baffle the most intelligent. It is not as the result of a mechanism, which, once set in motion, continues its work, that the pulse beats and breath follows breath. In God we live and move and have our being. Every breath, every throb of the heart, is a continual evidence of the power of an ever-present God.

"It is God that causes the sun to rise in the heavens. He opens the windows of heaven and gives rain. He causes the grass to grow upon the mountains. 'He giveth snow like wool: He scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes.' 'When He uttereth His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; . . . He maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of His treasures.' Psalm 147:16; Jeremiah 10:13." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 259–260

"Although the Lord has ceased His work in creating, He is constantly employed in upholding and using as His servants the things which He has made. Said Christ, 'My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.'" —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1062

We see how fully God is in control so why would we worry? Yet many are afraid to, "let go and let God." They fear. They feel that they must be in control themselves. And this leads to anxiety and worry when things do not go as they planned.

The best cure for worry is to trust in God. If we do our part faithfully, making the kingdom of heaven first in our thoughts and lives, God will take care of us on our walk through life. Christians can be free from anxiety in the midst of the most distressing circumstances, fully assured that He who does everything well, will make all



things work together for good (Romans 8:28). God knows about tomorrow; And He tells us to trust in His continued watchcare and to take no thought for its problems and perplexities. When tomorrow comes, its anticipated troubles often prove to have been wholly imaginary. Too many people permit themselves to be haunted by the unknown of tomorrow before tomorrow ever comes. We should ever remember that God does not bestow help for tomorrow's burdens until tomorrow comes. It is our privilege to learn each passing day that Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for thee," today. 2 Corinthians 12:9. Tomorrow will take care of itself when it comes. Each day brings its own measure of toil and care, and the wise person is the one who learns not to try to bear tomorrow's burdens today.

"Notwithstanding the curse was pronounced upon the earth that it should bring forth thorns and thistles, there is a flower upon the thistle. The world is not all sorrow and misery. God's great book of nature is open for us to study, and from it we are to gain more exalted ideas of His greatness and unexcelled love and glory. He who laid the foundation of the earth, who garnished the heavens and marshaled the stars in their order, He who has clothed the earth with a living carpet, and beautified it with lovely flowers of every shade and variety, would have His children appreciate His works, and delight in the simple, quiet beauty with which He has adorned their earthly home.

"Christ sought to draw the attention of His disciples away from the artificial to the natural: 'If God so clothe

the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?' Why did not our heavenly Father carpet the earth with brown or gray? He chose the color that was most restful, the most acceptable to the senses. How it cheers the heart and refreshes the weary spirit to look upon the earth, clad in its garments of living green! Without this covering the air would be filled with dust, and the earth would appear like a desert. Every spire of grass, every opening bud and blooming flower is a token of God's love, and should teach us a lesson of faith and trust in Him. Christ calls our attention to their natural loveliness, and assures us that the most gorgeous array of the greatest king that ever wielded an earthly scepter was not equal to that worn by the humblest flower. You who are sighing for the artificial splendor which wealth alone can purchase, for costly paintings, furniture, and dress, listen to the voice of the divine Teacher. He points you to the flower of the field, the simple design of which cannot be equaled by human skill." —*The Review and Herald*, October 27, 1885

May God help us to learn from nature's lessons—from the birds of the air—to have simple faith and trust in our heavenly Father, and to work using the resources that He has so abundantly provided for our temporal and spiritual necessities. What a blessed thought, "God is in control." Amen.

*Wendy Eaton*

### **Our Shield for our Salvation**

The Bible is very essential to me  
It's the message of God's Holy Word to learn and see.  
Not only to see, but retain in my heart and mind  
It is like a treasure, you need to dig and find.

Prayer will help us to resist temptation,  
It is our shield for our salvation.  
Always pray to God and walk in His will  
And blessings, love and grace to you He will fill.

Be watchful, for the enemy is like a roaring lion,  
Yet, all who walk with God will enter beautiful Zion.  
All the light and truth we have to stay,  
Our only shield is to study, watch and pray.

*Ethel Mae Manago*

## **LOOKING FOR YOU...**

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## Be Steadfast

I am delighted when I have the opportunity to say something about Jesus and His salvation towards us through His word, the Bible. I thank God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ for the opportunity He has given me to share this message of hope and encouragement with you as we approach the end of time. My dear brothers and sisters, dear friends, we are to hold on in faith and steadfastness waiting for and hastening Jesus' second coming. May God's Holy Spirit guide us and prepare and enable us to grow up in our spiritual lives in such a way that people may see in us the perfect reflection of Jesus' character. These are the people who are going to heaven when Jesus comes, and you and I should make sure we are among this group as described in the Bible.

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." Revelation 14:4-5

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints!" Revelation 15:2-3

I want to ask: Do you want to be there? Do you believe in these wonderful promises? I know you do, and so do I. What is waiting for us is beyond our comprehension. Even Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "But as it is written, Eye hath

not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." So, heaven is real; the promises are true and God is faithful and worthy to be trusted in all what He has said. It remains with us to do our part in order to receive these blessings and to one day, be with Jesus for all eternity.

I would like to address the theme of "How to be steadfast, and ready for Jesus' second coming." The reason we hold Evan-

gelistic meetings, Bible studies, health seminars and all other missionary activities is because we believe Jesus coming is near. This world is going to end very soon. Sin will be destroyed and God's children will be delivered from the destruction that comes upon this wicked world that turned its back on Jesus, even though many appeals were given to receive the greatest gift of salvation. What a privilege we have; what a honour to be chosen to give the last warning to this world, and at the same time to prepare ourselves for the most important event in our life.

Jesus will return, just as He promised, to come and take us where He is. David believed this promise, "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him." Psalm 50:3. Paul believed it also, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thessalonians 4:16. The angels proclaimed it Acts 1:11, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Jesus promised that He would go to prepare a place for us and then He said, "I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3. What a wonderful promise! Don't let it go. Don't allow anything in this world to steal this wonderful promise from you.

It may be a bad habit or a cherished sin you are clinging to but it is not a worthy exchange for what Jesus has prepared for us. When I think of the privileges Jesus has given to me, although I do not deserve them, I am amazed at the infinite love God has for me and for you. Take time and meditate upon Jesus' infinite love towards you and very soon you



will notice how great His goodness and mercy is. What a wonderful Saviour we have! Praise God!

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58. The church in the city of Corinth had many struggles. Its was located in Greece so most members were Gentiles. The city of Corinth was rich and extremely wicked. It was located on both the land and the sea trade routes so many foreigners passed through the city. Another thing to note is that Corinth was a center of idol worship with a host of temple male and female prostitutes. It had a sports center and hosted the Olympic Games.

The apostle Paul spent about a year and half there, establishing the congregation in Corinth; teaching and exhorting the believers to follow the risen Saviour, and to adhere to His teachings rather than to the traditions of men. The problem was that, after the departure of Paul, some began to pervert the teachings and to tolerate sin. For this reason Paul in his epistle wrote, "Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." We must be steadfast in our faith. Steadfastness is the ability to stay faithful in the midst of evil influences. In this day and age, the devil will try absolutely anything to distract us from the path of righteousness. He has always done this, but he is trying harder than ever before because he knows that his days are numbered, and his end is near. But, what does it mean to be steadfast, unmoveable and always abounding in good work? Understanding what these words mean will help us understand what we need to be doing, because, in these end-times, it is absolutely imperative that we do these things.

**Steadfast:** To be steadfast means to be vigorous, dedicated, dependable, good, passionate and unwavering. Hebrews 10:23 encourages us to "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)." "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister." Colossians 1:23. What about us, my brothers and sisters, my friends, are we steadfast in our faith? Are we growing every day in our spiritual life? Are we steadfast in revealing to others the teachings of Christ?

Several days ago I met two young girls doing missionary work. They were Mormons. I asked them about the possi-

bility of meeting together to have Bible studies and share our faith. They liked this idea and so we set up our first appointment. We chose a day when my wife had a day off from work and we met together in our home. The first study was sharing our personal experiences with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We prayed together and set up our next appointment which was yesterday evening, and by God's help I brought them to the Bible and the Bible alone, because this is where we anchor our faith and remain steadfast on the way to salvation. In the beliefs of the Mormons, they try to introduce the false teachings of Joseph Smith through the Bible. But if we bring them back to the Scriptures there is no way to get lost. So, be steadfast in what you believe—teach and let the Holy Spirit do His work without questioning or wavering. Finally brethren, remember, we have to bring them to our faith, because this is the only faith which saves sinners from their sins, and this is the faith of Jesus.

The apostle Paul further advises us that besides having the assurance of salvation, it is important to persevere and



uphold the hope offered to us. In Hebrews, a serious appeal is made to hold fast. One gets the impression that some believers were slipping away from their Christian faith and hope. The apostle had to encourage them not to let go. The text expresses the things that are worth holding on to: hope, confidence, assurance, and confession. All of these terms refer, in an objective sense, to the Christian belief. We can do these things because our hope is not in

ourselves but in Jesus and what He has done for us. The moment that we forget that crucial truth we will surely lose our confidence. These texts challenge us to be steadfast from the "beginning" (Hebrews 3:14) and "until the end" (see also Hebrews 3:6, 14; 6:11). Paul goes further in his epistle to the Hebrews and writes, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23, NKJV. This verse refers to an immutable and unshaken faith. Whatever the circumstance may be, our hope remains the same and our commitment to God is unchanged because we can trust that He is faithful and will do what He has promised.

As we approach the end of time, Jesus is going to come soon, so Satan tries to discourage us with his cunning methods. Let us remember that this foe is a loser and defeated forever and ever, so we are able, by the blood of the Lamb, to defeat him also. Whatever bad habit or evil inclination we have, when it is brought to Jesus, and it is confessed and abandoned, with a humble spirit, asking for help, Jesus is there to give us power. There is no question that God is true to His Word. He fulfilled the promise that

He made to Abraham and Sarah and throughout generations down to our time. God is true and faithful to His promises. They are ours if we believe them and take them as ours. God's faithfulness is unmoveable. Even "if we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself." 2 Timothy 2:13. His promises remain unshaken by our moral failures. The promises will still be available for us if we repent because faithfulness is part of the divine nature.

**Unmoveable:** According to the Greek Lexicon, this means to be firmly persistent. The Merriam-Webster dictionary says, "incapable of moving or being moved." When I read these definitions, the first thing that came to my mind was the hymn, "I Shall Not Be Moved," where it says: "I shall not be moved, I shall not be moved. Anchored to the Rock of Ages, I shall not be moved." Peter was concerned in his time as to how people lost their steadfastness. Looking down through the ages with the prophetic eye to our time, how many Christians today lose their faith, embracing the errors that abound in the Christian world through the false teachings taught from so many pulpits. We live in a world full of confusion because of its moral degradation, and unless you and I are grounded in Jesus and the Bible we will not be able to distinguish between truth and error.

I feel pity for those people who once had the opportunity to know all the truth but have rejected it. Although God has given them many opportunities to return they refused to listen to His voice through His servants to come back to the flock and live abundantly. They became too happy with the filth of this world. But what about us? We should ask ourselves, will we hold fast the faith which was given to the saints until the end of our lives? Are we making progress in the work that God has entrusted us with? Each one of us received talents. In the parable of the talents, one received five another two and another one. The question is, what are you doing with the talents God has given you? What am I doing? Is our faith rooted in Christ and Christ alone?

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness." 2 Peter 3:17

I am thankful that whatever we do for the glory of God it does not go unnoticed. Even the seemingly insignificant things are noticed by Him. For the things that we do in secret that bring glory and honour to Him, He will reward us openly. I do not know about you, but I want to be steadfast, unmovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord. I want to bring Him glory, honour and praise because it is for this that we are called. May God richly bless you is my wish and prayer. Amen!

**Nicolas Anca**

## Brighten the Corner Where You Are

We cannot all be famous  
or listed in "Who's Who,"  
But ever person great or small  
has important work to do,  
For seldom do we realize  
the importance of small deeds,  
Or to what degree of greatness  
unnoticed kindness leads—  
For it's not the big celebrity  
in a world of fame and praise,  
But it's doing unpretentiously  
in undistinguished ways,  
The work that God assigned for us,  
unimportant as it seems,  
That makes our task outstanding  
and brings reality to dreams—  
So do not sit and idly wish  
for wider, newer dimensions,  
Where you can put in practice  
your many good intentions—  
But at the spot God placed you  
begin at once to do  
Little things to brighten up  
the lives surrounding you,  
For if everybody brightened up  
the spot on which they're standing,  
By being more considerate  
and a little less demanding,  
This dark cold world would very soon  
eclipse the Evening Star  
If everybody brightened up  
the corner where they are.



**Submitted by Franziska Pedersen**



# The Eye

## Part 1



If anything is proof that there is a Creator whose works are wondrous to behold, it is when we study the "function" of the human eye. Evolution could not have created such a complex structure by mere accident. The eye contains over two million parts, all working together to allow us to gaze on the majesty of God's creation, its thousands of different colours, its depths and heights. We can see the joy in the faces of parents who stare in awe at their newborn baby. We watch the changing seasons and the glorious sunsets. We marvel at the sight of a sinner who rises from the depths of the water in baptism and see God's glory shining on his face. He truly is a loving Creator whose wisdom not only gave us our eyes so that we can gaze on the beauty around us, but He also gave us the eye of faith in order for us to see beyond mere human vision to look to the glories that await those who are faithful.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9. Our earthly vision is unable to comprehend what awaits us. How glorious it will be when we gaze on the New Jerusalem, as we walk through the pearly gates, and fully understand the love of God. He gave His Son to die for us so that we, who have turned our eyes from the world to His marvellous light, could live in eternity with Him. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." 1 Peter 2:9

Sin entered into this world when Eve wandered away from her husband and "gazed" at the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. "Unmindful of the angels' caution, she soon found herself gazing with mingled curiosity and admiration upon the forbidden tree. The fruit was very beautiful, and she questioned with herself why God had withheld it from them." -*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 56. Once she looked at the fruit, her mind began to question the wisdom of God, and this is when Satan was able to tempt her to sin, and Adam with her.

When we turn from God and behold the evils that are in the world all around us, we begin to change into the image of the one who was the instigator of sin; we lose our eye of faith and no longer do the glories of God seem so marvellous. Sin will blind our eyes so that the things of God are hid from us. When we choose to follow darkness, it envelops us so powerfully that we can be forever lost; away from the reach of our Saviour's love. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:16

When we are in despair, when our soul yearns for something better than this sinful world can offer, we are told to come to the foot of the cross and look to the final moments of Christ's life. "The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin. -*The Desire of Ages*, p. 300

"When at the foot of the cross the sinner looks up to the One who died to save him, he may rejoice with fullness of joy; for his sins are pardoned. Kneeling in faith at the cross, he has reached the highest place to which man can attain." -*The Faith I Live By*, p. 103

We need to have an eye that is single to the glories of God, and then only can we begin to develop the character of Christ that will fit us for our heavenly home. The eye of faith holds fast to the promise that if we seek the things of His kingdom, He will provide us with the power to overcome all sin and cover us with His righteousness. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18

### HOW DO WE SEE?

In order for us to be able to see, we need our eyes and our brain to work together.

The eye is unique in that its six muscles allow us to see in many different directions, yet is protected from injury by sitting in a bony cavity. It is also embedded in fat to provide cushioning. Our eyes are always the same size from birth, which is why we all admire babies who have "big", beautiful eyes. Babies have adult-sized eyes in a baby-sized face.

Our eyebrows and eyelashes protect the eyes from dust, particles and sweat. The layer inside the eyelids, the conjunctiva, keeps the eye moist, and also moves particles away from the eye.

The easiest way to understand the eye and how it works, is to view it as a camera. We all have used a camera or seen one at work. Let us compare the main parts of the eye, and their function in comparison to a camera.

### SCLERA

The sclera is like the outer shell of a camera, it maintains the shape of the eye. Inside the eye we have two areas of fluid which also help to maintain the shape of the eye called the aqueous and vitreous humours. These fluid-filled areas provide the eye with nutrients, and carry anti-oxidants to the eye to protect it from free radical damage.

### CORNEA

The cornea is the innermost layer of the sclera, and is transparent. It is the only part of the body that does not contain blood vessels as this would affect the clarity of our vision. It functions as the lens of a camera that lets all light pass through to the rest of the eye. The cornea gets its nutrients from tears and oxygen from the air. If the cornea is damaged because of injury, the image that the eye sees suffers much like the vision from a scratched camera.

### PUPIL

The black circle in the middle of our eye is the pupil. It is actually a small hole that opens into the back of the eye. The size of the pupil determines how much light enters the eye.

### IRIS

The iris, which is the coloured part of our eye, is actually a muscle that works to adjust the size of the pupil. It expands and contracts, and like the f-stop of a camera, determines how much light to let in. The colour of our iris is

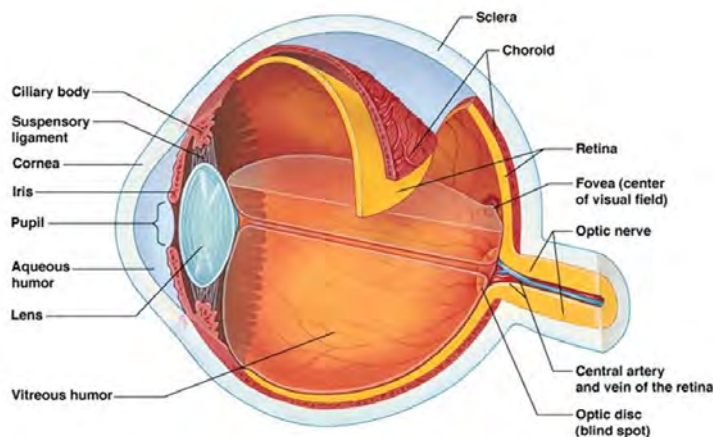
hereditary. Most cameras have automatic f-stops, which will open the lens for a shorter period of time to let less light in, and keep it open for longer to allow more light to come in, to adjust the brightness of the picture.

### LENS

When we focus the camera on the object that we want to take a picture of and either manually turn the camera lens in or out, or have the camera do it automatically, we are fine-tuning the camera to make the image as sharp as possible. This is the function of the lens in our own eye. It is very flexible and with the help of the muscles it is attached to, it can change its shape to either become flatter or rounder to fine-tune the image we see with the eye, depending on the distance the object is from our eye. This process is called accommodation.

### RETINA

The memory card, or the film (for those of us old enough to remember how film cameras worked) is like the retina of our eye, which actually holds the memory of the picture. The retina is a thin sheet of brain tissue in the eye. It is the place where the brain first encounters light. From the retina, the light signal moves along the optic nerve to the vision centres of the brain.



### CONES

Contained in the retina are structures that allow us to see colour and fine detail. Many of these cones are situated in the macula region of the retina, which allows us to see fine details. These structures are known as cones. Our eye contain 7 million cones. We all have three types of cones, each having the ability to see different colours, either red, blue or green. The combination of these three colour cones allow us to see all the colours in our environment; all colour is a combination of these three colours. People who are colour blind have difficulty seeing specific colours. The reason for this is that they have less cones of a certain type. Men are more prone to be colour blind than women.

We often wonder if animals are colour blind. Animals do not only see in black and white. We can look at the amount and types of cones in their eyes, and determine which colours they can see. For example, cats, dogs and horses only have blue and green cones, therefore they cannot see the colour red. Some birds have better colour vision than humans, and can also detect ultraviolet light.



## RODS

Another group of structures contained in the retina are called rods. We have approximately 125 million rods in our eyes. Rods are very sensitive to light. They allow us to see in the dark; in situations of low light. They are almost entirely responsible for our night vision.

## THE BRAIN AS THE INTERPRETER

But is this enough? Is our eyesight as simple as that? No. If it only worked with the limited function of a camera, which is to capture and store an image that we see through the opening in our eye, we would be lacking in many of the characteristics that make eyesight so much more than just a capture and storage of an image. A camera has no mind to be able to interpret what it is taking a picture of. In order for us to actually interpret what we are seeing, to know that the key we are looking at is actually a key, we need our brain to perform this interpretative function. In fact, people who are brain damaged can either be partially or completely blind, despite the perfect functioning of the actual "camera" or eye part of the vision. If we are unable to "know" what we are looking at, we cannot truly see.

The eyes are connected via nerve cells that start in the retina and travel to an area of the brain known as the occipital lobe. When an object encounters the retina, the body turns the image into chemical impulses. These impulses travel along the brain cells to the vision centers of the brain. Only when this occurs can we actually "know" what we are seeing. Only then can we interpret our environment to be able to recognize the person standing in front of us, to know the difference between a grapefruit and an orange, and to know that the door we are facing is actually a way to enter into a house.

## BINOCULAR VISION

A camera comprises a single set of parts that allow it to do what it does, however, we have two eyes, each with a full set of parts. This provides a function that a camera will never be able to do. A camera is only capable of producing images in two dimensions (until very recently, however the three-dimensional image can still only be viewed on a two-dimensional screen or paper). We have binocular vision with two eyes, which allows us to see images from a slightly different angle with each eye, which creates a three-dimensional image in our minds. We are able to have a wider screen of vision. Eyes work as a back-up to

each other, if we lose one. For safety reasons we see in binocular vision so that we can tell how far something is from us. This helps us with catching, grasping, balancing and moving.

Even the best cameras nowadays have the ability to take a photo with the sharpness of only 20 megapixels (refers to the resolution or degree of detail in an image taken by the camera). In comparison, our eyes see 576 megapixels. That is why our vacation photos never look as good as they did when we were actually there, viewing the scenery with our own eyes.

## POOR VISION

To have perfect vision, the shape of the eye should allow images to focus directly on the retina. Sometimes, the shape of the eye can be too long or too short and the focus is either behind or in front of the retina. The shape of the cornea or lens can also be asymmetrical. The majority of these problems occur at birth, and worsen with age.

The shape of the eye affects your ability to focus on an object.

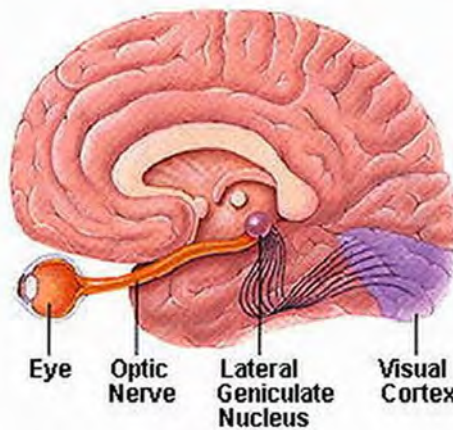
Three main vision problems due to a less-than perfect shaped eye are myopia, hyperopia and astigmatism. In myopia, which is also known as nearsightedness, the eyeball is too long and images are focused in front of the retina; this person has clear vision close up but distance vision is blurry. People with hyperopia, or farsightedness is a condition where the eyeball is too short and the image is focused behind the retina; they have clear distance

vision but close up vision is blurry. Astigmatism is caused by an irregular curvature in either the cornea or lens, causing the focus to fall on multiple points in the eye, causing blurred images at varying distances. The treatment for all these vision problems are either glasses or laser surgery. Many companies on the Internet promote eye exercises to help vision, but all these exercises will not change the shape of the eye, and these companies have been sued successfully.

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness." Matthew 5:22-23

END OF PART 1

In the June 2014 issue: THE EYE, PART 2: EYE HEALTH THROUGHOUT OUR LIFETIME



## CHILDREN'S CORNER



# God's Ways are Mysterious

“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”  
Hebrews 13:2

Life had never been easy for the Jones' since they decided to move to the eastern side of the country which had a lower rainfall compared to the western part which had a better rainfall and offered a more comfortable life. Mr. Jones had worked so hard since the move to provide for his family. At least there was peace and freedom for his family which they had mainly longed for. He did all kinds of piece work which was offered to him, yet still the money which he got was not sufficient to pay for the first semester fees for his only child. The only source of their regular income, though not much, was from the milk from their healthy jersey cow.

Mrs. Jones, too, was a kind, hard-working woman. She stood by her husband throughout all the hardships through which they passed and she had learned to be content with whatsoever condition they were in. She also did some odd jobs like cleaning or washing clothes for some of her rich neighbours. The family's hope was on sending their son, Bob, to college. At least after graduation he could help lift up his parents from poverty. Despite living under serious poverty the Jones family was very generous. They shared the little they had with those more needy than themselves. They were faithful in their church attendance and were very faithful in their practical Christianity.

About 15 km from Mr. Jones' place was the Brown's home. If you could just enter the air-conditioned house you would soon forget that you were in the country-

side. The furniture and the surroundings in general would mislead you to think that you were in the city. The Brown family was living a very comfortable life. The only problem was that the love in the family was very shallow. Although they also went to church every week, and claimed to be Christians, each one was concerned about himself only. In short, one would conclude that they were selfish and not living up to their profession.

One day, angels in human form visited that area. On their first night they went to Mr. Brown's home to see if they were faithful to their profession of Christianity. They were welcome only because it was late in the night so it would be inhumane to send them away in that cold weather. But their generosity stopped there. Since the spare bedrooms were too clean for these strangers' dusty feet, Mr. Brown decided to give them some old blankets so that they could sleep in the hallway.



Now as the night deepened the cold became unbearable. There was nothing they could do but to endure the chill for that night. Just before sunrise they discovered a wide crack in the wall. The older guest closed the crack in such a way that there was no longer a sign of the crack. This was a seemingly kind gesture on the part of the visitor considering the treatment they were given. Since it was clear that they were not welcome they thanked Mr. Brown, bade him farewell and proceeded on their journey.

The next night the angels decided to lodge at Mr. Jones house. On arrival to the Jones' they were given a very warm welcome. From their countenances these guests realized that they were experiencing hard times but still



they were kind and cheerful. They were given warm water for bathing which they never received from the Brown's. After that they shared their food and everyone was happy. Night came so Mr. and Mrs. Jones offered their own bedroom and went to sleep in the next room where they lit a fire to keep them warm since they had no extra blankets.

Mrs. Jones woke up early as usual to check all around the house. On arrival to their cattle pen she found that their only cow had died and had left the calf alone. A terrible cry was heard from outside and everyone ran to the scene to find out what had happened. It was a real sorrowful day for the Jones family. As they explained to their guests how the cow had helped the family, both as a source of income and also for food, one could see that it had been a horrible loss for them. Everyone felt so bad that day such that no laughter was heard.

We may wonder why the angels fixed the crack in Mr. Brown's wall and allowed Mr. Jones' cow to die, considering the kindness they had shown to them regardless of their poverty. Why had they been so kind to Mr. Brown by repairing his wall which had a big crack, yet Mr. Brown was a very selfish and mean man?

The truth is that in between the crack of the wall was hidden some diamonds, and closing the crack hid the

treasure. If it was left open, one day someone would see it. Because Mr. Brown was selfish, he would not bother to help the poor around him, but would keep the diamonds to himself. Therefore, it was better to be kept hidden.



Now regarding what happened to Mr. Jones' cow, although it may seem like a great loss to them at the time, with the blessings which the angels intended to leave behind they were able to buy more cows and also live a better life. The little calf grew fast and in a short while replaced the cow that died, and the angels left behind a blessing that provided for the family until that time. Also, the Jones' family

will have great treasure in heaven, which Mr. Brown will not have.

In life, maybe you have passed through some difficulties which you do not understand, while some people who do not fear God are free. These situations may even lead you to doubt or question God's justice. That need not be so. God knows what He is doing. As the Bible says; "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:9. The good part about it is this: "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." Romans 8:28. In all this we learn that GOD'S WAYS ARE MYSTERIOUS.

## Announcements

### **CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION**

**"Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us." 1 Samuel 7:12.**

**It is with great joy to extend this cordial and fraternal invitation to all believers in the same present truth to attend the upcoming Centennial Commemoration of Faithfulness to the Three Angel's messages.**

**This event will take place from July 30th to August 3, 2014 at the World Headquarters of the IMS SDA Church Reform Movement, 625 West Avenue, Cedartown, GA, USA. A program outlining the topics and speakers will be made available in the near future.**

## **Canadian Field Conference**

**July 25–27, 2014**

**3897 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario**

**Please email for information**

**[imsmessenger@yahoo.com](mailto:imsmessenger@yahoo.com)**

## Health Seminar & Cooking Class in London, Canada



We want to thank each one of you who participated in this event that took place on March 26, 27 and 30, 2014, here in London, Ontario.

I talked about the importance of preventing cancer, how to have a balanced diet and weight, heart disease and depression. We believe it was a blessing indeed as we saw people coming and having

an interest in their health.

On Sunday afternoon, we held our cooking class demonstration learning from our sisters simple lessons how to cook healthy and simple food. Again, people showed interest in coming to this presentation. For this reason, I want to give thanks to the Canadian Field for the support given and to all of you who joined us. May God bless these new interested souls we have been blessed with and continue this missionary work here in London as we look to Jesus and His sufferings on the cross for us.

*Alina Anca*

## Announcements

**2014**  
**SUMMER COURSE**  
Sign up before:  
May 31

10 days Bible School  
Creation vs. Evolution  
Nutrition  
Relationships  
Evangelism  
Church History

Excursions  
Jewish Museums  
Amsterdam  
more...

**HOLLAND**  
4-13 August

Zendinghuis Rehoboth  
Middeachterlaan 2  
8955 JC Ellecom

Including 263 excursions

GPorras@ZDareformatie.org  
Rehoboth@ZDareformatie.org

Art of Noah

The General Conference, in collaboration with the Dutch field, have planned to invest in the education of our youth with a unique opportunity. A 10-day program during which the youth will study interesting subjects that are important for their spiritual life.

Register before May 31, 2014.

Email [GPorras@dareformatie.org](mailto:GPorras@dareformatie.org) for more information.

- Accommodation for up to 50 people
- Exciting spiritual program
- Ski resort just around the corner
- Snowshoeing
- Torch-Hiking
- And many more activities
- Register now!
- For more information visit [www.reform-adventisten.net](http://www.reform-adventisten.net)

25th December 2014 -  
1st January 2015

**Warm invitation**  
to the winter youth meeting  
in Altdorf in Switzerland



## Brother Shirima (Right) with Leaders and workers in Ethiopia



## Health Seminar in Ethiopia





**“Why has He given you the singing birds and the gentle blossoms, but from the overflowing love of a Father’s heart, that would brighten and gladden your path of life? All that was needed for existence would have been yours without the flowers and birds, but God was not content to provide what would suffice for mere existence. He has filled earth and air and sky with glimpses of beauty to tell you of His loving thought for you. The beauty of all created things is but a gleam from the shining of His glory. If He has lavished such infinite skill upon the things of nature, for your happiness and joy, can you doubt that He will give you every needed blessing?” – *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 96–97**

