



*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**  
VOLUME 24, NUMBER 1, JANUARY 2017

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

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# Country Living

the cities. As did Enoch, we must work in the cities but not dwell in them.” – *Evangelism*, p. 77–78

“The cities are to be worked from outposts. Said the messenger of God, ‘Shall not the cities be warned? Yes, not by God’s people living in them but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth.’” – *Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 358 (1902)

“For years I have been given special

“Although everything God had made was in the perfection of beauty, and there seemed nothing wanting upon the earth which God had created to make Adam and Eve happy, yet He manifested His great love to them by planting a garden especially for them. A portion of their time was to be occupied in the happy employment of dressing the garden, and a portion in receiving the visits of angels, listening to their instruction, and in happy meditation. Their labor was not wearisome, but pleasant and invigorating. This beautiful garden was to be their home, their special residence.” – *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 34

“What were the conditions chosen by the infinite Father for His Son? A secluded home in the Galilean hills; a household sustained by honest, self-respecting labor; a life of simplicity; daily conflict with difficulty and hardship; self-sacrifice, economy, and patient, gladsome service; the hour of study at His mother’s side, with the open scroll of Scripture; the quiet of dawn or twilight in the green valley; the holy ministries of nature; the study of creation and providence; and the soul’s communion with God—these were the conditions and opportunities of the early life of Jesus.” – *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 365–366

“Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies.” – *The Adventist Home*, p. 141

“As God’s commandment-keeping people we must leave

light that we are not to center our work in the cities. The turmoil and confusion that fill these cities, the conditions brought about by the labor unions and the strikes, would prove a great hindrance to our work. – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 84

“When iniquity abounds in a nation there is always to be heard some voice giving warning and instruction, as the voice of Lot was heard in Sodom. Yet Lot could have preserved his family from many evils had he not made his home in this wicked, polluted city. All that Lot and his family did in Sodom could have been done by them even if they had lived in a place some distance away from the city.” – *Evangelism*, p. 78

“To many of those living in the cities who have not a spot of green grass to set their feet upon, who year after year have looked out upon filthy courts and narrow alleys, brick walls and pavements, and skies clouded with dust and smoke—if these could be taken to some farming district, surrounded with the green fields, the woods and hills and brooks, the clear skies and the fresh, pure air of the country, it would seem almost like heaven.

“Cut off to a great degree from contact with and dependence upon men, and separated from the world’s corrupting maxims and customs and excitements, they would come nearer to the heart of nature. God’s presence would be more real to them. Many would learn the lesson of dependence upon Him. Through nature they would hear His voice speaking to their hearts of His peace and love, and mind and soul and body would respond to the healing, life-giving power.” – *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 191–192

*Ellen G. White*

# The year 2017

# and You



At this threshold of another year, 2017, reason tells us that we have one less year to prove our stewardship faithful before the coming of the Lord. Time moves on for all. While we can look back and also look forward, in reality, there is only one moment in which to act. That is the moment we have right now. Yesterday is forever past, and tomorrow has not yet come. From the past we are privileged to learn—if we will—but we cannot change it. And as for tomorrow, we need to learn to leave the future with God. The freedoms we have long enjoyed are being eroded. Soon we will have to do “the work which” we have “failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity. . . under most discouraging, forbidding, circumstances.” — *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 463

The day is almost gone; the night is coming on. We see God’s judgments on both land and sea. We are not granted a second probation. This is not a time for making wrong moves. We thank God that everyone still has a chance to make a covenant with Him. A year that is past will not return. How many were marked by the loss of a loved one, family breakdown because of sin and failure to confess, or financial loss? But we have life. There is still opportunity to seek God while He can be found. Seek Him today, my dear brother and sister. Jesus intercedes for you. He is standing at your heart’s door. Open it, for He grants full salvation. Trust Him as your Saviour. “Before the flood God sent Noah to warn the world, that the people might be led to repentance, and thus escape the threatened destruction.” — *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 102

In this short article, let us think on the past year 2016 and improve our lives by sanctification in 2017 since it is a privilege. . . .

Thousands of people lose their lives every year on our planet. How many died in this past year? Why are you

still alive? God has yet a plan for your life.

As we start another year, it is time to remember the goodness of the Lord during the previous year. Another year of mercy is about to end. It is our duty to ask ourselves the following questions: During the past year, did I come closer to my Lord Jesus or have I gone farther away from Him? Am I a keen student of prophecy, to discern its fulfillment? Do I realize that what is happening in the churches is a token of the soon coming of Jesus?

We are about to enter the year 2017, and it is very important that we decide to be fully on God’s side.

God is waiting and is willing to do much for His people. Christ still prays to His Father that His brethren may be one (John 17:20–23). Shall we not, then, pray as He prayed and live as He lived? Through His free gift of grace, we have this life, so why not rejoice and live to share the good news. After all, it is “by the obedience of one” that many shall “be made righteous.” Romans 5:19

As we start another year, it is time to remember the goodness of the Lord during the previous year.

## GOODBYE 2016, WELCOME 2017

Dear reader, take time to reflect on a personal, family, and community level about the year that is ending—2016. Let us establish new spiritual goals and lift up our hearts to the Lord in prayer. Let us humiliate our souls before Jesus for vows unfulfilled, goals not reached, defects still overcome, and our overall neglects.

Dear brethren and reader, “Can you look back upon

your course through the past year with sweet satisfaction? Have you made progress in the way to heaven?—Have you been overcoming your pride of heart, your pride of dress, and are you becoming more humble, meek, like Jesus, the lovely Pattern?” —*The Youth’s Instructor*, January 1, 1856

“The old year, with its burden of record, is fast passing away. The new year [2017], with all its possibilities, will soon be ushered in. What advancement have we made in the knowledge of Christ during the past year? Are we prepared to show, more decidedly than ever before, that we are on the Lord’s side? At this time, when the nations of the world are wavering between infidelity and idolatry, are we prepared to stand as faithful ambassadors for Christ? Shall we not, at the beginning of this new year, give ourselves and all we have to God? Shall we not listen to His voice, which calls us to a renewed contest, to a more thorough consecration of ourselves and our entrusted capabilities to His service?” —*The Signs of the Times*, January 2, 1901

“Another year has nearly passed into eternity, with its burden of record. Let us look over the past year, and if we have not done our full duty willingly, heartily unto the Lord, let us come up to the new year making a faithful record to our God.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 308

Let us consider with much care what Sister White wrote to her son—a birthday letter, as he was about to enter a new year in his life. Consider it as your own letter sent to you at this time:

“Another year of your life closes today. How can you look back upon it? Have you made advancement in the divine life? Have you increased in spirituality? Have you crucified self, with the affections and lusts? Have you an increased interest in the study of God’s word? Have you gained decided victories over your own failings and waywardness? Oh, what has been the record of your life for the year which has now passed into eternity, never to be recalled? . . . A new year of your life now commences. A new page is turned in the book of the recording angel. What will be the record upon its pages? Shall it be blotted with neglect of God, with unful-

filled duties? God forbid. Let a record be stamped there which you will not be ashamed to have revealed to the gaze of men and angels.

“As you enter upon a new year, let it be with an earnest resolve to have your course onward and upward. Let your life be more elevated and exalted than it has hitherto been. Make it your aim not to seek your own interest and pleasure, but to advance the cause of your Redeemer. Remain not in a position where you ever need help yourself, and where others have to guard you to keep you in the narrow way. . . . Aim to honor God in everything, always and everywhere. Carry your religion into everything. Be thorough in whatever you undertake.

[In this year 2017], “Let every purpose you form, every work in which you engage, and every pleasure you enjoy, be to the glory of God. Let this be the language of your heart: I am thine, O God, to live for Thee, to work for Thee, and to suffer for Thee.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 261–262, 268

Therefore, after heeding the above statement, remember that the page of 2016 is being turned.

Think on what is recorded in the heavenly books under your name! Have you honoured the Lord? Many opportunities were given you. Did you make a wise use of them, for yourself, your family, or your church? Have you overcome

your pride? Have you walked in integrity and fear (Job 1:1)?

If you think Christ is delaying His return, then do your best to hasten it (Matthew 24:14).

Have you erred far from the Lord who redeemed you? It is time to reconcile and rededicate yourself to God. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.” James 4:7–8. “Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well.” Isaiah 1:16–17

Is your heart tired and hopeless? “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.” Psalms 37:5

*Now, a year of grace is ending, while another year begins, not knowing what it (the year 2017) will bring; it is the appropriate time to reflect about the change that should take place in our life.*

If you are fearful, remember the promise, “There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” Joshua 1:5–8

If it has been a long time and you have not made the decision to totally separate from the world and its influences, take heed of these verses: 1 Kings 18:21; Joshua 24:14–15

Why are you hopeless about your future projects and plans? “The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.” Proverbs 16:1–3

Regarding the hard situation you may have faced in 2016, be courageous to enter 2017 with great hope and perseverance. 1 Peter 2:19; 4:12–13; 5:9; Revelation 21:4

Were there any differences, divisions in the family or among brethren? Remember this scripture: Matthew 5:9; James 5:16; Ephesians 4:32; Galatians 6:2

If you have lost time in criticizing others, evil surmising, judging motives and fault finding, remember, this is the work of the accuser:

“The spirit of gossip and talebearing is one of Satan’s special agencies to sow discord and strife, to separate friends, and to undermine the faith of many in the truthfulness of our positions.” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 194. Some pride themselves. . . . They criticize, they wound, they say disagreeable things. Will the character they are cultivating recommend them to

Jesus? Will it fit them for the society of heaven? We do well to examine ourselves to see what manner of spirit we are cherishing. Let us learn to speak gently, quietly, even under circumstances the most trying.”—*The Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 141

### **PRESSING TOWARD PERFECTION**

May you testify as the apostle Paul said: “I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13–14

“We are now entering upon a new year, and may it prove a beginning of years to us. If in the old year we have made failures, let us commence the new by rectifying these errors as far as we can. If the old year has borne into eternity a spotted record of opportunities neglected and privileges slighted, let us see that that of the new year is free from these blemishes. Its days are

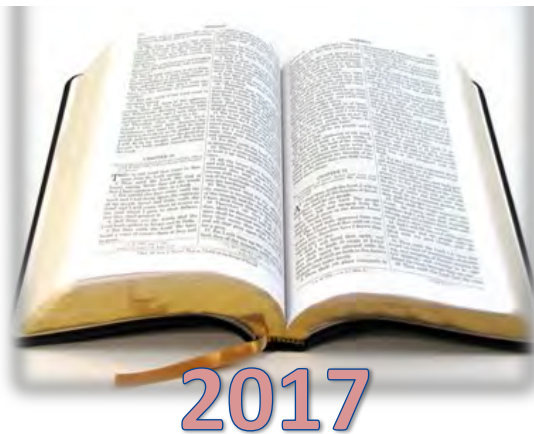
all before us; let us begin now to make the history of each as it passes, such as we shall not tremble to meet in the judgment. . . . Let us develop all our powers, and make of ourselves all that God designed that we should.”—*Australian Union Conference Record*, January 5, 1914

“Happy New Year. Another year, with its burden of record, has passed into eternity. We know not what that record is,

and cannot know till the judgment. But a new year has commenced, and I feel like dedicating myself anew to God, soul, body, heart, and strength. A new page is turned. What shall be the record of this new year? What shall be its revelations in the history of the world? What shall be its revelation in our individual history?”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, p. 44

### **“TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY”**

“Professed Christians, worldly Christians, are unacquainted with heavenly things. They will never be brought to the gates of the New Jerusalem to engage in exercises which have not hitherto specially interested them. . . . Good purposes are right, but will prove of no avail unless resolutely carried out. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. . . . The heavenly character must be acquired on earth, or it can



never be acquired at all. Then begin at once. Flatter not yourself that a time will come when you can make an earnest effort easier than now. Every day.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 265, 267

“The new year has commenced, and with the commencement of this new year, you should dedicate yourselves to God. Now give yourself to Him, soul, body, and spirit, to do His will. Let all selfishness, your disobedience to your parents, all your faults, and besetting sins die with the old year. Begin this new year to the glory of God. Pray to Him, morning, noon, and night, to give you a meek and humble spirit, a mild temper, an affectionate disposition. Live as you never lived before. Begin this new year with new feelings, fresh desires, and a strong determination to glorify God.” – *The Youth’s Instructor*, January 1, 1856

“Although in one sense the first day of a new year is no more to God than any other day, yet He often puts into the heart of His children at that time a desire to begin the new year with good resolves,—perhaps with plans to carry out some worthy enterprise,—and with purposes to depart from the wrongs of the old year, and to live the new year with new determinations.

“We are yet in the early part of the new year. Let this work of consecration and progression be begun without delay. Let this first part of the new year be given to the work of pruning away the branches of selfishness. Let the mind turn with clear discernment to the work of examining critically our individual course of action. It is not our privilege to measure the actions of others or criticize their failings. God has not made us the bearers of others’ sins. It is with our own selves we have to do. The more thorough the work of repentance and reform in our own lives, the less we shall see to criticize in others.” – *The Youth’s Instructor*, February 11, 1908

“The old year, [2016], with its burden of records, has passed out, and the new year [2017], with its prospects, hopes, and labors, has come.

“My dear youthful readers, will you not pause, while standing upon the very threshold of [2017], and inquire of your own hearts what has been the character of the life record that has passed up to Heaven for you? The past year’s record, be it good or evil, cannot be changed. If you feel that your past life has been almost a failure, how much reason have you for gratitude to God that your probation did not close with the old year

“Another year now opens its fair unwritten pages before you. The recording angel stands ready to write.

Your course of action will determine what shall be traced by him. You may make your future life good or evil; and this will determine for you whether the year upon which you have just entered will be to you a Happy New Year. It is in your power to make it such for yourself and for those around you. If you connect with God, you may make bright sunshine in the family circle by thoughtfulness of others’ comfort, putting away all discontent, and being cheerful, courteous, and obedient, or you may pursue a course that will bring a dark shadow upon the hearts of those who have ever loved you, watched over you, and cared for you from your earliest infancy.” – *The Youth’s Instructor*, January 5, 1881

What is your testimony at the end of another year? What is the example you are setting at home, in the church, and in your walk of life? God expects, and wants, us to reflect His character to others. “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 24:44. Have a blessed New Year, and may the New Year see us ready for His return.

“You will not be able to say that He will come in one, two, or five years, neither are you to put off His coming by stating that it may not be for ten or twenty years. . . . We are not to know the definite time either for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or for the coming of Christ.” – *Evangelism*, p. 221

The New Year 2017 lies before us, and plans should be made for earnest, persevering effort in the Master’s service. For the sake of Christ, brothers and sisters, let us take full advantage of the hours, days, weeks, and months of the New Year for God’s honour and glory!

**Victor Shumbusho, D. R. Congo**





# Do Not Commit Sin

**“Go, and sin no more” John 8:11**

It is sin that has changed the world into its present condition. Sin has caused wars, crimes, and all the evil in the world. And the sad thing is that many people love sin. Even for Christians, it is a struggle to try to give up sin.

Sin started from a small disobedience—eating the forbidden fruit—but the consequences of that one sin are tremendous. For six thousand years, it has caused every human being to commit sin.

People who delay their obedience and overcoming sin to a later time may not make it. Another great danger is committing sins, trusting that God always forgives sin, and that the only thing they have to do is to say, “Forgive my sins that I have done today,” and then repeat it again the next day. But, the Bible says, “For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.” Hebrews 10:26

Willful sin, if persistently cherished and committed, will grieve the Holy Spirit and, if not repented of, will eventually lead to the sin against the Holy Spirit, at which point there will be no more forgiveness. Sin that is done ignorantly God will forgive if we repent and ask for forgiveness. Also, sin that is done from human weakness God will forgive, like the sin that David committed because he repented and did not persistently continue in sin. Sins that are forgiven still bring consequences to us. David killed Uriah, and he lost four of his own children prematurely. Jacob lied to his father, Isaac, and then his own children lied to him about Joseph, and he also had to spend 20 years far away from his home country. God forgave Jacob his sin, but still he suffered for it.

Uzzah knew that he must not touch the ark of the covenant, but he did touch it, and he died that moment. The sons of Aaron knew that they could not bring common fire into the sanctuary, however they did bring common fire, and they both died. Ananias and his wife, Sapphira decided to lie to the church, and both of them died that mo-

ment.

“Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” Isaiah 40:1–2. The people of Israel had committed sins, and the Lord forgave them their sins, but He also chastened the nation at that time, double for their sins. He has said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” Revelation 3:19

If you neglect to pay God your tithes, or your taxes to the government, individually you will receive a just punishment from God.

“For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.” Revelation 18:5–6. The leaders in the fallen churches, Babylon, in these verses were to receive a double reward as they were instrumental in leading many innocent souls astray. It is grievous in the sight of God to continue in willful sin, but it is more grievous to lead others into the wrong pathway.

“What if we should lose our soul? It would be better for us had we never been born.” —*This Day with God*, p. 271

Jesus said this about Judas. “The Son of Man goeth as it is written of Him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.” Matthew 26:24

God’s people have to go through persecution, prison sentences, even death sentences, also the time of Jacob’s trouble, but all this is nothing compared to the suffering in hell fire, unmingled with the mercy of God, which they will endure as a just punishment for all their sins. What God’s people go through is not a punishment, but a purifi-



cation of their characters.

Then, what we must do is to stop committing sins. There is a way to do it. We have a beautiful gospel song, written by Lewis E. Jones in 1899, based on the Bible verse Revelation 12:11, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony: and they loved not their lives unto the death." This Bible verse refers to the millions of martyrs who did not love their lives unto death, who received the power to overcome from the blood of the Lamb. The song is, "Would you be free from the burden of sin? There's power in the blood, power in the blood."

The Roman judges and the hardened soldiers could not understand how even little children were willing to die in the flames of fire for this Man, Jesus, rather than denounce Him.

It was the power of the blood of the Lamb that strengthened them. In this power of the blood, we can overcome every sin, and suffer gladly, rejoicing in persecution, prison, and even death for this man, Jesus.

"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

"The precious blood of Jesus is the fountain prepared to cleanse the soul from the defilement of sin. When you determine to take Him as your friend, a new and enduring light will shine from the cross of Christ. A true sense of the sacrifice and intercession of the dear Saviour will break the heart that has become hardened in sin; and love, thankfulness, and humility will come into the soul. The surrender of the heart to Jesus subdues the rebel into a penitent, and then the language of the obedient soul is: 'Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.' This is the true religion of the Bible. Everything short of this is a deception." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 625

"The atoning blood of Christ is the greatest blessing, ever granted to sinful man." —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 226

Without this power, religion is only an empty form; it does not satisfy the longing of the soul. This kind of religion is not a blessing, but rather a curse to the sinner.

But, there is a way to escape the temptations of Satan. "You cannot save yourself from the tempter's power, but he trembles and flees when the merits of that precious blood are urged." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 317

But if we love sin and have a desire to continue in sin, then the mighty power of God is gone from us, and only human weakness remains. Even the smallest sin that we

can think of, like just looking at vanity, is enough to lose the power of God. Many lose the power of God by neglecting their duties. God cannot say to them in the end, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:21

Human power alone is not strong enough to overcome sin and to put it away; we need the power of God to do it. Many people have said, "I am not strong enough to live according to the church's rules, therefore I cannot join!" But God has promised to give us power to move mountains, if we have faith (Matthew 17:20).

But God will not do the work alone to purify us from sin; human effort must be added to it. We must, by prayer, fasting, and adding the power of God, gain the victory over sin. Paul writes, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12

While we are caught in this human condition, Christ's advocacy work is available to each repenting sinner. The word of God enjoins, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments." 1 John 2:1-3

Then what happens? In addition to being our Advocate, He is our righteousness and when we, by faith, accept Him as our righteousness, then according to Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13. It is our claim by faith as we work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

That means that we must do it; we must overcome sin in the power of God. And when we must do this? The Bible is very clear. "To day if ye will hear His voice." Hebrews 3:7

Let us make a firm decision, that we will stop committing sins in the power of God. Your example will encourage others to do the same. Let us put out the utmost effort, and with the help of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the holy angels, and our brothers and sisters, we will gain the victory. Sin will be overcome and the perfect image of God will be seen in us.

Then we can sing, "The cleansing stream, I see, I see! I plunge, and, oh, it cleanseth me! Oh, praise the Lord, it cleanseth me! It cleanseth me, yes, cleanseth me."

And then we will meet each other in heaven. What a joy it will be! Amen.

**Timo Martin**





# Can an Idea or Doctrine be Dangerous ?

Once, when a stubborn disputer seemed unconvinced, Abraham Lincoln said, "Well, let's see, how many legs does a cow have?" "Four, of course," came the reply, disgustedly. "That's right," agreed Lincoln. "Now suppose you call the cow's tail a leg; how many legs would the cow have?" "Why, five, of course," was the confident reply. "Now, there's where you're wrong," said Lincoln. "Calling a cow's tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

We read the following in 2 Timothy 2:14–18, "Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."

The Apostle Paul, in verse 15, gives the instruction to "study to show thyself approved." When we study, who are we trying to show ourselves approved unto? It should be to God! In the next part Paul says that by studying to show ourselves approved unto God, we will not have to be workers that are ashamed.

What reasons can we think of today why people study? Why do people as adults that have already attended 12 years of schooling choose to study more, whether at a University or through self-directed learning? There are a variety of reasons. Perhaps they genuinely want more knowledge, or they may want to be an exponent of a particular idea or belief. They may want the status that comes along with having a wide knowledge

base in a particular field, or in multiple fields. In many cases individuals choose to study because they believe that this will help them get ahead in life, and will assist them in receiving the job they have always wanted.

Are there many people who continue to study so they will not be ashamed? Yes, some people take a great pride in having a wide knowledge base, and feel it is shameful to have limited knowledge or a limited education. But how many people study to show themselves approved unto God, a workman in God's vineyard that "needeth not to be ashamed"? Not many! But this is what we are called upon to do! So, why is it necessary to study to show ourselves approved unto God? Quite simply, because we are all called upon to be workmen and workwomen for God, whether or not we do it fulltime. And, as workmen for God, we have the responsibility of working for the benefit of our fellowman. However, ultimately we must remember that the eyes of God are ever upon us, and it is God whom the Christian must ultimately answer to.

In the verses above, it also mentions in verse 15, that we are to rightly divide the word of truth (literally, "to cut straight"). In other words, the Scriptures must be rightly interpreted so that no part of the Scriptures will be set in opposition to the truths presented by the Bible as a whole. It is undoubtedly shameful to claim to be a representative of Christ and then be led astray ourselves by some false idea or false doctrine. It would also certainly be shameful to claim to be a representative of Christ and a workman for Him and then, by incorrectly interpreting the Scriptures, ultimately lead people astray with our teaching. We do have a safeguard against this, however, and it is by studying to show ourselves approved unto God.

In verse 16 of Paul's counsel to Timothy, we are warned to "shun profane and vain babblings." How can we define



profane and vain babblings? We can safely say that everything that is antithetical to truth, or the opposite of truth, could be classified as profane or vain babblings. We could go one step further and say that any false idea or belief that can distract the individual's mind from truth can be classified as a profane or vain babbling. The reason we are called upon to shun all vain and profane babblings is because they will increase unto more ungodliness; they are, in fact, regressive in nature, just as sin is regressive in nature.

"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called." 1 Timothy 6:20. In this verse Paul adamantly asks Timothy to keep that which is in his trust. Timothy's trust was all the great and wonderful truths pertaining to Christ that Paul had taught him over the years. Just as the disciples were to keep the wonderful truths taught to them by Christ, pure and unaltered for future generations, so Timothy was expected to do the same. As young people today, do we have a responsibility to keep that which is in our trust? Absolutely we do; our parents have tirelessly instructed us in the truth in order to protect us from the errors that surround us in the world today.

Make no mistake about it, there are some very obvious errors in the world around us today. The dominant rhetoric currently is that protecting the feelings of others at all costs is essential, and that truth is dispensable. It is said that a true friend may hurt you with the truth, but they will never comfort you with a lie. All of us in the church can clearly see the obvious errors occurring in the world around us, but what about more subtle errors or false ideas that we see particularly in the religious world? Can one or two subtle errors or false ideas be dangerous?

Going back to the verse in 1 Timothy 6:20, just as with the earlier verse mentioned, we see the instruction to avoid profane and vain babblings, but here it is also mentioned that we are to avoid "oppositions of science falsely so called." This science comes from the Greek word "gnosis" which means knowledge or "to know", and particularly means a knowledge of spiritual mysteries. This is also the basis of the word agnostic, the "a" representing the opposite of the word that follows it. Therefore, agnostic means not having a knowledge of spiritual mysteries, or someone who believes that nothing can be known or understood about the existence of God or lack thereof.

This science falsely so called is actually referring to the Gnostics, which were a group in the time of Paul. Later, at the time of the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., their teachings were denounced as being heretical. But at the time of Paul, they labelled themselves as being Gnostics, believing that they had a great understanding of deep spiritual mys-

teries.

There were definite problems with the belief system of the Gnostics. They looked upon Christ as a revealer or liberator, rather than a Saviour or Judge. Some Gnostic groups promoted *Docetism*, the belief that Christ was pure spirit and only had a phantom body; Jesus just appeared to be human to His followers. They reasoned that a true emissary from the Supreme God could not have been overcome by the evil of the world, and to have suffered and died. Furthermore, they argued that God was so divine that He could not have been human. By saying that He had only a phantom body, they argued that He never experienced real human suffering. Do you see what the Gnostics did in this particular scenario? Depending on what exact stream of Gnosticism they came from, they either denied the humanity of Jesus completely or denied enough of His human experience that the focus was completely shifted away from His humanity. How can you regard an individual as being human if you say that they never had an actual body or experienced pain or suffering? Having a body and the capacity to experience pain and suffering is an undeniable and quintessential part of being a human.

To say that Jesus did not have a body or did not experience suffering seems to be a fairly extreme idea. However, there are strains of Adventism today that have beliefs on the nature of Christ that, although not the same, still lead to the same false conclusions that are essentially fatal errors, as far as salvation is concerned. They essentially believe that Jesus was only tempted from without and not from within, and that He was not tempted in all points as we are. By saying that He was tempted only from within and not in all points as we are, they are essentially following the same path as the Gnostics, and denying a part of His humanity and His human experience. It seems like such a subtle error, but there is really only one possible conclusion it leads to, and it is a significantly erroneous conclusion. It ultimately leads to the idea that we do not have to overcome all sin in order to be saved! Just think about it, we believe that God is indeed a merciful and just God, and we believe that He sent Jesus into the world to be our perfect example and one that we should model our lives after. But then purportedly in the same breath, this same merciful and just God is saying that we must live a perfect life, just as Jesus did, even though He had the distinct advantage of only being tempted from without and not in all points. The logical person would say that, it's not fair that I am expected to live a perfect life as Jesus when He had a distinct advantage. Someone that starts off with this false belief will come to a terribly erroneous conclusion, that because Jesus lived a perfect life but was not Human in the same way we are, we cannot be expected to live a perfect life and overcome all sin as He did.

It is only by believing that Jesus was 100% human and 100% divine, and by believing that He was subject to all parts of the human experience that we can possibly justify the expectation to overcome all sin. Otherwise verses such as, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48), would make no sense. Verses such as these would present the Christian with an impossible expectation. “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.” Philippians 2:15. We cannot possibly be expected to be blameless and a shining light in the world, unless we have a fully human example of how this is actually possible; a pattern to mold ourselves after. It must be a human example with no advantage over us! We know for a fact that Christ’s Divinity was never used to give Him any advantage. On the contrary, it worked against Him because He had to deal with the additional temptation of knowing that He had all this divine power at His disposal, which could not be used for His benefit (only for the blessing of those around Him), if the Plan of Salvation was to be successful.

“And He went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto Thee; take away this cup from Me: nevertheless not what I will, but what Thou wilt.” Mark 14:35–36. This verse is prime evidence of Jesus also being tempted from within and not merely from without. His human nature saw the terrible struggle that awaited Him, and, from within, His human nature cried out against this experience. However, He was willing to do His Father’s will in all things, and by saying, “if it is possible then allow this cup to pass from Me,” He was clearly saying, if it is possible for this cup to pass and the Plan of Salvation to still be enacted to the fullest then let it be so; but seeing as this was an impossibility He was more than willing to make the sacrifice for us.

“Even one wrong trait of character, one sinful desire, persistently cherished, will eventually neutralize all the power of the gospel. Every sinful indulgence strengthens the soul’s aversion to God. The man who manifests an infidel hardihood, or a stolid indifference to divine truth, is but reaping the harvest of that which he has himself sown. In all the Bible there is not a more fearful warning against trifling with evil than the words of the wise man that the sinner ‘shall be holden with the cords of his sins.’ Proverbs 5:22.” –*Steps to Christ* p. 34. We see here mentioned that

“one sinful desire, persistently cherished, will eventually neutralize all the power of the gospel”. This is something many have heard at some point before. Could we also say that holding on to one false idea or doctrine is a sin? If an individual has a knowledge of the erroneous nature of an idea, knowing that this idea may lead them away from Salvation, yet they still hold onto this false idea, then undoubtedly this is sin. It is clear that a single false idea which an individual clings onto, can neutralize all the power of the gospel.

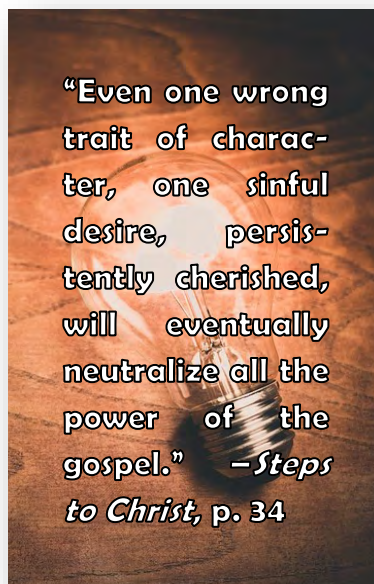
We read the following in 1 Corinthians 15:12–19: “Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching

vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” There were Christians and adherents to the church in Paul’s day that believed that there was no resurrection from the dead. We, as Christians, realize that this is a fairly major false doctrine. However, someone that had limited knowledge of Christianity may think it is not a significant issue, as it is only one

point of doctrine.

However, Paul clearly lays out all the dire consequences if this one false idea goes unchecked. If there is no resurrection of the dead then the logical conclusion would be that Christ is not really risen. If Christ is not risen, then all the preaching they were doing at Paul’s time was completely empty and pointless, and their faith was ultimately in vain. Therefore, by clinging to this one false idea, essentially their whole spiritual experience and everything they based their faith on was meaningless and dead.

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from hence.” John 18:36. The Jews mistakenly thought that the mission of Jesus on this earth was to establish an earthly kingdom and to throw off the Roman yoke. Since He did not do this, it appeared to them that Jesus was not fulfilling His mission as He should have. All these heavy-handed measures of subduing the Romans



and dominating in a worldly kingdom were not coming to pass, so it was easy for them to write off Jesus as an imposter, as someone who could not have been the long-promised Messiah. Their belief that the primary goal of the long-promised Messiah would be to establish an earthly kingdom, ultimately led them to believe that Jesus was not fulfilling His mission, and thus was a failure and an apostate. Of course there were other factors at play, such as their jealousy of Jesus and their worry about His popularity, but a false idea regarding the mission of Jesus was nonetheless a primary reason why they were led down the slippery slope which ended with nailing Him to the cross.

There are many other examples of how one false idea has led to the downfall of an individual or a religious organization. For example, John Calvin, at the time of the Reformation, was a proponent of the doctrine of Predestination, which is essentially the belief that only a previously selected elect will be saved. He was a great Reformer and did much for the cause; nonetheless this was a false idea as God is no respecter of persons. This false idea is played out today in the Christian world in the form of the false doctrine, “once saved always saved.” This idea leads many to believe that once they are baptized they can continue living on, deep in sin, and still hope to experience the joys of heaven. It sounds so pleasing to the ear, “once saved always saved,” but it leads to the individual having minimal incentive for living a righteous and holy life, believing they can have all the world and heaven too.

It is important to keep in mind that one false idea cherished almost always leads to other false ideas and eventually outright apostasy, just as one compromise of the truth leads to further compromises. Look at the Adventist church who rejected the Christ our Righteousness message in 1888, and then a few short years later in 1914 they agreed to fight in a war. They broke the following commandments, “thou shalt not kill” (often killing Adventists and Christians on the other side), “thou shalt not steal” (they stole lands), “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,” and “thou shalt not covet”, (coveting lands and the power of certain nations, which was not rightfully theirs). Even in the rare case that one small false idea does not cause the person or organization to accept greater false ideas, nonetheless, this one false idea has the power to neutralize all the power of the gospel and cause someone to miss out on eternity with their Maker.

At the end of the Battle of Britain, British vice-marshal Alexander Adams was driving to a meeting at his headquarters when he came upon a sign: ROAD CLOSED—UNEXPLODED BOMB. Adams called over the policeman on duty, hoping he might be able to suggest an alternate route. “Sorry, you can’t go through,” said the policeman as he approached the car. “The bomb is likely to go off at any minute now.” Then he caught sight of Adams’s uniform.

“I’m very sorry, sir,” he said, “I didn’t know you were a wing commander. It is quite all right for you to go through.” With “advisors” like that, who needs enemies! Although that policeman—who was trained to respect rank—momentarily allowed his deference to a vice-marshal to overcome his good sense, Adams had better sense than to follow his advice. We cannot allow pressure from those in power, or a desire to appease people, to cause us to promulgate or disseminate false ideas.

Because one false idea can wreak so much havoc, it is even more important for us to truly be defenders of the truth, and as young people to study to show ourselves approved unto God. How can we preserve the purity of the truth that has been taught us and teach it to those around us if we do not understand it thoroughly ourselves?

What about all those people who say that all we need is Love and Faith as Christians and this is enough to be saved? As important as Love and Faith are, no one that has had the opportunity to study Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy will be saved without a deep understanding of the truth. It is only with an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the truth that we will be lead to love the truth and to love our fellow man and God. It is the full and accurate knowledge of Jesus that gives us the incentive to show love. The Bible guides us and shows us the appropriate way to

show love to our fellow man, giving us the motivation and means to show love. A false doctrine knowingly held on to can, and will, lead someone away from the truth, and ultimately will limit their capacity to love in a genuine and Christ-like way. If they are holding onto falsehood they are likely also rejecting the Bible and all its principles. Without the Biblical principal of unconditional love, personified in Jesus, ever before us, it is very easy to lose the ability to love in the genuine Christ-like way.

A deep knowledge of Biblical truth is your only safeguard against all the errors proliferating rapidly today that are being taught as absolute truths and scientific fact. It is not necessary for us to study and attempt to de-construct erroneous ideas, but rather to study and construct our ideas of truth in accordance with the Bible. This is our only safeguard. It is my wish and prayer that you will know and understand the truth, and that this truth will set you free from all that besets you. Amen.

**Richard Eaton**





# The Way to the Cross

roads diverge. One is the path of obedience leading to heaven. The other leads into the broad road, where man can easily go with his burden of sin and corruption, but it leads to perdition.” —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1095

My dear brethren, I want to study this important subject about where our hope is centered. Think about the cross—what has the cross done for you personally? Is there any saving power in the cross? Is there anything that we can boast about? The Apostle Paul says, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Galatians 6:14

“Christ’s death proves God’s great love for man. It is our pledge of salvation. To remove the cross from the Christian would be like blotting the sun from the sky. The cross brings us near to God, reconciling us to Him.” —*The Acts of the Apostles* p.209

Paul continues to say, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews requires a sign, and the Greeks seek after the wisdom. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness.” 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21–23

People are asking, “Show us the signs which show that Christ is coming. Perform a miracle for us and thus we shall believe that His coming is near.” We preach the gospel which is foolishness to worldly people and a stumbling block to nominal Seventh-day Adventist people, but to those who are called and accept the call, whether they are Jews or Greeks, Christ is their power.

## **STRIVE TO ENTER THE STRAIT GATE**

"Enter ye in the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:13–14

“At the Dividing of the Way—The cross stands where two

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.” Jeremiah 6:16

We are being called to come to the cross with our sinful natures and we are being given the freedom to choose. Sadly, many are not willing to choose the path of obedience. Why is this? Because they are worldly-minded. They do not want to renounce the world and walk in the path-way of obedience.

Do you think life after the cross is the same as life before the cross? Or After Noah had entered the ark, do you think life in the ark was the same as outside? Solomon says, “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Proverbs 16:25

We are warned. “In the road to death the whole race may go, with all their worldliness, all their selfishness, all their pride, dishonesty, and moral debasement. There is room for every man’s opinions and doctrines, space to follow his inclinations, to do whatever his self-love may dictate. In order to go in the path that leads to destruction, there is no need of searching for the way; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad, and the feet naturally turn into the path that ends in death.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p.138

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

Many people claim to be Christians but do not make efforts to live according to their profession. They are attracted to Christ. Continuing from the above statement, we read, “But many are attracted to the beauty of Christ and the glory of heaven, who yet shrink from the conditions by which alone these can become their own. There are many in the broad way who are not fully satisfied with the path in which they walk. They long to break from the slavery of sin, and in their own strength they seek to make a stand against their

sinful practices. They look toward the narrow way and the strait gate; but selfish pleasure, love of the world, pride, unsanctified ambition, place a barrier between them and the Saviour. . . . Many 'will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.' Luke 13:24. [Why?] They desire the good, they make some effort to obtain it; but they do not choose it; they have not a settled purpose to secure it at the cost of all things." *-Ibid.*, p.143

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5

### **WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION**

Paul warned, "Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:12-13

Make some efforts to attain salvation as did Jacob. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on righteousness, my fellow believers. "But while he was pleading with God, an enemy, as he supposed, placed his hand upon him, and all night he wrestled for his life. . . . When his strength was almost

nearly spent, the Angel put forth His divine power, and at His touch Jacob knew Him with whom he had been contending. Wounded and helpless, he fell upon the Saviour's breast, pleading for a blessing. He would not be turned aside or cease his intercession and Christ granted the petition of this helpless, penitent soul according to His promise. 'Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.' Isaiah 27:5. Jacob pleaded with determined spirit, 'I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.' Genesis 32:26." *-Ibid.*, p.144

This is how we should strive for the blessing. We are to look at the cross where we will find refuge for our weary souls. Jesus is ever ready and willing to bestow upon us the blessing, but He wants us to work for it. We are not saved without making any effort on our part.

May God bless you all while we look to Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith. Grace be unto you all. Amen.

Watch for part two in the next issue: Which way are you choosing?

*Jenifer Akello Uganda*

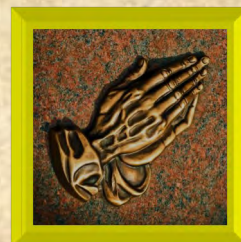
## **Just a Prayer Away**

A few months ago, I was sitting in the high speed train on the way to Munich Central Station after a youth meeting in Western Germany. The train stopped at the last station before the final destination. As often happens, I was looking outside the window and observing the hustle and bustle on the platform. All of a sudden something caught my attention and sent chills up my spine. A man had just gotten off the train and was holding something in his hand that looked very familiar to me. It was actually my red suitcase! Immediately I looked to the luggage rack in my compartment and, in fact, my luggage was gone! Within seconds I leaped from my seat and ran to the train door. Too late—it was already closed! I started pounding against the door, but obviously the man did not hear me and disappeared into the crowd. I started sweating, my mouth became dry, and tears came into my eyes. Not only clothes and personal belongings were in my suitcase, but also twenty German tests of my graduating class. Questions were rushing through my mind, "How should I explain this to my principal?" "What will be the consequences?" "How will my students react?"

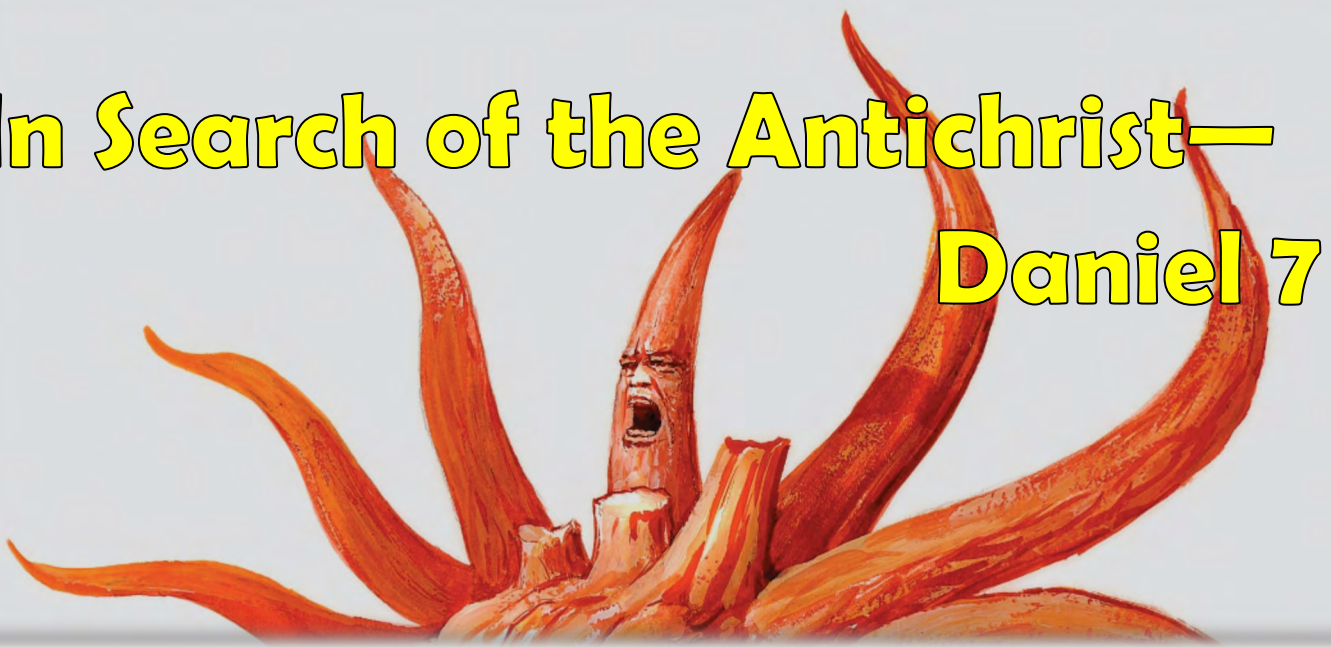
I felt helpless and desperate: "In my distress I called to the LORD. . . . From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help." Jonah 2:2

I decided to run through the train and look for the train conductor. It felt like a half marathon until I finally found him. After I had explained to the friendly man what had happened, he called the service center at Munich Central Station. In the meantime we had reached the final destination "Munich Central Station" and I waited impatiently until all the passengers had left the train. The conductor and I went through all the compartments of the train and we found unclaimed luggage which contained men's clothing and diving equipment. That gave me a glimpse of hope; my luggage might not have been stolen but taken away accidentally. The conductor told me to take it and see the service centre right away. To my surprise they were already expecting me there because the passenger with my suitcase had noticed the mix-up and had called the service center as well. Then everything happened so fast! Within a few minutes the assistant spoke with the man on the phone and arranged a meeting point at the subway station. Shortly afterwards I met up with him and we exchanged our luggage. It turned out that he was actually on the way to the airport to fly to Thailand for a diving holiday. What a great relief for both of us! I thanked God for this miracle and realized that God had been just a prayer away. "And He answered me. . . and He listened to my cry." Jonah 2:2

*Manuela DiFranca*



# In Search of the Antichrist— Daniel 7



In the first six chapters of the book of Daniel, God reveals a controversy between Christ and Satan—a controversy over God’s law and issues of worship. We also learned lessons from the life of Daniel—lessons of faithfulness and obedience and of worshiping the true God. We can apply these lessons to what we find in the last six chapters, as an earthly power tries to change the very heart of God’s law. “These chapters are filled with visions that challenge even the most advanced Bible students and scholars. Daniel is a book that has often been attacked by liberals who deny its inspiration. Abused by many who have taken its visions out of context to support all kinds of false theories concerning the second coming of Christ. But when properly read and understood, the book of Daniel can inspire us to greater faithfulness in our service to God and strengthen our faith in the inspiration of the Bible.” —*The Book of Daniel*, by Mark Copeland

The end of the first half ended in chapter 6 where we read how our God is the one and only God who is steadfast forever. When the lions roar in our ears, God is there.

In Daniel chapter 2, we read how the prophet Daniel was given a view of world history through a vision given to King Nebuchadnezzar. A great image represented the four great world empires which began in Daniel’s day and continued to our time and into the future. They were: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome and then a division of the Roman Empire into the European nations culminating in the Second Coming of Jesus. In Daniel chapter 7 another vision is recorded that covers

the same time period and empires, only this prophecy provides more details for the same historical events. These additional details are “the little horn” and “the heavenly judgement” ending with God’s kingdom or Christ’s Second Coming.

We cannot fully understand the last six chapters of Daniel unless we first understand something about the Bible’s two sanctuaries. God took Moses up onto Mt. Sinai, and there He revealed to Moses the plans for the earthly sanctuary. “And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.” Exodus 25:8–9. “And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount.” Exodus 25:40

The earthly sanctuary was divided into two parts—the outer court; and the sanctuary, or tabernacle. The tabernacle was also divided into two parts—the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place. Moses built this sanctuary, according to the dimensions God gave him in the Mount. This earthly sanctuary illustrated the plan of salvation. In the Old Testament sanctuary, if a person sinned it was necessary for them to come to the sanctuary with a lamb, without spot or blemish. The person then confessed his sin over the head of the innocent lamb and he, with his own hand, killed the lamb. In doing so, the sinner transferred his sin over the lamb, because “the wages of sin is death.” Somebody must die for the sin. In the Old Testament Sanctuary a lamb was slain instead of the sinner and this was a representation



of Jesus Christ. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. Jesus was our Lamb. We deserve to die. We have broken God's law. But God took our sins upon Himself, in the symbolism of the lamb. The blood of the slain lambs could not save anybody. The lamb that was killed pointed to the blood of Jesus that would save them.

There was a sanctuary on earth, but it was made after the pattern of the sanctuary in heaven. "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Hebrews 8:1-2. There was a sanctuary on earth and the true sanctuary is in heaven. A knowledge of the sanctuary is important in understanding Daniel Chapter 7.

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another." Daniel 7:2-3. Notice the symbols used in this dream. We can find their interpretation in the Bible itself.

"Four winds of the heaven" refer to war and strife. "And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; and there shall be no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come. For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies, and before them that seek their life: and I will bring evil upon them, even My fierce anger, saith the LORD; and I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them." Jeremiah 49:36-37. "The sea" symbolizes people and nations, "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." Revelation 17:15. The Four beasts coming out from the sea: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth." Daniel 7:17

The kingdoms in Daniel 2 were represented by precious metals, and the same kingdoms in Daniel 7 are represented by animals or beasts. These kingdoms are: Head of gold and Lion: Babylon 605-539 BC (Daniel 7:4); Chest of Silver and Bear: Medo-Persia 539-331 BC (Daniel 7:5); Thighs of Bronze and Leopard: Greece 331-168 BC (Daniel 7:6); and Legs of Iron and Terrible Beast: Pagan Rome 168 BC-476 AD.

In the Book of Revelation, in Chapter 13, we read about a beast that rises up out of the sea. This beast is known

as the anti-Christ. The entire world follows the beast's deceptions. It is a blasphemous power. Daniel 7 and Revelation 13:1-2 speak of the same power. They both have beasts coming out of the sea. Both have a total of seven heads and ten horns. Both mention a lion, bear, leopard, and dragon. The similarities between Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 show us that they refer to the same powers. Daniel and Revelation are in fact complementary books in Bible prophecy. It is important to understand the symbols of the lion, the bear, the leopard, and the dragon, in order to understand what is coming in the future with issues such as the union of church and state, and the number 666.

Here in Daniel 7 we have a description of a power that would rise in the early centuries. It would unite church and state. This religious power would claim God's authority, in that it had the power to change God's law.

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." Daniel 7:7-8. The Roman Empire, the fourth kingdom is represented by a terrible beast with iron teeth and ten horns. In Bible prophecy the ten horns represent the ten kings or kingdoms into which pagan Rome was eventually divided (Daniel 7:24). These ten kingdoms are the same kingdoms represented by the ten toes of the image in Daniel 2:41-44. Barbarian tribes swept in upon the Roman Empire, dividing them into the countries of modern Western Europe. As the little horn uprooted three of the original horns, three of the nations were uprooted and destroyed, the Heruli, Ostrogoths and Vandals. The breaking up of the Roman Empire started in AD 351 and ended in AD 476.



Who is this little horn that did this damage? "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were

three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.” Daniel 7:8. Since the Bible speaks about a little horn, we must identify it carefully as more is written describing this little horn than the other four kingdoms combined. Why? Because the Biblical characteristics identify it as the antichrist of prophecy and history. There must be no mistake in making this identification.

Here are ten characteristics that clearly identify the little horn power. The Bible makes it crystal clear. God wants us to know who this little horn is. What this little horn does. How this little horn power impacts God’s people living in the end of time. This little horn is none other than the Roman Papacy. Look at these interesting parallels:

1. It arises from Western Europe, from “among” the rest of the horns (Daniel 7:8). The Vatican arose in Western Europe.

2. It is small. The Vatican is a small nation.

3. It arises “after” the ten tribes of Europe are established (Daniel 7:8). The Vatican arose after the ten nations were established. The ten kingdoms were established by AD 476. The Vatican came to full political power in AD 538.

4. It destroys three of the other horns/nations (Daniel 7:8). The Vatican conquered three nations as it rose to power—the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths. All these kingdoms were plucked out by the roots. They have disappeared from Europe.

5. It is “different from” the other ten powers (Daniel 7:24). The Vatican “is different” from the other nations in that it is both a religious and a political power.

6. A man would speak for the little horn (Daniel 7:8). Daniel said that on the little horn were the eyes of a man. Daniel 7:8. There would be a man “seeing” for, or leading, this power.

7. It blasphemes against God, speaking words against the Most High (Daniel 7:25). The Bible defines blasphemy as a person claiming to have the ability to forgive sin, or a person claiming to be God. The Vatican blasphemes against God by both claiming to have the power to forgive sin and by claiming the prerogatives of God. The Vatican declares the infallibility of the Pope whenever he is speaking from his position of papal authority.

8. It would “persecute” God’s people (Daniel 7:25). The Vatican has persecuted Bible believing Christians down through the centuries and is responsible for the deaths of millions of people.

9. It would reign for 1,260 years—a time and times and half a time (Daniel 7:25). In Bible prophecy, a day is symbolic for a literal year (Ezekiel 4:6). Based on a 30-day calendar which was used by the ancient Scriptures, 3.5 times (3.5 years), would equate to 1,260 prophetic days and represent 1,260 years. In seven different places in the books of Daniel and Revelation, this same time period is given, using different phrases. Each time they make reference to the same event. The Vatican gained ultimate power in AD 538 and reigned until 1798, exactly as the Bible predicted, for 1,260 years. In 1798 the emperor Napoleon had Pope Pius VI taken captive and so the Vatican lost its position as a self-governing civil power. This is the deadly wound prophesied about in Revelation 13:3.

10. This power shall “think to change times and laws” (Daniel 7:25) indicating that an attempt would be made to change the Law of God. The Vatican attempted to change God’s law by substituting Sunday for the Bible Sabbath, by removing the second commandment from its official teachings and dividing the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment into two separate commandments.

History is clear that after Pagan Rome, Papal Rome or the Catholic Church arises. Jesus said, “Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Mark 7:7. Keeping holy the seventh-day Sabbath is a command of God. Doing so on the first day of the week is a commandment of men. Is it your desire to put God’s will first in your life? The apostle John wrote, “He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” 1 John 2:4

Right now, all over the world, thousands of faithful Christians are keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy. They do it not primarily to be saved or to earn merit with God, but because they love God and want to obey His commandments rather than the commandments of men. They want to show their loyalty to God by obeying Him.

In the next issue, we will address the judgment that is taking place in Heaven right now. Jesus has no secrets regarding this important matter; He wants you to know and to prepare for His soon returning. May God bless you richly as you study His word. Amen!

**Nicholas Anca**

# **THE ORIGINAL DIET OF MANKIND:**

## **ANALYZING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AN EVOLUTION-BASED OR CREATION-BASED DIET: HOW PERSPECTIVE CAN CHANGE THEORY**

Recently, I visited the Ark Encounter, a full-sized replica of Noah's ark, built in the northern part of Kentucky, in the United States. What the builders of the ark emphasized throughout the various displays was that perspective can alter the theories of why things are the way they are in the world. What do I mean by this? If one believes in evolution, the premise for the diversity of the world, how man and animals, and, in fact, all living organisms came to where they are now, is based on genetic mutations and natural selection, which took place over billions of years. Whereas, those whose perspective is based on the Bible creation and the flood will have a different explanation on man's beginnings, on the diversity of animal life, and how nature has created such formations as canyons, mountains, fossils, etc.

Evolutionists theorize that the *homo sapien* version of man developed from lower versions over millennia, whereas creationists believe that man was created 6,000 years ago, as a being much superior than we are now, and that we have degraded over that time to something much more inferior. Evolutionists explain such formations as canyons having been developed over millions of years, when large rivers carved out rock which slowly eroded away, leaving deep crevices in the earth. Those who believe in the flood explain formations such as canyons developing rapidly during a time when water covered the earth, creating the layers we see in deep canyons, such as the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA. However, what was also emphasized throughout were the inconsistencies in the premises by the evolution theorists which prove that evolution could not have occurred as once presumed.

When we study nature, both evolutionists and creationists both agree that animals change over time. For, example, some birds have thick beaks that make it easy for

them to crack tough seeds. If soft seeds became scarce, and only hard seeds remained, the birds with thicker beaks would survive and produce children, with the same genetic predisposition to thicker beaks. But, natural selection only works with what already exists. No amount of genetic manipulation can create something new out of material that did not exist in the first place. In Genesis we read that God created animals "each according to its kind." While God designed for genetic changes to produce variations within each "kind", animals reproduce according to their kind rather than changing into different kinds, as evolution would require. Science has yet to prove that genetic changes can occur where one species or kind of animal can mutate to produce a completely different species or kind of animal; however, this is the basis of the evolution theory.

It is the same way when various diets are presented, as the one considered most healthy for mankind. If one looks at evolution, it maps the progression of man's lifestyle, originally as hunter-gatherers, constantly moving to follow the available food sources, to finally settling into communities based on agriculture. Man's diet would have originally been based on accessing the food sources available at any given time of the year. Growing his own crops, and having the ability to establish communities, and storing the food grown for the times of the year when sources of food were not readily available, is a much more recent development, according to evolution. However, if we consider the perspective of creation, sinless man was created to eat every herb bearing seed, and fruits of the trees. However, immediately after sin, man was directed to include the herb of the field; he would till the soil and grow his own food. In determining the best diet for man, evolutionists and creationists have a completely different perspective, and the diet that man was designed to eat comes from two

completely different understandings of what the original diet of man contained.

There are many differing opinions, and just as many different variations of the diet that people promote as the one that is the most healthful for mankind. Today, the one that you hear a lot about is the Paleo Diet, the diet of the “cave man”. Why is this diet gaining popularity so quickly? What is the premise behind this diet? The definition of the Paleo Diet is “a diet based on the types of foods presumed to have been eaten by early humans, consisting chiefly of meat, fish, vegetables, and fruit, and excluding dairy or grain products and processed food.” And, the mantra of this diet is, “If a caveman couldn’t eat it, neither can you.” Proponents of this diet argue that man’s original diet—that of the caveman’s—should be followed even today, as it is the diet that was original to our species.

This diet consisted of food based on what they could hunt or find at any given time of the year—meats, fish, nuts, leafy greens, regional vegetables, and seeds. Sure, some parts of it sound healthy and are based on sound principles—remove all processed foods, remove dairy products. Go back to the diet that man ate before grocery stores were the place where most of us purchase our food, where much of the “food products” are far from their natural state.

But, if we believe in the Bible creation, what do we find in Genesis? What was Cain’s occupation, the first descendent of Adam? He was a farmer! The first ancestor of Adam was *already* a farmer. God told man he would till the ground to produce food. There was never a time when man



was a hunter-gatherer, without the ability to grow his own crops. The Paleo Diet is presuming ancestors of ours that never existed—if you believe in creation—as far back as 150,000 years ago, long before man was created by God. Even by the estimation of those who promote the Paleo Diet, they determine that the agricultural revolution began about 10,000 years ago, *still* long before man was created. They determine that man existed without eating grains for 140,000 years, which is why the Paleo Diet is the one we should be eating, as that is the original diet of our ancestors. They propose that we learned to exist and thrive as a species without grains, and that is why man exists even to this day. But we know that ultimately this diet is flawed in its whole premise. Our ancestors never lived like cave men. In fact, the interesting thing is that the evolutionist’s timeline as to when men started to farm goes along with

the same timeline as the Bible. Unbeknownst to them, they are confirming Bible history of when man became the agriculturists that God guided them to be. However, because this diet mixes in truth with falsehood, it is easy to be fooled. Satan’s attacks on truth are most successful when some truth is contained in it, as it is with the Paleo Diet.

Included in the Paleo Diet and many others that are gaining popularity today is the premise that gluten-free diets are the way to better health. Grain, especially wheat, is considered the cause of many of the health problems facing mankind today. We read of “gluten sensitivity, gluten-free” diets, Celiac disease. They are becoming the focus of the ills affecting mankind. However, in all this, the other unhealthy foods are ignored as contributing to man’s declining health. Food companies are making large profits catering to the gluten-free craze, by manufacturing many food products that satisfy this growing demand. Proponents of the Paleo Diet determine that our current lack of health is because we include grains in our diet, something we were never meant to eat. This flawed premise of the Paleo Diet should then conclude that man’s health began to deteriorate 10,000 years ago when man began to grow crops, not just in recent years. They seem to overlook another possibility, which is that something other than grains is causing all the health problems of today. If they chose to believe in the Bible, and creation, their starting point would have been based on the fact that the original diet of man was *not* as that of a cave man, but as a vegetarian, eating nuts and seeds, and then, after sin, tilling the ground for their food, which meant introducing foods such as grains.

What is missing from the original diet given to man by God? MEAT. If the authors of the Paleo Diet decided to instead research our ancestor’s diets based on a vegetarian diet, they may find even more health benefits from this diet than theirs. We promote similar causes for ill health, such as processed foods, dairy and sugar. And, from previous articles that have been written in the *Messenger*, we can determine that wheat is probably not the ticking time bomb, but that we have difficulty processing wheat because of all the other chemicals that have been introduced in our diet, that is destroying our health. Wheat has not changed much for 6,000 years. But, what has changed? Man’s diet from the original diet given by God, which includes meat, dairy, processed foods, sugars, and unhealthy fats.

Knowing that God created man as a perfect being, who then sinned, He still ensured that after sin, man would continue to maintain those laws of health which would benefit him. God does not leave anything to chance. In creating man, He also established man’s diet. Why would God cre-

ate a perfect being, without ensuring the continued health of this being? He gave man all that he needed to maintain his physical and spiritual health, by setting up guidelines on health, which included sleep (created a day and a night), rest (created the Sabbath), exercise/useful labour (tending to the garden/dominion over animals), and diet (plant life). All these guidelines, established in Eden, continued after man fell into sin. Because the ground would no longer produce its fruits as readily as in Eden, God added to man's diet. He would be able to till the soil, and produce his own food.

What does the Bible tell us? "For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive, and honey, A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, though shalt not lack any thing in it." Deuteronomy 8:7-9. Here Moses was reminding the Israelites of God's promises to them, that He was bringing them to possess the land promised to their fathers, after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. "I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye build not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat." Joshua 24:13. God also gave mankind the early and the latter rain, in order to produce his crops—the early rain to start the seeds germinating, and the latter rain to finally complete the growing of the crops, so that they could be harvested. The Paleo Diet, and others similar to this one, base their ideas on evolution vs creation. Of course the agricultural revolution occurred when it did; it is when man was actually created, and was given grain as part of his diet after sin.

The Paleo Diet is promoting a return to the diet of our ancestors. They claim that because we have become a species dependent on grains, dairy and sugar, our diet is contributing to the increase of the number of diseases in the world.

We as God's people are also teaching the health benefits of a return to the "natural" diet of our ancestors to lessen disease. But, where we and the current Paleo promoters differ is that our ancestors were not "cave men" but God's perfect couple, created in Eden, after His own image. God did not give Adam and Eve a diet of meat. Why? God's perfect world did not contain death, therefore, eating animals was not part of man's original diet. Did man's body change so much after he fell into sin, that he now needed a meat diet? We find no proof in the Bible that man, after sin, required meat to maintain his health. At this point, death was the lot of every living thing on this earth, from plants, to animals, to man. God's people now had to kill an animal of their flock as a sacrifice for sin, so man quick-

ly had to accept that death was the natural consequence of disobedience to God's law. But still, God did not include meat in man's diet. Based on Bible knowledge, we did not evolve from cave men. We were not at one point in time, a lower, inferior human. In fact, our ancestors were far superior to us in both physical and mental attributes.

Finally after the flood, God told Noah, "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat." Many people use these verses to justify the continued eating of meat, to this day. However, many people also choose to forget that the original diet given to man did not include meat; they say that meat must a part of their diet, otherwise they will not be receiving all the nutrients needed by the body, that a plant-based diet is inferior.

Why was meat finally added to man's diet? "Before this time God had given no permission to eat animal food; but now that every green thing had been destroyed, He allowed them to eat the flesh of the clean beasts that had been preserved in the ark." —*From Eternity Past*, p. 63. But, what also happened to man when he began to eat meat? His lifespan decreased from living 900 years and more, to where the average lifespan in our day is 80 years of life or less. Already in David's time, he said, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow, for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Psalm 90:10. Man began to eat meat, but his lifespan and health suffered because of it.

Which perspective do we choose when considering what is a healthy diet? The perspective of the evolutionists, who want us to go back to the original diet of the supposed cave man? Or the perspective of a believer in God and the Bible, and return to the diet given to us in Eden? What we decide is all based on what we believe. Do we leave our lives in the hands of a theory that determines our existence by millions of years of chance and genetic good fortune, or in the belief in a loving, all-powerful Creator, who only wants what is best for us?



**NEXT MONTH:** we will start to look more closely into the diet given to us by God, how we can provide ourselves and our families with a well-balanced vegan diet, that contains all the nutrients to live healthful lives, that would meet the approval of the One who originally created us.



## CHILDREN'S CORNER:

# The Lost Coin



"Annie! Max! Can you come down please?"

"Coming, mommy!" Annie and Max quickly stopped colouring and made their way downstairs.

They walked into the kitchen and noticed their mother had taken almost everything out of her purse onto the table.

"Sweet peas, I need your help, I've misplaced the little green bag where I keep all the coins for laundry, and I don't remember where I left it."

"We'll help you find it mommy!" said Max excited, he loved looking for things because it made him feel like a detective.

Mother smiled, "Thank you my loves, I'll finish checking in here and then in the living room, and you both can look upstairs."

Annie and Max made their way upstairs. They looked under the beds, under the pillows, in the bathroom, in the hallway closets. After about twenty minutes of looking, they became quite tired.

"This is harder than I thought" said Max as he sat on the carpeted floor.

"Yes Maxy, but we can't stop looking, they must be here somewhere; did you check mother's room?"

"No, I thought you had checked it." They both looked towards mother's room.

"Then I guess there is only one more place those coins could be" Annie said as she walked into mother's room. Max followed, when suddenly he felt something under his foot; he had stepped on a little green coin bag hidden almost under their mother's bed.

"Annie! Annie! Look, I found it!" Max yelled excitedly.

"Maxy! Good job! Mother will be so happy!" Happily they hurried to tell mother. They found her looking under one of the couches in the living room.

"Mother! Mother! We found your coin bag!" they both shouted happily as Max held it up.

Mother smiled, "Thank you, my darlings! I must have dropped it when I was bringing the laundry down; let's go drink some lemonade while I tell you about a small parable Jesus once spoke about." Annie and Max smiled and nodded as they followed mother into the kitchen.

As they drank their lemonade, mother opened her Bible to Luke 15:8–10. "This is the story about a woman who had ten coins but lost one. When she realized one was missing, she lit a lamp and searched everywhere for that one coin. She didn't give up until she finally found it. It must have taken her quite a while because when she finally found the coin, she was so happy she called her neighbours and friends to celebrate with her because the coin that was once lost, was now found."

"Just like what happened to us" said Annie.

"Wait" said Max as he scratched his head, "I don't understand. Why was that one coin so important to her when she had nine other coins?"

"Very good question" replied Mother, "you see, what Jesus was trying to teach us is that each coin symbolizes each one of us, and that the woman in the parable represents Him. We are all important to God. He wants to save each one of us, and He will do the impossible to find us, even if it's just one person lost. Once He finds those who are lost, every heavenly spiritual being will celebrate. Isn't it wonderful to know how important and valuable we are to God?"

"Oh yes, I understand now" responded Max smiling.



## Challenge Three

Draw and color yourself inside the coin below



I am of great value to Christ

Complete all 15  
Challenges

Email your challenges here:

[veronicanoeemigarcia@gmail.com](mailto:veronicanoeemigarcia@gmail.com)

Don't miss Grandpa's  
next visit to Annie and  
Max's home!!





Christians in Senegal are few and most are not serious about their faith. They go to church for interests like finding jobs at church, money, and so on. To have members here you must buy them. Many Sunday churches do that. They open schools and training centers, then collect the people, giving them work in exchange for becoming church members.

I was sad to not only hear this, but we experienced it also. People have come telling us that we must fix the economy of our church first if we want to get members. Some, after hearing the truth we teach, say that they believe in it; but they frankly tell us that they cannot leave their church to come to us because of their job.

This has made the work even more difficult.

May the peace of God be with you.

Greetings with Esther 4:14, "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

We arrived here in Senegal last September and have now spent one year here. The work has been very difficult, but through the Grace of God we have managed to make more and more contacts.

Before we came we were initially told there were three members in Senegal and many interested souls; however, not long after, I was surprised to find out that there were no members or interested souls. It was hard to accept this transfer after hearing that news, but we trusted in the Lord that He will be with us because this is His work. So we decided to accept this transfer and leave South Africa even though they wanted my husband to remain there to work.

Senegal is a country where the majority of the population is Muslims. Christians make up just four percent of the population and the majority of them are Catholics. When we arrived, we knew no one except a few contacts my husband made when he came previously for a six-week trial. We started everything here from the beginning. We had to make friends with people first, then present them the message of salvation. Many people we met last year rejected us but we still carry on in the courage of the Lord.

We thought that if this is the only way to win souls here we would rather pack our things and go back to South Africa. But then again we asked ourselves the question, "will the Lord who has brought us to Senegal abandon us?" The answer was, "no", so we decided to pray more and ask God for people who are sincere—people who are looking for the truth and the truth only; who are unwilling to sacrifice the truth for money or jobs which we do not have to give to people so they can become our members.

The Lord has answered our prayers and we have five to seven people coming regularly and two of them are preparing for baptism. Let us hope they will not change their minds. Please pray for the work in Senegal as it is just so different from other countries.

Most of the people coming are young people and they love music. We pay for their transport and then we invite them to come eat at our place. It is just my way of bringing them to our house so they can hear the truth while they are with us.

Every Sabbath I make food for everyone. The General Conference sends us a little money for that and I also use our second tithe for this purpose.







There is a young lady who comes with her mother to learn how to cook vegetarian meals and they have proposed the idea of having cooking lessons for wom-

en so that they can learn how to cook vegetarian meals. However, I need a table because kitchens here do not have tables, and over here wood is expensive. I cannot afford one. This is another one of our challenges.

Since we started a clinic some good results are being seen, even though we do not have all the necessary equipment.

I wanted to start a sewing centre together with another woman who was a Senegalese who knows best how to sew clothes; but again, I could not get the financial help I needed.

It is discouraging sometimes but we keep on working with the Grace of the Lord.

We are now organising a three day seminar next month about health. People are happy and are looking forward to it.

We are living in an apartment in a Muslim country where religion is not tolerated. It is not safe at all.

We arrived here last year, in a new country, where we had no members or interested souls, and all the efforts we have been doing seem not to be noticed by anyone on earth. And this has discouraged me a lot at times.

We are starting the work here and we need to build a strong foundation based on the Rock which is Jesus Christ; so if people come looking for money only and

not the truth we will not baptize them. That is why we are not in a hurry. We want people to accept our message first and then be baptized. We do not want the work to suffer after we are gone.

We would like to open up schools, training centers, etc. Things like that will draw people to come to us and there we will have opportunity to present the truth to them, become door to door is not easy here. We depend on the contacts of contacts and some contacts do not want to present us to others.

This is just in short of what Senegal is like and the challenges we are facing.

May God bless you. Yours in Christ,

**Dorcas Ndomba, wife of Brother Judicael**

**Photos below are from Health Seminar**



**LOOKING FOR YOU...**

**If you are interested in submitting an item for publication in *The Reformation Messenger*, please submit by email or mail.**



**Submit: Drawings, Announcements, Reports, Articles, Poems, Photos, Personal Testimonies and Experiences.**

# Graduation (BAMI) in Kenya



**On November 27, 2016 the graduation was held for the 14 students who completed their course of study at the Berea Adventist Missionary Institute in Kenya. This is the 5th graduating class from this educational institution. Let us keep these young men and women in our prayers as they dedicate their lives to the service of the Lord and go about to the various different mission fields to spread the gospel, the good news that Jesus is coming soon.**

**To the right and bottom right are some of the instructors.**



# South Korean Autumn Conference



Newly elected officers




## Togo



## Congo



Above: Attendees of the Mbulula, Congo Camp meeting. Left: 17 souls were baptized during the Camp meeting in Lubumbashi. Above Right: Kipushi Camp meeting, standing with Church leader after baptism.

A photograph of a wooden staircase built on a hillside in a forest. The stairs are made of weathered wooden planks and are flanked by log railings. The path leads upwards through dense green foliage and trees. In the distance, a person wearing a blue hat and a light-colored shirt is walking up the stairs. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

**“Christ demands all. If He required less, His sacrifice was too dear, too great to make to bring us up to such a level. . . . ‘Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.’ This is a self-denying way. And when you think that the way is too strait, that there is too much self-denial in this narrow path; when you say, How hard to give up all, ask yourselves the question, What did Christ give up for me? This question puts anything that we may call self-denial in the shade.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 240**