

The Reformation 

Messenger

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WHO IS THE WISE INTERPRETER OF THE BIBLE?

About 2000 Christian churches and groups are existing and they all teach the Bible a different way; therefore they cannot unite together. About 200 groups that have come out of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church believe the doctrines different ways; therefore they cannot unite together.

Some believe in Sister White's writings and others do not. Some believe the Holy Spirit is a person and other believe He is the Active Power of God. Some believe Jesus is the natural Son of God, others believe He is equal with God, including in age. Some believe Jesus was tempted in all points, even as we are, others believe He was tempted as Adam before his fall. Some believe the investigative judgment, others do not. Some believe that the 144,000 is a literal number and others believe it is a symbolic number.

There are differences in the interpretation of the seven trumpets and other prophecies. There are differences in the Health Reform, and in the meat eating. Many do not believe that the organization is necessary. This list could go on endlessly. Practically every teaching, that we have in our own church, some group believes and teaches differently. Especially when it comes to the Christ Righteousness message and the perfection.

In all these different groups there are Bible students who have read the Bible through several times. They are intelligent, educated men and women. Each group that I have talked to are very sure that they are right and everybody else is wrong. They have no doubts in their minds. They are ready to die for what they believe. They take the word of God to prove their doctrines, yet they are vastly different, one from another.

Now the question comes: Whom can we trust as a wise interpreter of the Bible? Apostle Paul was an educated, intelligent Bible student. He believed that the Christians who believed in Christ had to be put to death. He approved the stoning of Stephen.

Who would have explained to the disciples that Jesus was the Messiah, and that He had to die for the sins of the world? We may think that perhaps John the Baptist. But he himself had doubts about it, therefore he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He really was the Son of God. Only one person could explain correctly the Old Testament prophecies about Christ's mission, and that

was Jesus Himself. All the Bible interpreters in the nation were in error about it.

Who could explain the disappointment in 1844? We may think that the best person would have been William Miller. He had divine wisdom to interpret the prophesy of the 2300 days. Yet he did not understand the sanctuary truth neither the Sabbath truth.

Jesus prayed to his Father, "I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Matt. 11:25 It is not human wisdom or logic that can be used to interpret the word of God. It is the revelation of God that the Holy Spirit brings to us, and then the divine truth comes clear to us. Uneducated men and women and children understand the truth clearly while the wise and prudent are confused.

"God will arouse His people' if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat." Test. V. 5 p. 707

We can expect that heresies will be introduced to our members and workers. These heresies will be so powerful that many are willing to leave the church because of them. When the Holy Spirit leaves a person he will be in an outer darkness. His darkness will be greater than that of the unbelievers. The Roman Governor or Centurion were not so much in darkness as were the High Priest and the Pharisees of the very church of God.

Finally the question comes, how can we escape these heresies that will come into our church? Humanly we will be confused and believe a lie.

If we love the truth that God has revealed to us, then it will become clearer and clearer to us as the time passes on. To love the truth means to obey it and to teach it to others. We cannot trust the wisest among us nor the one in the highest office, nor the majority. God will reveal His truth to the humble seekers, "Who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word." Isa. 66:2. Then we all may become the wise interpreters of the Bible. AMEN

Timo Martin

NAKED FAITH



*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
Hebrews 11:1.*

Most of us are familiar with this very well known definition of faith. We have heard it read in the pulpits many times and have studied it in our Sabbath School lessons as well as reading it ourselves. The part I want to focus on is the final two words, "not seen." These two words are sometimes not understood. When I use the word, "Naked," it is a word that has two uses in the English language. It is used to describe the condition of a person with no clothing on, or when observing something, we use the term, "naked eye" to mean that something was observed without the use of a microscope, telescope or any other instrument. So how does this word relate to faith? It is quite simple – faith without the use of any other "instruments"; faith that is not clothed with any thing that is seen.

When Jesus first began His ministry He went to Jerusalem for the Passover after performing His first miracle in Cana. Here in Jerusalem He performed many more miracles, although they are not specified by name. "Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did." John 2:23. Only *after* witnessing the miracles did they believe. We see this true many times during His earthly ministry. Many flocked to Him when they saw His miracles and this troubled Jesus at times.

Even Herod asked for a miracle so he would believe on Jesus when he had Jesus in his court. He brought in the sick people and asked Jesus to heal them. Jesus refused. He came to draw men to the beauty of the truth and to

a change of heart and this is only possible with naked faith. It is not possible through outward manifestations of His power. These are often done to confirm a person's faith – not to create faith in a person.

Nobleman's son

Jesus' second miracle outside of Judea was the healing of the nobleman's son. Now this nobleman had not witnessed any miracles. He had only heard what was done in Jerusalem. He lived in Capernaum and when he heard that Jesus was in Cana he decided to go and ask Jesus to heal his son for his son was at the point of death. When he first met Jesus, "his faith faltered when he saw only a plainly dressed man, dusty and worn with travel. He doubted that this Person could do what he had come to ask of Him; yet he secured an interview with Jesus, told his errand, and besought the Saviour to accompany him to his home." DA 197. But Jesus knew what was the condition of this man's faith. It was not naked faith – it was a faith that was clothed with outward evidences that he had put there for Jesus to fulfil, before he could exercise the faith within. Jesus knew that he, "had, in his own mind, made conditions concerning his belief in Jesus. Unless his petition should be granted, he would not receive Him as the Messiah. While the officer waited in an agony of suspense, Jesus said, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." Even though he had many evidences that Jesus was the Messiah he made his faith conditional on his request being granted. We see this happen so many times today. I've studied with, and spoken to, Christians who refuse to take the Bible truth as written. The

Sabbath is presented so beautifully and clearly, but unless they receive a divine revelation from God telling them, "Now it is time to keep the Sabbath," they will not believe. It is true also with health reform and other truths. Unless God audibly speaks it and puts it in our heart, the words in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy are not sufficient for their faith. If it is written, God may never give such evidence – the evidence in His Word should be enough for any true Christian.

Getting back to the nobleman, he "had a degree of faith; for he had come to ask what seemed to him the most precious of all blessings. Jesus had a greater gift to bestow. He desired, not only to heal the child, but to make the officer and his household sharers in the blessings of salvation, and to kindle a light in Capernaum, which was soon to be the field of His own labours...."

"Like a flash of light, the Saviour's words to the nobleman laid bare his heart. He saw that his motives in seeking Jesus were selfish. His vacillating faith appeared to him in its true character. In deep distress he realized that his doubt might cost the life of his son. He knew that he was in the presence of One who could read the thoughts, and to whom all things were possible. In an agony of supplication he cried, 'Sir come down ere my child die.' His faith took hold upon Christ as did Jacob, when, wrestling with the Angel, he cried, 'I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.' Gen. 22:26." DA 198

Just like Jacob this nobleman prevailed and Jesus saw his need and

desperation so He said, "Go thy way, thy son liveth." The nobleman left the presence of Jesus a changed man. He brought the glad tidings to his city that not only was his son healed, but that Jesus was the Messiah. He and his entire household became disciples of Jesus. The news that this nobleman brought home prepared the way for Jesus' ministry in Capernaum.

"He who blessed the nobleman at Capernaum is just as desirous of blessing us. But like the afflicted father, we are often led to seek Jesus by the desire for some earthly good; and upon the granting of our request we rest our confidence in His love. The Saviour longs to give us greater blessing than we ask; and He delays the answer to our request that He may show us the evil of our own hearts, and our deep need of His grace. He desires us to renounce the selfishness that leads us to seek Him. Confessing our helplessness and bitter need, we are to trust ourselves wholly to His love.

"The nobleman wanted to *see* the fulfilment of his prayer before he should believe; but he had to accept the word of Jesus that his request was heard and the blessing granted. This lesson we also have to learn. Not because we see or feel that God hears us are we to believe. We are to trust in His promises. When we come to Him in faith, every petition enters the heart of God. When we have asked for His blessing, we should believe that we receive it, and thank Him that we *have* received it. Then we are to go about our duties, assured that the blessing will be realized when we need it most. When we have learned to do this, we shall know that our prayers are answered. God will do for us 'exceeding abundantly,' 'according to the riches of His glory,' and 'working of His mighty power.' Eph. 3:20,16; 1:19." DA 200.

The Woman at the Well

Jesus contrasted the faith of this nobleman with that of the Samaritan woman to whom He had recently spoken to. She asked for no sign, and

neither did any of her countrymen. His word was enough to reach their hearts. "As the woman talked with Jesus, she was impressed with His words. Never had she heard such sentiments from the priests or her own people or from the Jews... As the woman heard these words, faith sprang up in her heart. She accepted the wonderful announcement from the lips of the divine Teacher.

"The woman was in an appreciative state of mind. She was ready to receive the noblest revelation; for she was interested in the Scriptures. And the Holy Spirit had been preparing her mind to receive more light." DA 189,190.

And what did she long for? Was it a miracle? "She longed to understand this prophecy. Light was already flashing into her mind. The water of life, the spiritual life, which Christ gives to every thirsty soul, had begun to spring up in her heart. The Spirit of the Lord was working with her." DA 190. How sad Jesus was that His own people had such little faith. "The plain statements made by Christ to this woman could not have been made to the self-righteous Jews. Christ was far more reserved when He spoke to them. That which had been withheld from the Jews, and which the disciples were afterward enjoined to keep secret, was revealed to her. Jesus saw that she would make use of her knowledge in bringing others to share His grace.... The woman had been filled with joy as she listened to Christ's words. The wonderful revelation was almost overpowering. Leaving her waterpot, she returned to the city, to carry the message to others." DA 190,191. For her, the words of truth were enough. She had naked faith in the Word of God.

The Centurion's Servant

Later in His ministry when the Centurion's servant was healed in Capernaum, Jesus marvelled at his faith. He had not seen such great faith – no not in Israel. This man was a Gentile, raised in the heathenism and idolatry of Rome, trained as a

soldier, cut off from any possibility of a spiritual life due to the bigotry of the Jews. How could this man have greater faith than did the Jews who had the light of the Old Testament Scriptures in their possession? Yet he had heard of the Jewish religion and in it he saw that it was superior to his own. He had not seen Jesus before, but all the reports he heard inspired his faith. He was a humble man. He, at first, was fearful to approach Jesus face-to-face and sent some Jewish elders to Jesus to speak for him. Then Jesus started walking to his house. He became alarmed since he felt unworthy for Jesus to come into his house so he went to meet Jesus and simply said, "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." His faith took hold on Christ in His true character. He did not believe in Him simply as a miracle worker, but as a friend and Saviour of all mankind.

The Syrophenician woman

This woman had not seen any miracles, she only had heard about Him from the many Jews who were living in Phoenicia. She had heard of His wonderful prophet, who, it was reported, "healed all manner of diseases." Being a Gentile she understood the prejudice of the Jewish people, but her faith in God was a naked faith. She knew that Jesus was full of love and He would heal her daughter. "Jesus had just departed from His field of labour because the scribes and Pharisees were seeking to take His life. They murmured and complained. They manifested unbelief and bitterness, and refused the salvation so freely offered them. Here Christ meets one of an unfortunate and despised race, that has not been favoured with the light of God's word; yet she yields at once to the divine influence of Christ, and has implicit faith in His ability to grant the favour she asks." DA 401. Her request was granted and her daughter was healed according to her faith.

At Bethesda

Then there is the man at the pool of Bethesda. His faith did not falter at the crucial moment. Jesus came to

him and simply said, "Wilt thou be made whole?" For 38 years this man had been sick and his illness was his own fault. He had seen no mercy from the Pharisees. I am sure his conscience was terribly guilt ridden. If only he could have his sins forgiven and have peace in his heart then he could die with a heavenly hope. However the Jewish system offered him no hope. Then Jesus came along with the question and this poor sick man simply responded wearily to Jesus by saying, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me." He had faith in the healing power of the water, but now he was in the presence of someone greater. Jesus responded, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." This man waited for no second invitation. He didn't stop to reason in his mind as to how this would be possible. This was so different from what he had been hearing from the Jewish leaders for all those long and lonesome years. Here was someone who was speaking hope to him. This man jumped up and did as he was told. Later he met Jesus in the temple who told him to, "sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

"Through the same faith we may receive spiritual healing. By sin we have been severed from the life of God. Our souls are palsied. Of ourselves we are no more capable of living a holy life than was the impotent man capable of walking. There are many who realize their helplessness, and who long for that spiritual life which will bring them into harmony with God; they are vainly striving to obtain it. In despair they cry, 'O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?' Rom. 7:24. Let these desponding, struggling ones look up. The Saviour is bending over the purchase of His blood, saying with inexpressible tenderness and pity, 'Wilt thou be made whole?' He bids you arise in health and peace. Do not wait to feel that you are made whole. Believe His word, and it will be fulfilled. Put your will on the side of

Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His word you will receive strength. Whatever may be the evil practice, the master passion which through long indulgence binds both soul and body, Christ is able and longs to deliver. He will impart to the soul that is 'dead in trespasses.' Eph. 2:1. He will set free the captive that is held by weakness and misfortune and the chains of sin." DA 203.

Thousands were present when Jesus fed the multitude after the Sermon on the Mount. Many lined the streets when Jesus rode on the donkey into Jerusalem. When it was popular, they believed. But how many were beside Him when He died on the cross? How many believed His words that He had spoken many times, that He would die, but would rise again? They needed naked faith in order to believe this and they all forsook Him.

As we approach the time of the end people will need to accept the truth with naked faith. God's church does not have large cathedrals to worship in. There are no large hospitals or schools to prove that we are doing God's work. There are simple, humble people, worshipping in simple dwellings. They are scattered around the world – a few here and a few there. Could these be God's people today? The nobleman's faith faltered when he first saw Jesus – a simple, plainly dressed man. And many today have their faith clothed with outward garments. They must see the outward signs in order to believe. The Word of God is not enough. It was enough for the woman of Samaria, but for many it is not.

Many lose faith when they are told to "Sin no more lest a worse thing come upon thee." Or "Be ye therefore perfect even as your father in heaven is perfect." Mat. 5:48. They don't believe that, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. They don't believe that a God who made this world in six days and who sustains the universe daily, is able to have the power to change their corrupt and

sinful hearts, giving them a heart of flesh that will sin no more even though the promise has been made, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. Ezk. 36:26. They don't have naked faith. They will only believe when they see 'the miracles'. The problem is that no miracle will be performed in this regard unless we first exercise faith. The majority of the Christian world throw out this concept of overcoming all sin as an impossibility and call God's people legalistic fanatics for attempting what they view as an impossibility.

We will need naked faith when we come to the end of time in the near future. When the Sunday laws are in the land we will see friends and relatives turn against us and our properties taken – we will have no earthly support left. However Jesus promised to sustain us. "Bread and water is all that is promised to the remnant in the time of trouble." LDE, p. 265. Some are thrown into prison, some flee to the mountains to be "defended by angels in the form of men of war. GC 631. It will take naked faith if we want to prove faithful during these trying times as all earthly support will be cut off. "This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshalled by the dragon host, make God their defence." 5T 212. And if they prove faithful through this long night of trouble, Jesus will soon appear to bring them the reality of the hope they have held onto by faith – naked faith. Jesus is coming soon when our faith will be made sight so "look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28 AMEN

Wendy Eaton



THE RIGHT LIGHT

1 John 1:5-7
Ex 40:24

There are over 400 references to light in the Bible. There is artificial light because the activities of men do not always conform to day and night schedule, and natural light, which is not sufficient always to man's needs.

In the tabernacle the light was kept burning day and night before the veil as an emblem of God's presence. Moses instructed people, "that they bring unto thee pure oil, olive beaten for a light, to cause the lamps to burn continually." Lev. 24:2

There is also Miraculous light. We find six references to this kind of light in the Bible. In Exodus 10:23 we find that the people of Israel had light in their dwellings while the Egyptians were in darkness. There was the burning bush from which the Lord spoke to Moses. Ex 3:2 The Lord was leading the people of Israel in a pillar of fire during their wilderness journey. Ex 13:21

Light was shining from the Angels when they announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Luke 2:9 Light from heaven shone upon Saul as he journeyed to Damascus. Acts 9:3 On the mount of transfiguration the face of Jesus shone as the sun. Matt 17:2

God made the natural light of the sun. God also ordained time for darkness. Many people are afraid of darkness, but if we trust in God our fears will be gone. We read in Ps. 91:6 that we will not be afraid "for the pestilence that walketh in darkness." By simple faith we accept that "the Lord is my light and salvation." PS 27:1

In the olden times they used oil lamps with wicks in the houses as we find in Ex 25:6 and 27:20. They have found these kind of lamps in the excavations, tombs and towns since the time of Abraham onward. These lamps were kept burning all through the night but the wicks had to be adjusted every few hours as they kept burning down.

We read of a virtuous woman in Proverbs 31:18 "her candle goeth not out by night." Since they had no pilot light as today they needed their light in the lamp the next morning to get the fire going.

In the Old Testament times the house lamps were not used for travelling, for that purpose they had torches, as we find with the army of Gideon when they attacked the Midianites.

Ps. 119:105 we read that "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." They had different lamps for inside use and for the out of doors use. When the Jews arrested Jesus in the night they used lanterns and torches.

The Oriental people feared darkness. Light to them was a symbol of life, joy, and peace. When light went out there was gloom and desolation. Therefore they used to put lamps to burn even in the tombs which symbolized the hope for life after death.

In the earliest part of the Bible history we learn that the light was created by God. Gen 1:1. He challenged the darkness, which covered the earth. This opened the way for the rest of the creation.

Prophet Isaias says, "I form the light, and create darkness." Isa 45:7

In the Bible light represents things of God, and darkness is a symbol of evil forces. God is not the author of sin--Satan is. Also Babylon is an example of godlessness, a place with no light. The city of God is full of light of His glory and therefore there will be no night at all. Rev. 22:5

Today there is a battle going on between light and darkness that is between good and evil. We are to take advantage of the light that God is giving us, or we will miss out of God's guidance and help.

In the tabernacle the light was burning continuously, day and night. As the priests entered the holy place they could see the table of showbread with 12 loaves of bread on it. Also they saw the lampstand. Everything was carefully fashioned accordingly to the pattern shown to Moses on the mount. No language can describe the glory and beauty of the sanctuary. The gold plated walls reflected the light from the golden candlesticks, the brilliant colours of the embroidered curtains and the altar of incense. This was a reflection of the glory of the temple in heaven.

This glory of the sanctuary can be compared to our spiritual life. The gold speaks of value. The oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit. The branches in the golden lampstand coming out of one center stem portray unity. The symbol of the almond blossom was linked to God's anointed person.

In the New Testament the golden lampstand represents the church. Rev. 1:20 Here we have a complete picture how God gives light through His Spirit to His church, who in return reflects it to the world. Yes, God provides us all the light that we need. Only

we must be in the holy place to see the light and to take advantage of it. Some may say that they have a light in themselves, but this is Satan's deception.

What more can we do for the church to arouse the members to practice the light they have received? God has appointed a work to everyone according to his talents, and expects everyone to do his best.

When the light of heaven shines into our hearts, the Lord expects our works to correspond to it. Our talents are not our own, they belong to God who gave them to us. The more we use them, the more they will increase. Our knowledge and power will increase enabling us to do better service.

Why is it that many do not have success in their work? The reason is that they trust too much in themselves and do not go forward to seek and save that which is lost. They need to have the mind of Jesus and teach the truth to others as it is in Jesus before they can expect results from their labour.

We need to be concerned what we shall speak, what we should write that we could convey the light of heaven to others, because we are the channel of light to the world. God communicates His will to the world by His church.

How do we find light to guide us through darkness and discouragement? God reminds the sinners of their transgressions and gives warning to them of their danger. This way He shows His love to them and His willingness to save them. They only have to follow His councils and accept His teachings.

In Matt 5:16 we read, "let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in

heaven.” Be careful of how you shine your light. If it reveals the excellence of Jesus Christ it shines right. If it is turned to yourself, and attracts people to admire you it shines wrong.

How can we shine our light before men? It is done by cultivating ourselves and elevating our minds. As a flower turns to the rays of sun to perfect its beauty, the same way we turn to the Sun of Righteousness to perfect our characters, and to have a deep experience in the things of God. Anyone who still has doubts, fears, unbelief, and skepticism is lacking the spiritual growth and therefore cannot shine the light to others.

It is our duty to present Christ in the church and to the world in His fullness as our only hope of salvation. Satan is trying to prevent this. While we are preaching the commandments of God, we also need to preach faith in Jesus.

This is the light that God has given us and it is our responsibility to shine it to others. We will be judged accordingly to the light that we have received. In the end every person will have received the light of salvation.

When we walk in the light that we have then can we expect to receive greater light. We will receive greater strength and it will lead us into unity as it was in the early church. New fields will be opened to the gospel. Souls will be brought out of darkness and error to the platform of truth. There is much work to do for everyone, but it requires humility, faith, energy, perseverance and decision.

We need to overcome the spirit of self-sufficiency, self-importance, and independence, and cultivate a spirit that is willing to be instructed and counseled.

Whatever others say or do should not affect us. We are to follow Christ in the spirit of meekness and genuine Godliness. Without these qualities we cannot do the work of God. When our spirits have been softened and brought into obedience to the will of Christ then we will be living epistles, known and read of all men.

We are living in the midst of the perils of the last days; Satan is tempting us constantly to become independent in the spirit, but if we depend only on Christ and suffer with Him then we will one day reign with Him. We are not to become discouraged but continue to shine the light that God has given us.

Sister white saw in a vision, an impressive scene. “In the visions of the night a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire fall among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction. I heard someone say: ‘We knew that the judgments of God were coming upon the earth, but we did not know that they would come so soon.’ Others, with agonized voices, said: ‘You knew! Why then did you not tell us? We did not know.’ On every side I heard similar words of reproach spoken.

“In great distress I awoke. I went to sleep again, and I seemed to be in a large gathering. One of authority was addressing the company, before whom was spread out a map of the world. He said that the map pictured God’s vineyard which must be cultivated. As light from heaven shone upon anyone, that one was to reflect the light to others. Lights were to be kindled in many places, and from these lights still other lights were to be kindled.

“The words were repeated: ‘Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is

thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden underfoot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.' Matt. 5:13-16.

"I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God's word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world.

"Then this map was removed and another put in its place. On it light was shining from a few places only. The rest of the world was in darkness, with only a glimmer of light here and there. Our Instructor said: 'This darkness is the result of men's following their own course. They have cherished hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil. They have made questioning and faultfinding and accusing the chief business of their lives. Their hearts are not right with God. They have hidden their light under a bushel.'

HEALTH ALERT: The American Society of Anesthesiologists has sounded a warning about the potential side effects of alternative medications. There is evidence that some supplements can interfere with anesthesia; issuing a warning that patients stop taking all natural remedies at least two weeks before surgery. Risks are highly associated with some natural supplements. Take, for instance, ginkgo, to improve memory and increase blood circulation. Doctors believe it can prevent blood from clotting properly. Taking ginkgo at the same time as taking blood thinning medications like aspirin or Coumadin could make a patient dangerously vulnerable to bleeding. St. John's wort, taken to treat anxiety, depression and sleep disorders is believed to prolong or increase the effects of anesthetic agents. Ginseng, taken for boosting vitality has been associated with high

"If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us." Test. Treas. #3, p. 296-7.

If anyone refuses the light of heaven he will remain in darkness, being blinded to the mysteries of God's word. God will not force anyone to give up his or her unbelief. He has given us a choice, to choose between light and darkness, truth and error. God has given us ample evidence in His word for the truth but many are deceived as the Jews. They read the Bible in the light of their own understanding and tradition. Many trust their spiritual leaders without searching the scriptures for themselves.

I close with the question, "Are we in the holy place" so that we can take advantage of it?

AMEN.

John Theodorou
USA/GREECE

blood pressure and rapid beating of the heart – conditions that could be deadly in the operating room. There are many other uncertainties with herbal preparations and supplements. This does not mean you should not take them but it's important you discuss it with your physician; something not enough patients do. Alternate medicines could be helpful, but there is always the danger of cross-reaction, even though separately they are perfectly safe and effective. With certain foods, adding to the conflict, and thusly are to be avoided again, prior to surgery. Two weeks before surgery, such foods and supplements to be avoided or completely stopped are: Vitamin C, garlic, onions, ginger, vitamin E, ginseng, St. John's wort, ginkgo biloba. (A.K. Smith, MD "A Dangerous Mix" Tim, Nov. 20, 2000) For more on herbals, try altmed.od.nih.gov By: Br. John Theodorou Athens, Greece



WORDS FROM THE CROSS (3)

"Woman, behold your son!...Behold your mother!" John 19:27

Jesus spoke for the third time on the cross. He had experienced the joy of seeing a new soul gained for the kingdom of heaven and now, as He looked at his dear mother at the foot of the cross with her eyes veiled by tears, He felt compassion. Mary's soul was full of sorrow, her heart was weighed down with pain as she saw the fruit of her womb, her obedient, diligent son who had been a support and a consolation to her, her son whom she was proud of, hanging there like a criminal, and suffering the terrible pain of a slow and shameful death. She saw the privilege God had given her, an unworthy creature, to carry in her womb His Son.

She remembered the day the angel had appeared to her and had announced to her: *"You will conceive in your womb, and bring forth a Son, and shall call his name Jesus."* (Luke 1:31) She remembered when they had to flee to Egypt due to Herodes' decree to kill all children below two years of age. She remembered that her son had already suffered persecution since a tender age. To her memory also came her visit to her cousin Elizabeth, who was also expecting, and what her cousin had told her: *"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"* (Luke 1:42) and her answer: *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant" ...* (Luke 1:46,47)

She recalled that, after forty days that she had given birth to the Saviour of the world, *"they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord."* (Luke 2:22) and there they met Simon, who during his whole life had been *"waiting for the Consolation of Israel."* (Luke 2:25) He had taken the child in his arms and said something she did not completely understand: *"Lord, now, you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word: for my eyes have seen your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."* and turning to her had said: *"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel...a sword will pierce through your own soul..."* (Luke 2:28-32,35)

Now she was experiencing the fulfillment of that prophecy in her own flesh. What a terrible pain to see her son hanging there, mocked, abandoned, deformed by the pain and the evil treatment he had received! At the same time that her guts were stirred with compassion and pain, her heart was getting cut through with the double edged sword, the Word that condemned her as a sinner. She thought of all her faults, her weaknesses, her failures, and she could see the Son of God, her Saviour, taking her place on the cross, and forgiving all her sins.

She remembered how helpful He was as a child, always aware of other people's needs, affectionate, responsible, how He helped his father in the carpentry shop and He always found a way to help her with the house chores while His brothers mocked Him and criticized Him. He used to remain silent, unmovable, as if people's opinions did not touch Him. She remembered with much pain that day in which they were coming back from Jerusalem where they had gone to take part in the celebration of the Passover and on the way back, as they were talking of trivial things having forgotten the solemnity of the ceremony and its symbolism, they lost Jesus and could only find Him after three days standing before the doctors of the law, a twelve year old boy, speaking with the authority of an adult, full of divine grace and wisdom.

How enigmatic had so many times been the behaviour of her son when she forgot the miraculous way she had conceived him and saw Him only as her son!

She remembered that day when He left home not to come ever again to dwell with them, but went to the banks of the Jordan river to be baptized by his cousin John whom he had never seen before; how

the heavens opened up and a voice was heard declaring: *"This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."* (Matthew 3:17)) He was beginning His solemn mission on this earth, which would end there, where He was now, hanging on a cross, not as a failure, as many could maybe see it, but victoriously, because the enigmatic promise made already in Paradise to our first parents was being fulfilled: *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel"*) Gen 3:16. It was with this act that *„the prince of this world"*, (John 16:11) Satan, was judged, and would be definitely cast out of heaven. But Mary did not yet understand all this, absorbed in her thoughts she continued remembering scenes of her life. She remembered how after that solemn moment by the Jordan he had disappeared for 40 days and nobody knew where he was. She remembered how he had reappeared., skinny, emaciated, pale, weak, but firm, determined to action.

That joyful day in which her relatives in Cana had invited her to their daughter's wedding also came to her memory and how He had also attended the celebration, followed by those simple young men who called Him Master. She saw how they looked at Him with admiration and respect and she felt proud of her son. When she heard that the wine had finished and the host was worried because he had nothing to offer his guests, she turned to Jesus and told him: *"They have no wine"* (John 2:3) meaning with this: "do something, I know you have a solution for everything", and turning to the servants she told them: *"Whatever He says to you, do it."* (John 2:5) And the great miracle took place, the water was tuned into wine. And now, as she saw Him on the cross, she could see that miracle happening again, the Word, the refreshing water that comes from the leaving source, turning into blood with healing and purifying properties.

How many things she could remember and understand as she stood there, at the foot of the cross and observed the Saviour of the world hanging there, without saying a word! Then, He turned to her and said: *"Woman, behold your son,,... behold your mother."* While she had been meditating about all these things, He had been thinking of her and He decided to entrust her to the care of His disciple, John, the one who reflected more of His character. The whole time he had been feeling her pain, her sorrow, considering the fact that she was a widow, not so young any longer, and that she needed someone to take care of her. He did not call His disciples and put them under her supervision, he did not tell them that now they had to worship her, that she would be the mediator between men and Him, but He saw her in her own magnitude, a mourning mother, a sinner, a weak woman who needed consolation, support, and He turned to the disciple who had absorbed the most of His grace, who was the most sensitive and told him: *"Behold, your mother!"* Now His heart was at peace. His beloved mother would be taken care of until she would be laid down in the tomb to rest until His coming in the clouds of heaven to resurrect her and give her eternal life.

May the Lord help us to see Jesus caring for us as He cared for His mother, and accept the person he has entrusted to us or to whom we have been entrusted, with thankful hearts. Amen.

Theresa Corti
Greece

HEALTH ALERT: "Miami Beach Syndrome". A lodged foreign body may totally occlude the trachea and result in suffocation, and death. Large pieces of food, often steak (but can be any food) lodge in the trachea, classically in a restaurant when the sufferer has had too much to drink. The simplest action in this emergency is the Heimlich maneuver, in which one stands behind the victim, wraps one's arms around him, makes a double clenched fist over the upper abdomen just below the rib cage and gives a

quick, forceful, upward squeeze. Alternately, the occluding object may be reached via the pharynx, or an emergency tracheotomy may be necessary but this procedure by someone trained. With very small children and infants the Heimlich maneuver must be done very gently, not forcefully. (Pathology, 1988 Rubin, Farber, Pub. Lippincott Co. pg. 549)

By: Br. John Theodorou
Athens, Greece



WORDS FROM THE CROSS (4)

"I thirst" John 19:28

Jesus had been hanging from the cross for about three hours, since he had been crucified, at nine o'clock in the morning. It was almost noon; the sun was in the zenith; sweat was running down His whole body and He felt His mouth was dry, His tongue was stuck to His palate, He was thirsty.

Everything had happened so fast since He had had the last supper with His disciples in the upper room and had told them: "*Take eat; this is my body!*" (Matthew 26:26). He had left the room and spent the night praying at the place where he was used to, in Gethsemane, next to an old olive tree with a twisted and knotted trunk. There, He had felt terribly lonely as He felt the burden of the sins He had taken upon Himself and the closeness of the time in which He would have to pay the great debt of humanity with His own life. As a man that He was, He feared that moment. He did not want to die. His whole being rejected the idea of being sacrificed as a victim for sins He had not committed. He felt a big oppression in His heart, and He told His Father: "*Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from me, nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.*" Mark 14:36. But the Father did not reply; what He was asking for was not in agreement with His will, it was not in agreement with the covenant that both of them had made in that counsel of peace that had taken place in heaven, even before the foundation of the world, in which Jesus, the Son of God, had offered Himself to come down to earth and pay the ransom for lost humanity. So, as He did not receive an answer from the Father in heaven, He turned to men and went to His disciples to ask them to pray for Him.

He knew He would have to fulfill His mission to the last word. He found that His disciples were sleeping; it was late, many things had happened in the last days and they were very tired. Then, having nobody to show sympathy and solidarity for Him, He wrestled alone in prayer to the point of agony and the sweating of blood. At daybreak, He saw a multitude coming closer, led by one of His beloved disciples who turned Him in with a kiss that sealed his betrayal.

He was taken to the authorities to be judged. The King of the Universe! And then - the Scriptures tell us - His disciples "*forsook Him and fled.*" (Mark 14:50) After this, everything developed very fast. He was taken to the high priest Caiaphas, who was surrounded by the elders and scribes, and He heard many false witnesses giving false testimonies about Him, but He kept silent. And when the sun had already risen, "*they bound Him, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate.*" (Mark 15:1) Once again, He was questioned: "*But Jesus still answered nothing.*" (Matthew 15:5) When Pilate heard that Jesus came from Galilee, wanting already to "*wash his hands off*", and not to get involved in such a delicate matter, he sent Him to Herodes, under whose jurisdiction that area was, taking advantage of the fact that the governor was then in Jerusalem. Herodes, who had heard much about Jesus and "*hoped to see some miracle done by Him*" (Luke 23:8), asked Him many questions "*but He answered him nothing.*" (Luke 23:9) And while the scribes and priests accused Him, Herodes and his soldiers mocked Him and "*arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.*" (Luke 23:11)

Pilate, literally washing off his hands, fulfilled the wish of the crowd that asked him to set Barrabas, a common criminal, free and thus, the heavy cross was put on Jesus' shoulders for Him to carry to the place where He was to be crucified. He felt weak, His body was black and blue, and He could hardly walk, so "*they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.*" (Luke 23:26) Our Saviour walked along the via dolorosa, followed by two criminals carrying their own crosses, and when they reached the place called Calvary, they crucified Him. It was the third hour, nine o'clock in the morning.

There, on the cross, as usual, He was aware of everything that was happening around Him and in the heart of people. He bore insult, watched the soldiers throwing cast for His clothes, felt how the hearts of some people were torn at the sight before their eyes and He knew that the plan of salvation He was now sealing with His own blood, would bear fruit up until the last moment. He knew that many of those who were around the cross would find shelter under its shadow and would be converted and follow Him, and in spite of all the pain, He rejoiced in the bottom of His heart. His mind was not turned to Himself, He did not concentrate on what He had gone through before He was crucified or what He was suffering right at that moment, but He continued looking for souls for His kingdom.

Since noon, the sun had been shining powerfully on His head and His naked chest, He was at the verge of dehydration, and He was very thirsty so He dared ask something from man, as He had done before, when He had asked for water from that woman at the well in Samaria. Now He said: "*I thirst*" and we read: "*Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.*" John 19:28) That is what humanity has to offer his thirsty God, vinegar, acidity, sourness

Lord, forgive our wickedness and do not stop giving us from the living water, but turn it into wine, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Work a miracle, now that our vessel is full to the brim with your word. Clean the most hidden corners of our heart with your purifying blood and transform us, with the power of your Spirit, into the water of life that you promised and want us to be. Amen.

God said to Elijah in the cave – What are you doing here?

1 Kings 19: 1-12 Now, you're familiar with this story, right? You know what happened to Elijah before this – he had a great triumph on Mount Carmel, but then he ended up fleeing from the wrath of Jezebel. Could we say that the story of Elijah is a story of triumph to depression, back to triumph? And this is often how human experience goes, isn't it? That is, if we hold on to the hand of Jesus by faith, that is how human experience can go. The truths of God's word will triumph ultimately, we just have to make sure that we are living by those truths and giving them to others, that we may overcome the darkness just like Elijah did. Are you listening to the still, small voice of God in your life?

Often, human nature gives way when there has been great pressure or great success, and then suddenly there is nothing. But in Elijah's case, there was great opposition – a jealous and hateful woman that had already killed most of the rest of the prophets of Jehovah. And his human nature gave way - he thought he was the only one left – but what did God answer him? 1 Kings 19:18

Now, let's not get ahead of ourselves – who was this man, and what was His message? PK 119 Elijah, the Tishbite – by his life and faith he was a rebuke to the extravagance, luxury and apostasy of the religious and political leaders of the time. What a stern rebuke to the pride of King Ahab and the apostate religious leaders Elijah was by showing righteousness, purity and simplicity. Elijah showed in his dressing, eating, and mode of life what the original purpose of God was – for he gave all the honour and glory to God. 19:1-7

Does God understand us in our feelings? Yes. But does He excuse our depression? No, because He has made every provision for us to overcome depression. How did Elijah overcome? Firstly, he made sure that he was doing the will of God, and experienced difficulty only from the things and ways of Satan. Secondly, the angel bid him sleep. He slept. Then he ate, and slept again. And in the strength of that food and rest, he went on a forty day journey – walking.

Rest and food are great natural remedies. Without them it's very hard to regain or maintain health. Hippocrates, the father of Medicine said: Let your medicine be your food, and your food be your medicine

And what do you feed your mind and spirit? The main spiritual reason why popular entertainment like movies, rock music and television are so wrong is that they rob us of rest. Beyond the fact of their obvious immorality and pandering to the flesh – the animalistic nature of man, they are the exact opposite of the Sabbath – do you notice? They are about the most restless and unsatisfying things in the world, at least in the long run. Oh yes, they may give you some laughs for a time, but it's just like any sin in that it is only pleasurable for a short time. There's no way to have restfulness of spirit when these things are always contending for our attention. And of course, how can we see any joy or fulfilment in reading the Bible when these vain entertainments are presented instead? For a young mind, the pages of the Bible seem boring in comparison with a movie screen or rock music, don't they? We must remember that Elijah overcame the depression through one thing mainly: what do you think it was? Attributing to God what he was going through. Seeing that God had led him there and letting God lead him out of it.

Now, how is our message today like Elijah's message back then? It is exactly the same, because man keeps making the same mistakes over and over again. Mal. 4:5,6 The Pen of Inspiration says our experience will be very similar to Elijah's at the end of time. **And we are to be the final fulfilment** of the prophecy that Elijah would come before the great and terrible day of the Lord. But there was a partial fulfilment of this prophecy in the days of Jesus. Who partially fulfilled this prophecy? Matt. 3:4 ; 11:11-14 Yes, John the Baptist was the partial fulfilment.

The Elijah message encompasses basically everything we stand for today – simplicity, purity, and faith.

Eating, drinking and dressing for the honour and glory of God. A rebuke of the modern extravagance, display and excess that modern society is all about. (Do you find any parallels between the prophets of Baal and the ways of modern religion?) 1 Kings 18: 21, 26-29 And how does Elijah's ministry speak to the excitement and display of modern religion?

And, like Elijah – we must call the people to decision. If God is the one to be worshipped, and the truths of the Bible are the way we are to worship Him – then we must warn, reprove and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine all of those that are not following those truths. And what will be the response from other religionists all around us? “You are too earnest, let me show you how to present your message so it will have more success in the world. Make your preaching smooth and pleasing to the people. You don't want to disturb them, then it will not mean church growth for you.”

Isn't this the way we have more to fear from within the church, than from outside?” Please tell me, did Jesus ever sacrifice any principles for church growth? The pretended friends that tell us not to lift up the standard so high and not to give the message so straightly remind me of that Scripture: deceitful are the kisses of an enemy, but faithful are the wounds of a friend.

But what is that which will cause the shaking? The pouring forth of the Elijah message, the straight testimony. G.C. 608 609 1 Kings 18:44

“Important lessons are presented to us in the experience of Elijah. When upon Mt. Carmel he offered the prayer for rain, his faith was tested, but he persevered in making known his request unto God. Six times he prayed earnestly, and yet there was no sign that his petition was granted, but with a strong faith he urged his plea to the throne of grace. Had he given up in discouragement at the sixth time, his prayer would not have been answered....

“We have a God whose ear is not closed to our petitions; and if we prove His word, He will honour our faith. He wants us to have all our interests interwoven with His interests, and then He can safely bless us; for we shall not then take glory to self when the blessing is ours, but shall render all the praise to God. God does not always answer our prayers the first time we call upon Him; for should He do this, we might take it for granted that we had a right to all the blessings and favours He bestowed upon us.

“The servant watched while Elijah prayed....as he searched his heart, he seemed to be less and less, both in his own estimation and in the sight of God. It seemed to him that he was nothing, and that God was everything; and when he reached the point of renouncing self, while he clung to the Saviour as his only strength and righteousness, the answer came.

“However courageous and successful a man may be in the performance of a special work, unless he looks constantly to God when circumstances arise to test his faith he will lose his courage. Even after God has given him marked tokens of His power, after he has been strengthened to do God's work, he will fail unless he trusts implicitly in Omnipotence.” SD 206 We all have had marked tokens of God's power in our lives – but the question is: Will we trust implicitly in God's power, rather than our own as Elijah did?

That's the only thing that keeps us back from spiritual, mental and physical success. Indeed, this is the only thing that keeps you and I back from being ready for Christ's second coming.

But God will have a people that will give the Elijah message by living it, and those who live this message must give this message to a world lying in sin and darkness. We must listen to the voice of conscience, the voice of the Bible and the voice of duty, for they are all essentially the same thing – the voice of God to us.

“Of families, as of individuals, the question is asked, ‘What doest thou here?’ In many churches there are families well instructed in the truths of God's word, who might widen the sphere of their influence by moving to places in need of the ministry they are capable of giving. God calls for Christian families to go into the dark places of the earth and work wisely and perseveringly for those who are enshrouded in spiritual gloom. To answer this call requires self-sacrifice. While many are waiting to have every obstacle removed, souls are dying, without hope and without God. For the sake of worldly advantage, for the sake of acquiring scientific knowledge, men are willing to venture into pestilential regions and to endure hardship and privation. Where are those who are willing to do as much for the sake of telling others of the Saviour?....

"Those who, while spending their life energies in self-sacrificing labour, are tempted to give way to despondency and distrust, may gather courage from the experience of Elijah. God's watchful care, His love, His power, are especially manifest in behalf of His servants whose zeal is misunderstood or unappreciated, whose counsels and reproofs are slighted, and whose efforts toward reform are repaid with hatred and opposition.....

"Fellow Christian, Satan knows your weakness; therefore cling to Jesus. Abiding in God's love, you may stand every test. The righteousness of Christ alone can give you power to stem the tide of evil that is sweeping over the world. Bring faith into your experience. Faith lightens every burden, relieves every weariness. Providences that are now mysterious you may solve by continued trust in God. Walk by faith in the path He marks out. Trials will come, but go forward. This will strengthen your faith and fit you for service. The records of sacred history are written, not merely that we may read and wonder, but that the same faith which wrought in God's servants of old may work in us. In no less marked manner will the Lord work now, wherever there are hearts of faith to be channels of His power....

"What strange work Elijah would have done in numbering Israel at the time when God's judgments were falling upon the backsliding people. He could count only one on the Lord's side...the word of the Lord surprised him.

"Then let no man attempt to number Israel today, but let everyone have a heart of flesh, a heart of tender sympathy, a heart that, like the heart of Christ, reaches out for the salvation of a lost world." PK 173-175,189

All of those who will live and give this message will triumph with it. Won't you decide to trust in God today, and confess and forsake all known sin?

You know what they are, where your weaknesses lie, and if you don't God will show them to you—that is what Christianity, church and a spiritual relationship with Jesus are all about.

So may the Lord help you and I, to fulfil this prophecy today, to be those who live and preach like Elijah did. AMEN.

Jerry Eaton

Caleb

Judges 1:20 And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence the three sons of Anak.

It was Caleb's faith in God that gave him courage; that kept him from the fear of man, even the mighty giants, the sons of Anak, and enabled him to stand boldly and unflinchingly in defense of the right. From the same exalted source, the mighty General of the armies of heaven, every true soldier of the cross of Christ must receive strength and courage to overcome obstacles that often seem insurmountable.... {CM p.117}

Caleb had a firm and unshakeable faith in God. When his turn came to receive an inheritance he asked for the land where the sons of Anak lived. These were the same giants that had struck terror to the hearts of the twelve spies when they went to spy out the Promised Land. Now he as an eighty-year-old man offered to drive them out single-handed! He, as an eighty-year-old man had the faith and courage to drive these Giant sons of Anak out who had terrified the ten spies who gave a discouraging report!

From the beginning God has been working by His Holy Spirit through human instrumentalities for the accomplishment of His purpose in behalf of the fallen race. . . . The same power that sustained the patriarchs, that gave Caleb and Joshua faith and courage, and that made the work of the apostolic church effective, has upheld God's faithful children in every succeeding age. {The Faith I Live By 1958 p.52}

As courageous of heart as when with the hosts of the Lord he set out from Egypt, Caleb asked for and received as his portion the stronghold of the giants. In God's strength he drove out the Canaanites. The vineyards and olive groves where his feet had trodden became his possession. Though the cowards and rebels perished in the wilderness, the men of faith ate of the grapes of Eschol. {Ed p.149}

We must have the faith and courage of Caleb. He had faith and courage so as to be able to drive the sons of Anak out. Let us pray for more courage and faith. Then we will be able to drive out the Giants of sin out of our life! AMEN.

BEN DAMMASCH,
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA



The Anvil of God's Word

Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door, And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;

Then looking in, I saw upon the floor, Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I, "To wear and batter all these hammers so?" "Just one," said he, and then with twinkling eye, "The anvil wears the hammers out, you know." "And so," I thought, "The Anvil of God's Word, For ages skeptic blows have beat upon, Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard, The Anvil is unchanged, the hammers gone."

Public opinion polls have revealed that the average person's knowledge of the Bible is extremely limited. Few of those questioned could name a dozen of its leading characters. Fewer still could list its sixty-six books. Many had but the vaguest concept of its origin or purpose and were utterly confused about its teachings. They could not distinguish between the books of the Old and New Testaments and were completely at a loss to find a familiar text.

How is it with you and your Bible? Do you read it? Do you enjoy it?

Some people start out in earnest to read the Bible, only to give up after glancing at the first few chapters. Unable to find anything of gripping interest, or bored by some unfamiliar phraseology, they set it aside as if it were completely beyond their understanding.

There must be millions of Bibles lying around in Christian homes, unopened and unread, save possibly on special occasions such as weddings and funerals.

Yet down through the centuries the Bible has proved itself to be a book of high spiritual potency. Many of the finest men and women known to history have drawn their inner strength from its pages. Time and again it has demonstrated a mysterious power to change lives, ennoble the spirit, enrich the mind, enlarge the vision, broaden the sympathies, and transform the desires. Great preachers have found it to be a treasure house of truth, while statesmen, teachers, and writers have never ceased to mine its literary riches.

Here, then is a strange paradox. We have a book that everybody is willing to admit is the best, the greatest, and the most wonderful ever written; a book that has lasted longer than any other; a book that has been circulated more widely than any other; a book that has done more good than any other; and yet one of the least read of all books published today.

From ancient Greece comes the story of a rich farmer who on his deathbed said to his sons, "My treasure is buried in my fields. If you would be rich, dig for it."

Upon the old man's death the two sons, presuming that their father had hidden his money in an ironbound chest somewhere on his farm, set out eagerly to find it.

Equipped with spades and mattocks, they dug with great enthusiasm and perseverance, but seemingly without success. Carefully they turned over the soil in every field, digging to a depth no plow had ever reached. But no sign of a treasure chest did they discover.

When spring came the search was abandoned in order that the land might be sown with corn. Then came summer and harvest. And what a harvest! The like had never been seen before. In digging the land so thoroughly the boys had won the riches they had sought. Their wise old father's plan had succeeded!

You, too, have inherited a precious heirloom that has come down to you through many generations. It, too, is buried. Not in a field but in a book. And He who bequeathed it to you says, "If you would be rich in all the best and most beautiful things life has to offer, search this book. Dig into it with all the spiritual tools at your command. Read it. Study it. Meditate upon it. Pray over it. And within it you will find the richest of treasures."

From the beginning of "Your Bible and You"



Our Church building in Denver Colorado.



SUNDAY LAW COMING CLOSER



For several years Catholic and Protestant churches have tried to bring Sunday law to the United States. This year another attempt will be made and it is possible that this time they will succeed.

On March 26, 2002, Christian Coalition of America wrote a letter indicating that in October of this year a decision would be made in regards to Sunday observance. The letter reads, "Dear Representatives, the moral fabric of America is wearing thin. We must not go back to B.A.U. (business as usual). The terrorists attack on America September 11, 2001 sent a wake up call to many of us. We not only need a day of prayer and unity but many of us here at Christian Coalition believe it is time to legislate a National Day of Rest. As Dr. James Dobson reminds us, families need time for rest and worship. The United Mine Workers (U.M.W.) of America support this agenda also.

"Christopher Columbus has given an inspiring example of respect for the sanctity of Sunday under the most trying circumstances. It illustrates the spirit of unflinching trust in God.

"Destroy the sanctity of Sunday and you throw civilization back into darkness and mire of Pagan materialism—the observance of Sunday is essential to the welfare of this nation.

"We must make this part of our agenda in 2002 and increase our trust in God to protect our Nation. See you in Washington D.C. in October."

"Thank you and "God Bless America", Pastor Mike Brown, National Church Liaison.

The chairman for this meeting in October will be a Jesuit Priest, Joseph Pasquali.

Another letter was written by Pastor Brown on April 17, 2002. Part of the letter reads, "More good news. Thirty three Capitol Hill Legislators have now signed on to our legislated agenda for the National Day of Rest. This will be our main focus when we meet at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington D.C. October 11-13.

"This Road to Victory Conference will be one of the most important. See you in D.C., Pastor Mike Brown."

In the Great Controversy, we read, "The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honour the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favour, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophets words: 'The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' Rev. 12:17." GC 592.

"We need not be surprised at anything that may take place now. We need not marvel at any developments of horror. Those who trampled under their unholy feet the law of God have the same spirit as had the men who insulted and betrayed Jesus. Without any compunction of conscience they will do the deeds of their father the devil." 3 SM 416.

"There are many who are at ease, as it were, asleep. They say, 'If prophesy has foretold the enforcement of Sunday observance the law will surely be enacted,' and having come to this conclusion, they sit down in a calm expectation of the event, comforting themselves with the thought that God will protect His people in the day of trouble. But God will not save us if we make no effort to do the work He has committed to our charge." RH extra, Dec. 24, 1889.

"We should now be doing our very best to defeat this Sunday law." CW 98.

"As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honour the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example." Test. Vol. 6, p. 18.

"As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government, and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places." GC 626. AMEN.

THE WORK IN NEW ZEALAND



Sister White in letter 9A 1893 stated, quote:

“We see a great work to be done in this Field (NZ) and long to have facilities to work with, a church if even so humble should be erected.”

For nearly a year in 1893 Sis. White was in New Zealand. The first camp meeting was held here and the first SDA Church Building in the Southern hemisphere was erected in 1887 in Auckland. Elder S.N. Haskell also, who built up the Literature work in North America, did a great work here in NZ as well, being instrumental in the caption of IMS in which we now use in our registered Church name. In Melbourne Australia, the work was at a stand still, and no one seemed interested in the message. An idea was formulated to leave tracts on park rails. One was read by a man named Smith, who along with his family accepted the 3 Angels message. The work of God shot ahead seemingly. Brother Smith being a chosen vessel unto God as was apostle Paul.

We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy to distribute our literature as the leaves of autumn. As we are now in our autumn (fall) season this is what our church membership is doing to a great extent to keep in line with the instruction as laid down in the Spirit of Prophecy. When the New Zealand Field was organized less than three years ago we had a membership of only 4 members. We are now 15 members under the leadership of Brother Anton Salavyov from Bulgaria. Our South Pacific Islands Mission Field includes the South Pacific Islands with its over 30 000 islands and many millions of square miles having 47 in membership. We enjoy fellowship with many serious friends as well. We love them and pray for them with faith that soon they will be a part of the God’s Reform Movement.

Many brethren on the islands have been contacted mainly by brother Andrade and some others ministers in the past. In this way have been established and built up good memberships in New Caledonia, Tahiti and Fiji.

Here in New Zealand the work has progressed in places like Christchurch, Dunedin Motueka and also interests in the North Island. One member of our church is working in a prison with several inmates, doing our “KNOW YOUR BIBLE COURSE”. The medical work is going forward also, with much health literature printed and distributed. The Canadian IMS Published “Miracle Makeover” Course has had an opening success by being sold in shops with an SDA bookshop being interested in promoting the course.

So, we can praise the Lord for the progress in the work here in our South Pacific Islands Mission Field. May we in this day and age go forward in unity and let God’s power fulfill Sisters White’s desire that a great work will be done in this part of the World. We now have the facilities to do just this as it says in Isaiah 42: 12 “Let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare his Praise in the Islands”

AMEN

E. Gale
New Zealand

“The Love of Money...”



Our house is not very nice. We own it, of course, and that is a great accomplishment as mother has often reminded us whenever we grumbled. But we girls always thought there were some drawbacks even to that, because we couldn't ask the landlord for new wallpaper or fresh paint, and as for us – we never had money to spare for the little things we wanted.

There are only four of us, Mother, Jack, Rose and I. We children have been busy all our lives trying to get a good education. We hoped to get a good job when we finished so that mother could spend the rest of her life in luxury. In the meantime she is getting by with the bare necessities since father has died, leaving us little more than we had right now. Mother was extremely busy trying to supply us with food and pay the bills, and she still managed to have the house very neat and tidy. No place could be more beautifully kept than was our home, but the furnishings were nothing to boast about. Mother said it was her faith in God to supply our basic needs that kept her going and that she should not grumble if we did not have the most fancy furnishings as we did have food and shelter.

Our bedroom was the worst of all with its odds and ends of things. “Other girls have silver-backed hairbrushes!” wailed Rose one night, looking at her old one with a scornful glance.

“Yes, and chairs that don't tip over,” I added, as I managed to save myself from a fall.

“Isn't it horrid to be poor, Mary?” said Rose.

“It's no joke.” I was very grim because I had bruised my hand on the rickety chair and tomorrow I had a music lesson and this bruise would make it painful to play.

It was then and there that we decided to do something about our pathetic situation as we saw it. We didn't speak loud enough for mother to hear us – we weren't mean enough for that! She'd have been only too glad to help matters if she could. So we had our planning meeting between the two of us girls. We said we'd had enough of old furniture and cheap sash curtains, and we decided it was time to act.

Having reached this decision, we started thinking of a plan and were surprised at how quickly we came up with an idea. I had a talent for music, and Rose was good in Math. The next day I walked around to many of the houses in our neighbourhood looking for students who wished to study music. Rose went directly to the home of the Cowans, who had been looking around for a math tutor for their twins. We had discussed the possibility of Rose teaching the Cowans before because they had asked us, but Rose had said that she was so busy with her own studies that she simply didn't have time for them if she wanted to graduate on time.

It makes a difference when you get interested in something for yourself. We girls soon viewed our new jobs in the light of the furnishings for our room, and felt sure we could squeeze them in – and we did. I found six beginner students and Rose began tutoring the Cowans. They had asked her to teach all four of their children instead of just the two twins. It seemed the whole family had difficulties with math, and their mother was delighted to get a break from her children.

Well, we did it! It wasn't easy either. My half-dozen students were well on their way in their music studies and my patience had been tried to the limit. Rose also

feared her hair would be white before the end of the term. You see, when there's a certain amount of housework you feel obliged to do, and when your studies are clamouring for attention the rest of the time, it sets your nerves awry to keep the tempo of clumsy fingers that go just half as fast as they should; or to teach over and over again that four times five are *always* twenty.

But I suppose all these trials helped us to appreciate our possessions when we did get them. They were just as sweet and dainty as we had hoped. We got two single beds – white enamel with brass trimmings – and a pretty mirror in a neat frame. Our old dressing table looked like new with fresh drapery, and there were full-length curtains that actually matched. Two lovely white rockers, two other chairs, and a little round stand made us feel simply blissful. We painted our bookshelves with white enamel paint, and did our woodwork ourselves. Jack painted the floor a soft grey that would blend with anything, and after it was dry we laid on it one of our chief treasures. It was a grass rug, in low shades of green, with a stencilled border and a general air of elegance that almost overpowered us. It was large enough almost to cover the entire floor, and we stencilled green borders on our curtains and drapery in the same Grecian pattern.

It seemed too good to be true as we stood in the door and viewed the landscape that we had just finished. “It isn't often that our dreams come true!” sighed Rose.

“But this one has,” I assured her.

She nodded happily. “Yes, and it's just as nice as we thought it would be!”

"Won't it do our hearts good to 'give notice,' as the cooks say!"

"I can hardly wait to tell those awful Cowan kids that they have to learn to get along in math without me. I am so tired of them, Mary."

"I know you are. I wouldn't mind the music so much if I had time. But it's dreadful when your own studies drag like millstones about your neck. I'm not clever at learning as you are, Rose. I have to work for what I get. So I shall tell them, next Tuesday, that I've decided not to teach any more until school's finished."

Jack stopped on his way down the hall to look over our shoulders. "Humph!" is all he said.

"Doesn't it look lovely?" asked Rose, her face all smiles. Jack patted her check, and said, "It certainly does," and then he passed on abruptly.

"Something is bothering him!" I declared as he shut his room door behind him. "I can't imagine what it is, and it's of no use to ask him. It is difficult to get anything out of him until he is ready to speak."

Mother came up the stairs just then waving a note in her hand. "It's from Helen Hunt!" She announced joyfully. "She is going to spend a day and a night with us next week on her way to Groveport. I shall be so glad to see her." Mrs. Hunt and mother have been friends more years than Rose and I have lived, and they very seldom meet any more. So we girls were almost as glad as mother was, because that dear woman doesn't have as many pleasures as she deserves.

After we went to bed that night, we planned the surprise. The visitor would have our lovely new nest, and we'd go and camp in the shabby old guest-room. We knew it would please mother, for she hadn't had so pretty a place to entertain Mrs. Hunt in for many years. It did please her, too, so much that she almost cried, and she hugged us and

thanked us till we felt very happy and self-satisfied. Jack was standing by, and he said, "Humph!" again, in that same queer tone. Then mother turned and hugged him, and Rose and I said to each other how strange that Jack should be jealous when his mother hugged his own sisters.

The sun was shining on the day Mrs. Hunt was to arrive. Mother went to the station to meet her, and, as she started out, she called back, "Children, if any of you have occasion to go into my room while I'm gone, be sure to shut the door when you come out!"

We answered, "All right!" all three at once, and then Rose said, "How funny! What do you suppose made her tell us to do that? She's never said that before."

"I can't imagine," I replied, and then Jack smiled. If it had been anybody but our jolly old Jack, I'd have said his smile was sarcastic; but no one ever accused that boy of anything so ill natured. Then he said in a quiet even voice: "It doesn't take a very smart person to figure that one out. She wants to make sure that Mrs. Hunt doesn't see the contrast between her room and the one across the hall. She might not understand — or approve."

And with that he took his cap and went out.

Stunned? I guess we were! Rose and I stared at each other as if we had seen a ghost. Then we put our arms around each other and went upstairs without a word. It was mother's door we opened, and we stood there and gazed as if we'd never seen that room before. She had been darning her carpet again. We could see the careful stitches and the frayed edges her art couldn't quite conceal. "She has polished her furniture too! See how it shines, Mary. She tried to make it look its best." Rose's voice was mournful, so I tried to speak cheerfully.

"She sure did and she has made it look as nice as possible." Then we turned and both of us choked back a sob at what we saw. She had taken our discarded

dressing-table drapery, cut out the best portions, ruffled it daintily, pressed it neatly, and put it on her own bureau. Our worn-out sash curtains, nicely laundered, veiled her bookshelf.

"Mary, our mother — our precious jewel of a mother! We've taken everything selfishly for ourselves and left her the rags! Since Father died, Mother has sacrificed and worked so hard just so we could keep our house and have food on the table."

Rose had her head on my shoulder, and by that time I was crying as hard as she was.

"No wonder Jack was dissatisfied!" I sobbed, "Rose, why didn't he tell us?"

"O Mary, why did we need telling? That's what breaks my heart. We were so selfish. Even our rickety chair is fixed up and set back in the corner of her room. O I can't stand it!"

"We've got to!" I stiffened up grimly. "We've got to stand it, and it serves us right. But we'll make it up to her as soon as Mrs. Hunt is gone."

"Yes, if we can live until then."

"I think we'll manage to. Mortification won't kill us in twenty-four hours. We'll make her sleep in there tonight, and they can have one cosy visit in suitable quarters. Monsters we are."

Rose didn't resent being called a monster. She knew it was appropriate.

We did some thinking that night. I never felt so utterly insignificant in my life. We realized at last that there are other ways to show love than letting its object do all the sacrificing, all the giving and enduring, while the one who bestows it revels in selfishness. We didn't say anything then, but mother was not allowed in the kitchen that night. We cooked the meal and cleaned up so that she could spend time with her friend. If Rose and I sat over our books an hour after our

usual bedtime, it hurt no one but ourselves and we deserved it.

They had a lovely time together. We could hear their soft voices rise and fall, and once in awhile a ripple of laughter, till we dropped off to sleep. The next night, mother went back to her own room. We didn't say a word to prevent it, though it hurt us to think of our old rags in there for mother to use.

The next day there was an early morning phone call from Mrs. Hall, an old neighbour, urging mother to meet her downtown at 10 o'clock. There was some important shopping on hand and mother's advice was indispensable. Mother did not suspect that her daughters had frantically counselled with Mrs. Hall the day before to come up with some scheme to get mother out of the house for most of the day. "All day, Mrs. Hall!" we pleaded. "We've planned a surprise for her, and it will take quite some time to arrange it." Mother didn't see how she could take the time to go, but we assured her that since we'd be at home, she wasn't needed at all for the day. If this struck her as a most unusual state of affairs, she was too polite to say so, and, true to her habit of helpfulness, she dressed and went to Mrs. Hall's rescue.

We didn't waste any time, I assure you. We couldn't paint the floor just then, but Jack stained it around the edges where it wouldn't have to be walked on, and the grass rug covered the rest. We burned the old rag rugs. It did our hearts good to see them crisp and turn to ashes.

Into the attic went the ugly old things, and across the hall came the pretty new ones, - curtains, dressing table, chairs, every single dainty belonging, even the drapery from our bookshelves. Our neighbour Tom came in and helped carry things, and Jack worked like a beaver. He didn't need any urging either. If ever a boy's face shone like a full moon, Jack's did that happy day, though he stopped at least a dozen times to hug his

sisters. "What a beast I was to think you could be as selfish as all that!" he exclaimed once, "I ought to have known better!"

"But we were just that selfish, Jack," we told him. "We didn't mean to sail under false colours. We'd never have thought, if it hadn't been for you."

"Yes, you would. The first jolt would have woken you up. Lend a hand here, Mary."

It was done at last, all cosy and fresh. Rose stopped in the door. "It looks like mother," she said. "It's pure and sweet like her."

"The other one looks pretty forlorn, girls. What are you going to do about it?" Jack had a hand on our shoulders as he spoke, and we felt his sympathy.

"Do?" we chirped up as brisk as millionaires. "Why, furnish it, of course."

"We have one bed to start on," Rose reminded him. "That's a big help, and the floor and woodwork are still painted. How are we to do it? Lessons, to be sure. Cowans and music scales."

"I thought you wanted to quit." Our brother looked troubled.

"My dear brother, we've changed our minds. Our most ardent desire now is to keep on," I told him. Rose smiled. "I am seriously considering refurnishing the whole house," she remarked. "The Cowans are good for the next 10 years, judging from their present understanding of math, and it's great practice for me."

We didn't give mother a hint until after supper. It was hard to wait, but we made ourselves do it so everything would come about quite naturally. She took her bonnet and wrap up to put them away, and we three tagged, as softly as if we had pads on our feet, like cats. She opened her door and gave one bewildered glance, and then she turned and saw us. "It's yours, Lovely, every bit!" we told her.

"Darlings, I couldn't," she said. "Your hard work - your dear

new treasures! I couldn't permit such a sacrifice, my darlings!" We just would not cry, though the lumps in our throats made our voices sound as if they belonged to someone else.

"They aren't *our* new treasures, they're *yours*."

Who has been making sacrifices for us all of our lives?"

"We love you so - you couldn't hurt us by refusing."

"There is no question about refusing." Rose spoke with great emphasis. "This room is yours mother, once and for all, and there is no more to be said about it."

We tucked her into her pretty white bed that night, and we kissed the dear face on the ruffled pillow. Jack came in for his good night, too, and we all stood looking down at her, so happy we couldn't talk. She lifted her arms - those arms that had worked so hard for us - and gathered the three of us to her at once. "My darlings! May the Lord richly bless you." Was all she said, and we crept out softly, knowing we had received her blessing.

Yes, we are getting our second collection of furniture into shape slowly but surely. But we have learned that there are more precious things to be had in homes than beds and chairs, or even green grass rugs. We have them - the precious things - so, now that mother's room is accomplished, we can wait very happily for the beds and chairs - Rose, Jack and I.

So if you are not happy about your present condition in life, stop complaining and do something about it if it is possible. If you can't change things, just be content that the Lord has provided food, clothing and shelter for you. Along the way remember, it is more blessed to give than to receive. It is not a sin to have money or to be rich; as long as the money has been obtained in an honest manner and also that it is used wisely and not selfishly. "The love of money is the root of all evil." 2 Tim. 6:10.

The Danger of Doubt

Christ came into this world to show us that, by receiving the power, which comes from heaven, man can live a spotless life. With endless patience and great sympathy, Jesus assists men today. By grace, He banishes anxiety and doubt out of the human heart and also removes the enmity against love.

It is not wise to look at ourselves and analyse our feelings. If we do, the enemy will present difficulties and temptations to us, which will lessen our faith and will destroy our courage. If we study our emotions and give ourselves up with our impressions we expose ourselves to doubt, and entangle ourselves with difficulties. Let us redirect our eyes away from ourselves and look to Jesus.

Jesus will give you the grace to be patient and trustful and also help you to overcome your failures. He will warm your heart by His Spirit, which is full of gentleness. He will also vivify your faint heart so that your heart rests on God with confidence. Discharge all your burdens on Him.

The heart that loves God emerges out of the fog of doubt and acquires an experience that is alive, full of light, deep and broad. It will become soft and the life will resemble Jesus more and more. It is easy to become like this with God, if the life is hid with Christ in him. The heart will then be able to endure the test of contempt, violence and offence, for the Saviour suffered all that and has promised to help man become like Him.

This renewed heart also does not become discouraged when difficulties attack it, since Christ, our example, did not yield to discouragement either. Each Christian will find his strength, not in the merits of his good works, but in the righteousness of Christ, received by faith. It is a great thing to be soft and humble of heart and to live in purity like the Prince of Life did during His stay among men.

Jean Marie Hecquet,
New Caledonia

WHICH APPLE TO EAT?

Scientists have found a vast difference in the apples we eat. There is a saying that an apple a day keeps the doctor away, but some apples do a better job than others. Apples contain antioxidant chemicals, which help the body defend against cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure and other common ailments of aging.

Levels of the antioxidant chemicals are five times higher in the skin of Red Delicious apples than in its flesh and three times higher for Spy skin compared to its flesh.

ANTIOXIDANT LEVELS IN APPLE VARIETIES:
(In parts per million)

Red Delicious
Skin: 2,012
Flesh: 358

Idared
Skin: 1,479
Flesh: 237

Golden Delicious
Skin: 1,265
Flesh: 260

Mutsu
Skin: 1,017
Flesh: 198

Northern Spy
Skin: 1,548
Flesh: 561

Courtland
Skin: 1,322
Flesh: 364

McIntosh
Skin: 1,163
Flesh: 255

Empire
Skin: 781
Flesh: 164



THE LORD'S COMING

Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

24:37 But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

24:41 Two [women shall be] grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

24:43 But know this, that if the Goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Let every soul be on the alert. The adversary is on your track. Be vigilant, watching diligently lest some carefully concealed and masterly snare shall take you unawares. Let the careless and indifferent beware lest the day of the Lord come upon them as a thief in the night. . . . {AG 332.3}

Paul speaks of a class to whom the Lord's appearing will come unawares. "The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, . . . and they shall not escape." But he adds, to those who have given heed to the Savior's warning, "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; ye are not of the night, nor of darkness." [1 THESS. 5:2-5.] {GC88 371.1}

We must not let the coming of the Lord surprise us. We must be always ready for Him or else His coming will surprise us. **We should not let ourselves become sleepy.** We must watch day and night for the signs of His coming that we will be ready for it or it will overtake us as a thief in the night.

The end is near, stealing upon us stealthily, imperceptibly, like the noiseless approach of a thief in the night. May the Lord grant that we shall no longer sleep as do others, but that we shall watch and be sober. The truth is soon to triumph gloriously, and all who now choose to be laborers together with God, will triumph with it. The time is short; the night soon cometh when no man can work. . . . {Mar 27.1}

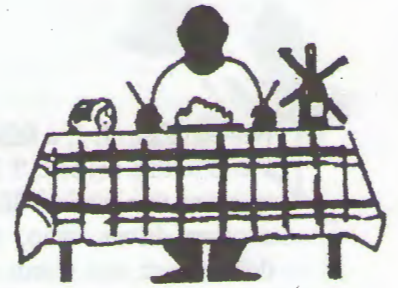
Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak.

We must watch for His coming with earnest prayer, for our human nature is very weak.
AMEN.

Ben Dammasch
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

If youth will feel their responsibility before God, they will be elevated above everything that is mean, selfish, and impure....They will realize that they have something great and glorious to live for. This will have an influence...to make them earnest, cheerful, and strong. ML 161

MEAT EATING



Counsels on Diet and Foods p. 383 "Those who use flesh meat disregard all the warnings that God has given concerning this question. They have no evidence that they are walking in safe paths. They have not the slightest excuse for eating the flesh of dead animals."

Couns. On D & F p. 382 "There are those who ought to be awake to the danger of meat eating, who are still eating the flesh of animals, thus endangering the physical, mental and spiritual health. Many who are now only half converted on the question of meat eating will go from God's people to walk no more with them."

p. 388. "The meat diet is the serious question. Shall human beings live on the flesh of dead animals? The answer, from the light that God has given is, No, decidedly, No."

"Elmshaven Sanitarium, Napa Co., Cal. Nov. 3, 1901 H. 159. "Many by a course of self-indulgence have put Christ to open shame. They have encouraged an appetite for meat-eating and for other harmful articles of diet, failing to honor God by revealing the purifying, sanctifying influence of the truth."

Bible Training School, May 1907 "At this stage of the earth's history meat eating is dishonoring to God. It is meat eating and liquor drinking that are making the world as it was in the days of Noah."

Temperance p. 91 "John separated himself from his friends, and from the luxuries of life, dwelling alone in the wilderness, and subsisting upon a purely vegetable diet. The work of John was foretold by the prophet Malachi: "Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet.... He was a representative of those living in the last days, to whom God has entrusted sacred truths to present before the

people, to prepare the way for the second appearing of Christ. And the same principles of temperance which John practiced should be observed by those who in our day are to warn the world of the coming of the Son of Man."

"Let the diet reform be progressive. Let the people be taught how to prepare food without the use of milk and butter. Tell them that the time will soon come when there will be no safety in using eggs, milk, cream, or butter, because disease in animals is increasing in proportion to the increase of wickedness among men." C.D.F. p. 356.

A hundred years ago Sister White said, "While we do not make the use of flesh meat a test, while we do not want to force anyone to give up its use, yet it is our duty to request that no minister of the conference shall make light of or oppose the message of reform on this part." C.D.F. p. 401

The health message being progressive as Sister White said; what progress has been done in the past 100 years? Seventh-Day Adventists write in a magazine that 87 percent of their ministers in the church eat meat and only 13 percent are vegetarian.

Sister White indicated that the church of Elijah will not use flesh foods. Who are only half converted in this point will not be found among God's people. Elijah had three different diets in his life. The second one was a vegetarian diet, which is the time in which we live today. If meat eating dishonors God and puts Christ to open shame, then it is our duty to stop using it and concentrate on the issue of giving up dairy products also.

AMEN.

I CONFESS

Not long ago L J, a fellow employee, came to me and said, "Young man, you know, when I first saw you I said within myself, 'I don't like him.'" Immediately I began to examine myself! What have I said or done to cause this man to dislike me? It must have been the time when he heard me discussing the Bible with another driver, who, professing to be a minister of God denied Him in words and works. "Our deportment, our words and actions, preach to others. We are living epistles, known and read of men." 1 After much prying, L J confessed that his judgement of me was premature and he apologized.

"God's servants should come nearer to Him." 2 "He seeks to bring them near to Himself, that He may make known to them His will." 3

"They should not defy ministers of other denominations and seek to provoke a debate. They should not stand in a position like that of Goliath when he defied the armies of Israel. Israel did not defy Goliath, but Goliath made his proud boast against God and His people. The defying, the boasting, and the railing must come from the opposers of truth, who act the Goliath. But none of this spirit should be seen in those whom God has sent forth to proclaim the last message of warning to a doomed world." 4 "In some cases it may be necessary to meet a proud boaster against the truth of God in open debate; but generally these discussions, either oral or written, result in more harm than good." 5

"True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty." 6

Then I told him about the time when I was a passenger on board public transportation. The driver of the coach seemed to be in a bad mood. This was verified when the driver at first stopping to pick up a would-be passenger shut the door in his face and drove off. This passenger flagged an oncoming taxi cab and instructed its driver to drive ahead of the coach and to let him out at the next stop so that he could board the bus. The taxi driver did as he was instructed, but the bus driver simply maneuvered the bus around the stopped taxi and continued on the route. Again, the would-be passenger instructed the taxi cab driver to drive ahead of the bus, but this time go a little further. The cabby did and this time the bus driver stopped and let the passenger up on the bus.

After paying his fare, this passenger asked the bus driver her reasons for not picking him up at the first stop. She told him that she heard him using curse words. He denied and took a seat next to me. His inquiry, however, was like fuel upon the fire. The driver immediately parked the bus and, in a loud voice, told everyone that she will not continue the route until this passenger exited the bus. Suddenly there was a moan heard throughout the coach. Many of its passengers were on their way to work, the accused passenger also. And he had no desire to remove himself from the coach. After a brief moment, I suggested to him to apologize to the driver. He did and she continued on the route.

"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." 7

"God did not create evil, He only made the good, which was like Himself. 8 "He never made a thorn, a thistle, or a tare. These are Satan's work, the result of degeneration, introduced by him among the precious things." 9 "It was the tempter's purpose to thwart the divine plan in man's creation, and fill the earth with woe and desolation. And he would point to all this evil as the result of God's work in creating man." 10 "Why," said the artful tempter, "when God knew what would be the result, did He permit man to be placed on trial, to sin, and bring in misery and death." 11

"God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency." 12 "When Adam's sin plunged the race into hopeless misery, God might have cut Himself loose from fallen beings. He might have treated them as sinners deserve to be treated. He might

have commanded the angels of heaven to pour out upon our world the vials of His wrath. He might have removed this dark blot from His universe. But He did not do this. Instead of banishing them from His presence, He came still nearer to the fallen race." 13

"The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner." 14 "Christ consented to die in the sinners stead, that man, by a life of obedience, might escape the penalty of the law of God. His death did not make the law of none effect; it did not slay the law, lessen its holy claims, nor detract from its sacred dignity. The death of Christ proclaimed the justice of His Father's law in punishing the transgressor, in that He consented to suffer the penalty of the law Himself in order to save fallen man from its curse." 15 "He died, the just for the unjust, the innocent for the guilty, that the honor of God's law might be preserved and yet man not utterly perish." 16 "And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again." 17

"And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt Me and My vineyard. What could have been done more to My vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes." 18

It has been brought to my attention that a recent article of mine "Changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man." The Lord knows that I did not do this deliberately. I apologize to Him, to His people the church, and to the editors, writers, and readers of the Reformation Messenger. Please forgive me.

"Verily I say unto you, all sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme." 19 "And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." 20 "What constitutes the sin against the Holy Ghost? It is willfully attributing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit. For example, suppose that one is a witness of the special work of the Spirit of God. He has convincing evidence that the work is in harmony with the Scriptures, and the Spirit witness with his spirit that it is of God. Afterward, however, he falls under temptation; pride, self-sufficiency, or some other evil traits, controls him; and rejecting all the evidence of its divine character, he declares that that which he had before acknowledged to be the power of the Holy Spirit was the power of Satan." 21 "Beware how you indulge the attributes of Satan, and pour contempt upon the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. I know not but some have even now gone too far to return and repent." 22

Chester Cosby
Detroit, MI

1) 3T 66 - 2) 3T 221 - 3) 6T 9 - 4) 3T 218 - 5) 3T 213 - 6) SC 38 7) Romans 5:7, 8 - 8) 5T 503 - 9) 6T 186 - 10) SC 17 - 11) PP 331 - 12) DA 22 - 13) SD 11 - 14) PP 63 - 15) 2T 200, 201 - 16) 4T 251 17) 2 Corinthians 5:15 - 18) Isaiah 5:3, 4 - 19) Mark 3:28 - 20) Matthew 12:32 - 21) 5T 634 - 22) TM 90

**FOR EVERY TRIAL, GOD
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IMS PUBLISHING
54 Newcastle St.
Toronto, Ontario, M8Y 1A3
Canada.
Tel.:(416) 252-1197
(416) 252-6625
E-mail: tmartin@netcom.ca
New Web Site
<http://ims.truepath.com>

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