

# *Our Firm* Foundation

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Volume 19, Number 11

November 2004



*James White:  
Heaven's Horseman*

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## Search the Scriptures

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17.

It has been over 140 years since God authorized our name and title as the Seventh-day Adventist Church—His remnant church of Revelation 12:17.

Almost 20 years earlier He called Ellen White as His messenger, soon after the great disappointment of 1844. Twenty-five million inspired words flowed from her dedicated pen. Her rebukes, warnings, and encouragement are a call to us to study to show ourselves approved unto God, to search the Scriptures with great zeal, letting the Scriptures—under the guidance of the Holy Spirit—explain the great truths and doctrines that have made us the remnant church of the Almighty God.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15.

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:39.

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” Acts 17:11.

The key to our salvation is to diligently search. The present apostasy—the Omega—has overwhelmed many of our leaders, pastors, and laity because we have failed to study as we should. Ellen White relates the desperate situa-

tion of the present apostasy in *The Upward Look*:

“It is of little advantage to skim over the surface of the Scriptures. If we would understand fully the words of Christ, thought must be brought into the searching of the Scriptures. We should open the Scriptures with great reverence, and not in a slothful, lazy manner. The Word of Christ is spirit and life to the receiver. The words of Christ to the Pharisees were, ‘[Ye] search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.’ John 5:39. They were searching the Scriptures for evidence of Christ’s appearing, gathering up every evidence in regard to the manner in which they supposed He would come, while Christ was in their midst, and they did not discern Him by the use of faith. . . .

“Many are doing the same thing today . . . because they have not had experience in the testing message comprehended in the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There are those who are searching the Scriptures for proof that these messages are still in the future. They gather together the truthfulness of the messages, but they fail to give them their proper place in prophetic history. Therefore such are in danger of misleading the people in regard to locating the messages. They do not see and understand the time of the end, or when to locate the messages. . . . The watchman is to know the time of the night. Everything is now clothed with a solemnity that all who believe the truth should feel and sense. . . . All the little things of life are but a mote now. Those that pertain to eternity are

of great consequence.” *The Upward Look*, 368.

God sends this warning against spiritualistic ideas and speculations:

“In these days, many deceptions are being taught as truth. Some of our brethren have taught views which we cannot endorse. Fanciful ideas, strained and peculiar interpretations of the Scripture, are coming in. Some of these teachings may seem to be but jots and tittles now, but they will grow and become snares to the inexperienced.” *Ibid.*, 316.

“The end of all things is at hand. The signs foretold by Christ are fast fulfilling. The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. There are stormy times before us.” *Loma Linda Messages*, 54.

Only those who are careful students of the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy, who are being taught daily by the Holy Spirit, will endure to the end and be saved. There will only be a very small remnant who will seek to know, to walk in the way of righteousness and perfection of character by the Holy Spirit’s power. See *The Ministry of Healing*, 492, 514; Jeremiah 29:13; Isaiah 1:9.

It is my prayer that you and I will be diligent students of the great light that Heaven has bestowed upon us. ✨



Elder Ron Spear, author and revivalist, has served the church for over 50 years, in both denominational and self-supporting lines, as a missionary, union department secretary, evangelist, pastor, field secretary for the *Review and Herald*, and editor of Our Firm Foundation.



## Our Mission

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world. —Editors

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## About Hope International

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## Invitation to Writers

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# Saintly Endurance

*Gordon Zutz*

**H**ow is it possible to be a patient, cheerful, hopeful, enduring saint while the dark storm clouds begin to gather on the horizon as the final days of probation fade into the sunset, while solemn events portray a gathering storm of trouble for these blameless, consecrated, holy saints? In Revelation 14:12, we are given a glimpse of their lifestyle: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Through faith in God's Word these faithful saints are encouraged by the words of Jesus found in Mark 13:13: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

In their knowledge of their Saviour's example and sacrifice, they are found "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher" of their faith. See Hebrews 12:2.

They are classified as saints who are obediently keeping God's commandments according to our opening text in Revelation. In a world in which even the very atmosphere seems tainted and darkened by sin, the opening question begs to be repeated, "How is it possible for this scattered group of commandment keepers to maintain their integrity and faithfulness to their high and holy calling?" In answer to this question, we find that they receive staying power by remembering inspiring words such as are found in Zechariah 4:6, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." And in the following inspired counsel, "All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life." *The Desire of Ages*, 827.

By these inspired words our attention is directed to the last phase of our opening text concerning the saints, "They keep . . . the faith of Jesus." In the text quoted earlier from Zechariah the Lord emphasizes that it is through His Spirit that the faithful are empowered to reveal Christlike characters during earth's final dark and troubled times. Isaiah has written concerning their heavenly Master during His earthly sojourn, "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him." Isaiah 11:2. This same Holy Spirit that Jesus allowed to direct His actions as He walked among men two thousand years ago is the same Spirit that He promises to uphold His faithful ones in this crisis hour that has come upon this world to test the human race.

Through Christ's humble, obedient saints, His character will be revealed and noticed by that "great multitude, which no man could number" (Revelation 7:9), who



will, just before probation closes take their stand on the Lord's side amidst a time of trouble and "great tribulation." Verse 14. This unnumbered multitude are, at this present time, still in the fallen churches of Babylon, but the missionary books, periodicals and truth-filled messages have been read and heard by them, and during the national Sunday-law movement, they will see in the character of the faithful "remnant" saints something that will stir their memory. The truth of God's Holy Sabbath will be recognized by them and they will break the bonds which have held them as they take their stand on the side of truth.

Many if not all of this great multitude will become martyrs as Satan places his spirit upon his deranged followers, attempting to prevent the honest souls from taking their stand for God's Holy Sabbath. It is the time of great tribulation which they experience as revealed by the angel to John. The very next verse locates them in heaven "before the throne of God" (verse 15) and the seventeenth verse reveals that Jesus will be their Teacher and Instructor bringing them to the full knowledge of truth, which they did not receive while captives in Babylon (the fallen churches). "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them."

What a wonderful privilege is held out to every Seventh-day Adventist to be among the faithful remnant group who will have the privilege of being God's instruments, revealing His character to that "great multitude" of souls! It is at the time when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people that God will use His faithful humble servants to lighten the earth with His glory.

The following inspired counsel reveals how we can be found among those faithful lightbearers at the time when gross darkness covers the earth and the people:

"When we submit (surrender) ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with

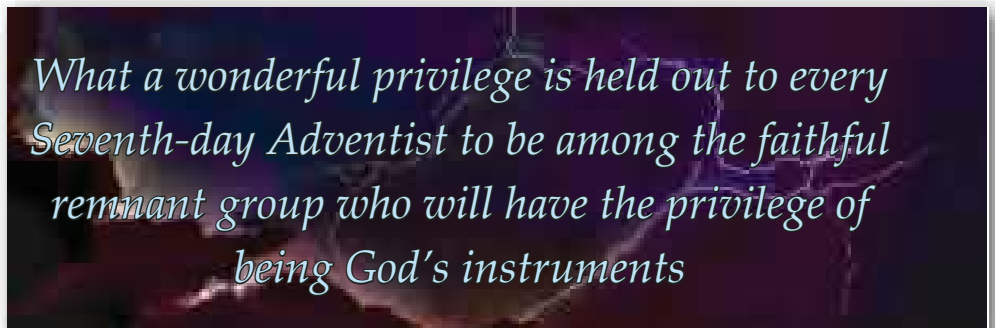


His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 312.

Praise God! As our generation stands on the brink of eternity and confusion, and chaos rules the day, this inspired counsel should encourage every Seventh-day Adventist to determine to be among that patient, cheerful, enduring group of soon-to-be-translated saints, who will stand before the throne of God blameless,

solved." *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 101.

"Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, 'Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.' This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him,



undefiled and have the glorious privilege of following the Lamb whithersoever He goes.

The following inspired counsel taken from various writings of God's servant—if adhered to—will prepare the reader to be among that translated company:

"If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious call you come wearing the yoke of Christ—the yoke of obedience and service—all your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront you will be

to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ. . . . It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness." *Steps to Christ*, 70–71.

"By prayer, by the study of His Word, by faith in His abiding presence, the weakest of human beings may live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold them by a hand that will never let go." *The Ministry of Healing*, 182.

"The remnant people of God must be a converted people. The presenta-

tion of this message is to result in the conversion and sanctification of souls. We are to feel the power of the Spirit of God in this movement. This is a wonderful, definite message; it means everything to the receiver, and it is to be proclaimed with a loud cry. We must have a true, abiding faith that this message will go forth with increasing importance till the close of time. . . . A solemn responsibility rests upon those who know the truth, that

history of the world will have come, when every movement in the government of God will be watched with intense interest and inexpressible apprehension. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another—fire and flood and earthquake, with war and bloodshed.

“Oh, that the people might know the time of their visitation! There are many who have not yet heard the testing truth for this time. There are

church is to be actively engaged on the side of Christ. The followers of Christ are to combine in a strong effort to call the attention of the world to the fast-fulfilling prophecies of the Word of God. Infidelity and spiritualism are gaining a strong hold in the world. Shall those to whom great light has been given be cold and faithless now?” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 43.

“The Lord wants His people in these days to believe that He will do as great things for them as He did for the children of Israel in their journey from Egypt to Canaan. We are to have an educated faith that will not hesitate to follow His instructions in the most difficult experiences. ‘Go forward’ is the command of God to His people.” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 271.

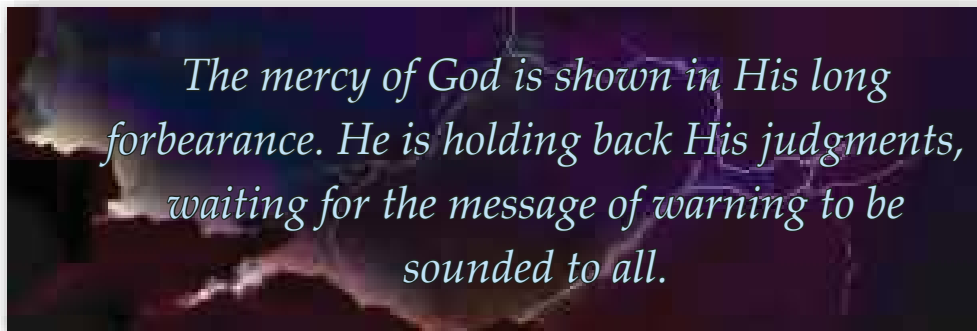
“When the refreshing and latter rain shall come from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power we shall know what it is to be fed with the heritage of Jacob and ride upon the high places of the earth. Then shall we see the Sabbath more in its importance and glory. But we shall not see it in all its glory and importance until the covenant of peace is made with us at the voice of God, and the pearly gates of the New Jerusalem are thrown open and swing back on their glittering hinges and the glad and joyful voice of the lovely Jesus is heard richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear bidding us enter. [I saw] that we had a perfect right in the city for we had kept the commandments of God, and heaven, sweet heaven is our home, for we have kept the commandments of God.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 260–261.

I look forward to that day when we shall enter the New Jerusalem, saved forever from the guilt, power, and presence of sin! ✠



Gordon Zutz, a Seventh-day Adventist for 67 years, writes from Tennessee. He worked for 23 years as a spectroscopist-chemist for one corporation in association with NASA, and also 10 years as assistant publishing director in two conferences in North America.

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all their works shall correspond with their faith, and that their lives shall be refined and sanctified, and they be prepared for the work that must rapidly be done in these closing days of the message. . . .

“Our faith at this time must not stop with an assent to, or belief in, the theory of the third angel’s message. We must have the oil of the grace of Christ that will feed the lamp and cause the light of life to shine forth, showing the way to those who are in darkness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 154–155.

“He [Christ] longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 146

“More and more, as the days go by, it is becoming apparent that God’s judgments are in the world. In fire and flood and earthquake He is warning the inhabitants of this earth of His near approach. The time is nearing when the great crisis in the

many with whom the Spirit of God is striving. The time of God’s destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter.

“The mercy of God is shown in His long forbearance. He is holding back His judgments, waiting for the message of warning to be sounded to all. Oh, if our people would feel as they should the responsibility resting upon them to give the last message of mercy to the world, what a wonderful work would be done!” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 97.

“In the power of the Spirit the delegated servants of Christ are to bear witness for their Leader. The yearning desire of the Saviour for the salvation of sinners is to mark all their efforts. The gracious invitation, first given by Christ, is to be taken up by human voices and sounded throughout the world: ‘Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.’ Revelation 22:17. The church is to say: ‘Come.’ Every power in the



# James White: Heaven's Horseman

Virgil Robinson



James White was accompanied to Newport Academy by a local minister, an Elder Bridges, who also happened to be going there. As they rode along on their horses, it seemed to James that the minister could talk about only one thing—preaching. That was the last subject James wanted to discuss,<sup>1</sup> so he was greatly relieved when they arrived at the academy, and he no longer had to listen.

At the academy James rented a room and started right in with his studies, hoping in this way to drive away the pricking of the Holy Spirit on his heart. But this did no good. Although he read the assigned lessons, he found it impossible to concentrate on them.

This will never do, James decided. I'll have to go visit those students, then return and carry on as before.

As he set out for Troy that spring day, his feelings underwent a transformation. The peace of God flooded his heart. He raised his eyes to heaven and praised God.

The following day he reached the vicinity of Troy and stopped at the home of some of his former pupils. He knocked on the door, not knowing just what he was going to say. The woman of the

house opened it and recognized James.

"It's the schoolmaster!" she exclaimed. "Do step inside." James, determined to waste no words, came directly to the point.

"May I have the privilege of praying with you and your family?"

"Oh, yes, of course," said the woman, tears gathering in her eyes. "But wait, you must pray with our neighbors also. They must share the blessing." She turned to her children.

"Thomas, go up the road, and Millie, you go the other way. Tell everyone you meet that the schoolmaster has returned and wishes to pray with us."

The children ran off on their errand. Within thirty minutes, twenty-five persons were present. Wondering how many were already Christians, James decided to find out. Not one was. He talked with them earnestly about what it means to follow Jesus and get ready for His soon coming. Then they prayed together, and James said good-by as he went on to look up more of his pupils.

Within a few days he had found them all and prayed with each. Having performed this duty, he returned to the academy. But he still

found it impossible to settle down to his studies. It seemed as if the command "Go and preach" was sounding ever louder in his soul.

This burden stayed with him for several weeks. But to surrender his hope of getting an education and turn to preaching seemed more than he could bear. He decided to make a trial of his ability by announcing a meeting in the Troy townhouse. The room was crowded when he stood up to preach. He felt embarrassed and inadequate. After struggling with words for about twenty minutes he abruptly sat down.

Alone in the woods he spent several hours trying to discover the reasons for his failure. The fact remained that he was still longing for the worldly success while at the same time working for God. When he finally renounced all for Christ, his heart was flooded with peace and freedom. James White had put his hand to the plow and was never to let go or turn back.

### Circuit-Riding Preacher

In October, 1842, James attended a meeting that the Adventists held in their big tent in Exeter, Maine. When James White left the tent he was more certain than ever that Jesus would return to earth within



a year after April, 1843, and that he must do his part in warning the world of its coming doom. He invested his small savings in books and a copy of the big lithographical prophetic chart.

Deacon John offered his son the use of one of his horses. An Elder Polley provided the young man with a much-battered saddle and part of a bridle that James managed to stitch together. . . .

### Meeting the Mob

On a January morning, in 1843, James White mounted his horse and rode away on a preaching tour among total strangers, his light

twenty-five persons remained. This angered his opponent.

The house was crowded for the next evening's meeting. All around the building a mob stood ready for action against the young preacher.

As James made his way toward the pulpit he was warned that his meeting would be broken up because of his lack of cooperation the previous night.

"If that is the will of God," James replied, "let it be so."

Not daring to kneel for prayer because of the angry mob, James stood by the pulpit and prayed with his eyes open. Then, as he launched into his subject, snowballs, thrown

should His followers expect better treatment?" He stretched out his hands against the wall in the position of one nailed to a cross.

"Hark! Hark!" cried many voices. The young James went on to speak of the love of Christ. He urged sinners to accept salvation and prepare for His soon return. When an invitation to stand was made for those who would believe on Christ and follow Him, nearly one hundred rose to their feet. The meeting had lasted almost two hours.

James closed with prayer, then picked up his books and chart and left the schoolhouse. The rioters outside opened a path. One man stepped up, locked arms with him, and steered him through the crowd. Then James realized that the man was gone. He wondered whether he had been in contact with an angel of God.

The meetings in this schoolhouse continued for another three or four evenings, and were accompanied by a reformation in the area. James went on to make appointments in other schoolhouses farther down the river. He usually remained only two nights in a place. He was indeed a pilgrim and a stranger, and could not tarry long.

### Hazards of Winter Travel

At a place called Bowdoinham Ridge, James found that two ministers had begun to conduct at least two meetings a day in the church. He was invited to become the speaker, and encouraging results followed. The last day he was in town he spoke morning and afternoon, with the last meeting ending as the sun was setting in the wintry sky.

"Don't you think you should spend the night here with us?" one of the ministers asked. "It's getting dark and colder."

"I'd like to," replied the evangelist, "but I have a meeting at Lisbon Plains, and I must hurry on my way."

*The house was crowded for the next evening's meeting. All around the building a mob stood ready for action against the young preacher.*

clothing giving him scant protection from the cold.

Arriving in the vicinity of Augusta, the capital of Maine, James found shelter with a humble Christian. A short time later he was invited to speak at a nearby schoolhouse not far from the Kennebec River. The place was packed, with people standing at every window and door. James preached with power.

The next night a group of rowdies tried to frighten him from the pulpit. One man threw a spike, which struck him on the head, then fell onto his Bible. James put it into his pocket.

When James had finished preaching, a noted Universalist editor, invited in to refute the message, asked James to request the people to wait to hear a rebuttal. James stated he had no further claims on the audience. They could do as they wished. Only about

through the open windows, began to spatter on the walls behind him. The wild screaming of the mob made it almost impossible for anyone to hear the speaker.

James closed his Bible and in a loud voice launched into a graphic description of the day of judgment.

"Repent and be converted," he urged, "that your sins may be blotted out. Turn to Christ and get ready for His coming, or in a little time from this you will call on rocks and mountains to fall on you. You scoff now, but you will pray then."

The shouting abated somewhat. James reached into his pocket and took out the nail hurled at him the previous evening. Holding it up, he said, "Some poor sinner cast this spike at me last evening. God pity him. The worst wish I have for him is that he is at this moment as happy as I am.

"The hands of Jesus were nailed to a cruel cross," he went on. "Why



They brought his horse, and James, damp with perspiration, mounted and rode off into the gloom of that cold February night.

As he traveled, his clothing nearly froze on his body. Although the distance was only sixteen miles, it seemed much farther to the chilled horseman. As he galloped past many a lighted farmhouse the temptation to stop and find warmth and food must have been strong. But he knew people were waiting for him, and he could not disappoint them.

At the door of the meetinghouse James dismounted and tossed the reins to a man standing nearby.

"Please take care of my horse," he said, then stepped into the church just in time to hear the pastor say to the people, "I'm sorry to have to announce that we are disappointed. The speaker we expected to hear this evening has not come." The minister reached out his hands. "Please rise for the benediction," he said.

But before the congregation could get to their feet, James cried out, "Hold! I am here!"

"Good," said the minister; and the people, having waited nearly an hour, prepared to listen. After apologizing for the delay, James plunged into his subject. For a few minutes his teeth chattered so violently that some of his words were cut short. But he soon warmed up, and then spoke with freedom.

After dismissing the meeting James went to get his horse. He found it tied to a fence, exposed to the cutting wind, trembling in the cold, without even a blanket thrown over it. James indignantly realized it had stood there for an hour and a half while he was preaching.

The next morning he found the animal very sick. It never did fully recover from the effects of that exposure. James learned from that unfortunate experience always to give directions to the person caring for his horse.

### "You will see your Lord a coming"

James arrived at a place called Litchfield Plains, where he had a speaking appointment, to find the building packed with almost a thousand people. Every seat was taken, the aisles were filled, and people had even crowded onto the platform.

Pushing his way down the crowded aisle, he mounted the steps to the pulpit. To quiet the

people, he launched into one of the sweet Advent hymns so popular at the time.

"You will see your Lord a coming,  
You will see your Lord a coming,  
You will see your Lord a coming,  
In a few more days.

While a band of music,  
While a band of music,  
While a band of music,  
Shall be chanting through the air."<sup>2</sup>

When James White incorporated this song in the earliest Adventist hymnal he omitted the first verse, for obvious reasons.

These simple words had a remarkable effect on that large congregation. The sweet melody struck home to their hearts as they sat almost breathless, listening to all eight stanzas. This was not the first nor last time that James White would begin a service singing to his audience.

On April 2 James headed for home. The snow on the road was

still very deep. Often he had to dismount and plunge into the drifts to relieve the horse as it struggled through the piled-up snow.

On the fifth of April, James White rode his poor broken-down horse into the yard of his home in Palmyra. He had been gone for four months. It was later reported at the next church conference that during those four months a thousand souls had joined the church as a result

*Pushing his way down the crowded aisle,  
he mounted the steps to the pulpit. To quiet  
the people, he launched into one of the sweet  
Advent hymns so popular at the time.*

of the work of 22-year-old James White!

A few days after his arrival in Palmyra, James White was ordained as a minister of the Christian Church. During most of the summer months of 1843 he held no evening meetings. But he was invited to speak at local churches on Sundays, and was pleased when these services resulted in baptisms. According to the Advent leaders, Christ would come during the twelve-month period beginning in April, 1843, and this was the good news that James White proclaimed to towns and cities in many parts of Maine. ❄

*This article was adapted from Virgil Robinson, James White, 21–27. The author was the great-grandson of James and Ellen White on his mother's side and the great-grandson of William Farnsworth (one of the first Seventh-day Adventists) on his father's side.*

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> This chapter is based on *Life Sketches of Elder James White and His Wife, Ellen G. White*, Steam Press of the SDA Publ. Assn., Battle Creek, Mich., 1888, 18–23, 48–55, 67–79.

<sup>2</sup> *Life Incidents*, 94.

# The Glory of the Cross

Ellen G. White

“**T**herefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.” 2 Corinthians 4:1–4.

The apostle magnifies the grace and mercy of God, shown in his miraculous conversion and in the sacred trust committed to him as a minister of Christ. By God’s abundant mercy he and his brethren have been sustained in affliction, difficulty, and danger. He declares that they have not walked in craftiness, nor handled the Word of God deceitfully. They have been unselfish, showing no avarice. They have not modeled their faith and teaching to suit the desires of their hearers, nor kept back truths profitable for them in order to make their teaching less offensive. They have not clouded the truths of God’s Word, so that their meaning should not be understood. On the contrary, feeling the importance of their calling, they have presented the

truth with simplicity and clearness, praying for the conviction and conversion of souls. They have endeavored to bring their conduct into harmony with the truth presented, that this truth might commend itself to every man’s conscience.

Paul knew that, by many, conviction would be thrown off, that hearts would rise up against the truth, be it presented ever so wisely. The hearts of many were blinded by prejudice and lust. They could not see the beauty of the truth. But the apostle would not permit this to discourage him in his labor. If after he had plainly presented the truth, the hearts of the people were still covered by a veil, neither the truth nor the minister presenting it were at fault.

## Blinded by Worldliness

In this age we find men and women professing godliness who refuse to walk in the light which shows that they have greater truths to accept—truths which involve a cross—truths which, if accepted, would separate them from the world. They refuse to recognize the sacred claims of God’s law. In an effort to justify their theories and their course, they misinterpret the plainest statements of Scripture. Filled with the love of the world,

they say, “I cannot see; I cannot see.” See Isaiah 44:18.

To such are applicable the words of Paul: “If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” 2 Corinthians 4:3–4. Men are crying, “Christ, Christ; give us Christ; but the law we will not acknowledge.” Turning from the law, they turn from the Giver of the law, and they turn also from Christ; for He declares, “I and my Father are one.” John 10:30.

In every mind the solemn inquiry should be, “What must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:30. I must know for myself what is truth, that I may be sanctified by the truth, and thus obtain a fitness for the higher life. But Satan is untiring in his efforts to keep the transforming light of the gospel from the hearts of men. Those who do not willfully oppose, those who, like Paul, war against the truth ignorantly, may be converted. Yet it remains a stern, lamentable fact that among professed believers, as well as among unbelievers, the enemy blinds many to their ruin. They allow him to rob them of all desire to

investigate the inspired Word for themselves.

### Preach Christ, not Self

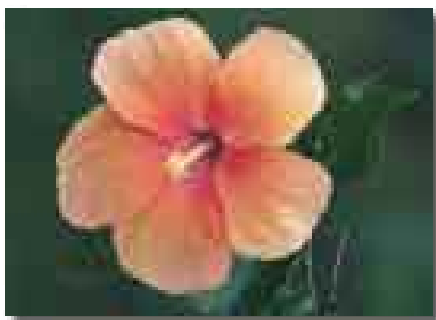
“We preach not ourselves,” Paul continued, “but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:5–6. The object of the apostles’ ministry was not self-exaltation. They did not covet authority or pre-eminence. They preached Christ. This was their theme. They hid self in the Saviour. The great plan of salvation, and the life of Christ, the Author and Finisher of this plan, were exalted before their hearers. Christ, yesterday, today, and forever, was the burden of their teaching.

If those who today are preaching the Word of God, would cease to glory in self, and would exalt the cross of Christ, their ministry would be far more successful. If sinners can be led to give one earnest look at the cross, to obtain a full view of the crucified Saviour, all is gained. But very few ministers point sinners as they should to the Lamb of God. Few have a just estimate of the worth of souls or of the power of Christ to save.

### What the Cross is to Us

Satan’s work is to make the truth of God of none effect. Cast out of heaven because of his transgression, his aim has ever been to defeat God’s purpose for man. He seeks to make it appear that the law is imperfect, unjust, tyrannical. He declares that it is impossible for man to keep the law. And in his own power man cannot keep the law. Without a Saviour, he is without hope.

Christ saw the helpless condition of the race, and He came to redeem them by living the life of obedience the law requires, and by paying in His death the penalty of



disobedience. He came to bring us the message and means of deliverance, an assurance of salvation, not through the abrogation of the law, but through obedience made possible by His merits.

To make it possible for human beings to be kings and priests to God, the Commander of the angels

from it streams the light of the Saviour’s love. When the sinner reaches the cross, and looks up to the One who died to save him, he may rejoice with fullness of joy; for his sins are pardoned. Kneeling at the cross, he has reached the highest place to which man can attain. The light of the knowledge of the glory of God is revealed in the face of Jesus Christ; and the words of pardon are spoken: Live, O ye guilty sinners live. Your repentance is accepted; for I have found a ransom.

Through the cross we learn that our Heavenly Father loves us with an infinite and everlasting love, and draws us to Him with more than

*Christ . . . came to bring us the message and means of deliverance, an assurance of salvation, not through the abrogation of the law, but through obedience made possible by His merits.*

took the position of a servant. He set us a perfect example. He asks us to learn of Him; for His life was an exemplification of the law. No act of sin marred His conduct. In word and deed He was without blemish.

Christ’s death shows God’s great love for man. It is the pledge of our salvation. To remove the cross from the Christian would be like blotting out the sun. The cross brings us near to God, reconciling us to Him. Jehovah looks upon it with the relenting compassion of a Father’s love. He looks upon the suffering His Son endured in order to save the race from eternal death, and He accepts us in the Beloved.

Without the cross, man could have no connection with the Father. On it hangs our every hope. In view of it the Christian may advance with the steps of a conqueror; for

a mother’s yearning sympathy for a wayward child. Can we wonder that Paul exclaimed, “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”? Galatians 6:14. It is our privilege also to glory in the cross of Calvary, our privilege to give ourselves wholly to Him who gave Himself for us. Then with the light of love that shines from His face on ours, we shall go forth to reflect it to those in darkness. ✠

*Review and Herald, April 29, 1902.*



*Ellen G. White, 1827–1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.*



# Our Church Standards Shall We Abandon or Enforce Them?

(Part 3)

*Caryle B. Haynes*

*This is the conclusion of an article which originally appeared in the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, April 26, 1934. It was taken from a sermon preached at the Battle Creek Tabernacle on March 31, 1934.*

*In parts 1 and 2, the author appealed for God's people to separate from the world and stand nobly for the right. He addressed such practical subjects as entertainment, dress, divorce, and the love of display. Now the author appeals to us to abandon our worldly pleasures and stand with God's loyal people. — The Editors.*

I must direct attention to one more thing. Carelessness has come in among us with reference to card playing, theatergoing, and dancing. I do not mean, of course, that any considerable number of our members are engaging in these questionable and forbidden things. There are those, however, who are, "Bridge" and other card games, but especially "bridge," are by some looked upon as the only possible method by which they can spend an evening socially with friends. As Adventists, they do not play in their own homes; but when they mingle among non-Adventists, they play and they argue that they do this to retain their influence with their friends. I raise the question, Influence—in what direction?

It seems to be a rather common idea among Christians who mingle socially with those outside the church fold, that they gain added influence over their unbelieving friends by conforming to worldly customs. They claim they do it to impress their friends that religion need not be "bigoted," "narrow," "strait-laced." No greater mistake can be made.

## **The World's Estimate of What a Christian Should Be**

Anyone who has had any experience knows that the world's standards for a Christian are usually higher than a Christian's standards for himself. Men outside the church shape their judgment of a believer with reference to the highest standards, those which he thinks the believer professes. The judgment of the man of the world upon a Christian who indulges in card playing, theatergoing, or dancing, is a severe one. He has a higher respect for a Christian who refrains from them than for one who indulges in them.

Then there are those who attend shows. They think this should make no difference with their church standing. Once in a while, I learn of a Sabbath school teacher or church officer who has gone to a show or attended or participated in a dance.

And when these persons are questioned about these things, and the suggestion is made that it might be advisable for them to discontinue either their unhallowed course or their church activities and membership, they are hurt and their friends are hurt. I ask, Why? Do they think that a church adopts standards as a joke? They know what the standards are when they join. When they know themselves to be violating these standards, and know they intend to continue to violate them, they should be honorable enough to withdraw from the church, and not bring reproach upon it. For every church member who is deliberately going contrary to his church profession is a reproach and a liability to the church of Christ.

After my former sermon on church standards, I received a letter from a member, saying he was not living up to these standards, and expected to continue to violate them, and asked that his name be dropped. I respect such a man. I do not respect hypocrites.

## **God Has a Loyal People**

While there are those in the church who go after the world in these things, and violate the standards of the church, it is gratifying to recognize that there are more who honor God, respect His authority, and



are loyal to church standards. God has His true servants. They tremble at His Word. They are the salt of the earth, the preservation of men. They have been set apart by the Lord for Himself. They have been made by the Holy Spirit new creatures in Christ Jesus. They stand in His robe of righteousness, complete in Him. They are instant in prayer, fruitful in holiness, prefer the reproach of Christ to the treasures of the world, and are the ornament and strength of the church. It is these who are described in our text. They sigh and cry, not alone for the abominations of the world, but for the departures and apostasies and unfaithfulness in the church. In the secrecy of the closet, in the prayer meeting, unknown and unnoticed by the world, they cry to God to save His people. And the Lord, as if turning away His attention from apparently greater objects to mark them more intently, says, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isaiah 66:2.

And these faithful souls have not sighed in listless idleness or wept tears of fearful indolence without doing anything to stop the progress of evil. They have first stood staunchly against these things coming in.

Not being able to hold them back, they have not participated in them. They continue to bear their testimony against them. They are not partakers of other men's sins. They do not join them in tearing down the standards. They stand out openly for God, for His truth, for His way, for His church. And when they can do nothing more by active effort, they still mourn over evils they cannot cure.

They neither feel nor profess indifference to the conduct and condition of their brethren. Being jealous for the honor of God, happy in the acceptance of a Saviour, knowing the comforts of the Holy Spirit, believing in the triumph of the message and the doom of the sinner, they long to the end of life for the salvation of the erring, and they sigh and cry to God while they live above a condition in which they have no participation.

Such people God marks as His own. He takes particular care that they shall be saved from the coming destruction. And when the slaughter weapons begin their dread work, these are saved. "Go ye through the city, and smite;" rings the command, "but come not near any man upon whom is the mark." Ezekiel 9:5-6.

### Return to the First Love

Dear friends, it will not be very long before the destroying angels are ordered to do their terrible work. There are daily developments all about us which make it absolutely certain that we are rapidly nearing that dread day when the image of the beast, having received life, will speak,

This is no time, dear brethren, to drift away from God, to depart from the faith, to waver in our loyalty. Eternal issues are about to be settled. The end of all things is right upon us.

All we have been hoping for is about to be realized. The kingdom of God is at hand. In view of these solemn times, I call for a return to our first love, our first ardor, our first devotion. Let us walk as men who know their Lord. Let us not waver in our allegiance. Let us be what we profess to be. Let us faithfully uphold every standard, every truth, of this blessed message which God has so graciously given us. Let us hear and heed the call so familiar to us. "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see,

*While there are those in the church who go after the world in these things, and violate the standards of the church, it is gratifying to recognize that there are more who honor God, respect His authority, and are loyal to church standards.*

and issue its orders for branding with the mark of the beast and for death to those who refuse. Blind indeed must be the eyes of the Bible student who cannot discern in the present economic confusion and the wild experimentation which is made to reduce it to order, all the elements of fulfillment of the apocalyptic prophecy. Practically every product of union labor now has its mark upon it. Boots and shoes, clothing, newspapers, even bread, are all labeled. Every secret society has its mark, password, grip, and badge. The whole tendency of our time is combination. It is demanded by religion, by politics, by capital, by labor, by government. Everything is working together to put the world under the domination of the beast and his image, and to mold things for the last great battle between God and Satan.

and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16.

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9-11. May God give us this experience. ✽

*Carlyle B. Haynes (1882-1958) served in the Lord's work as an evangelist and conference president in various conferences in North and South America. The 45 religious books he authored made him one of the better-known SDA writers on Bible doctrines for lay readers.*



# Should Government Prohibit Immorality?

*Bob Jorgensen*

These days, with such events as the placement of the stone tables with the Ten Commandments inscribed on them in the Alabama courthouse by Judge Moore, the debate on the legality of homosexual marriages, even the issues of prescribed times and words of prayer in public school, there has been a great deal of confusion among people on exactly how the government should legislate morality, and how far is constitutionally appropriate to go. Many of the arguments against such things as homosexual marriages rely on biblical proofs such as Romans 1 and Genesis 19. It can be observed

that even in Adventism there are those calling for the government to take stands and pass legislation on different things on the grounds that the Bible speaks against these things.

Perhaps one of the clearest expositions on the true role of government and of the church, when they are properly separated, is found in the arguments of A. T. Jones before the Senate subcommittee concerning the Blair Amendment that would have made Sunday closing laws into national Sunday legislation.<sup>1</sup> At one point in the debate Senator Blair asked Elder Jones if he didn't think that the government

needed to have laws to prohibit immorality. Elder Jones, in answering, pointed out that morality is defined as the relation of conformity or non-conformity to the true moral standard or rule; it is the conformity of an act to the divine law.

He showed that the things covered in the first four of the Ten Commandments relate to man's worship of God, and government has no jurisdiction, recognition, or authority to control in such things. The last six pertain to man's relationship to man. These are the things that define man's civility toward his fellow man, and civil government has the responsibility



to maintain the restraints that keep man civil toward his fellow man. It can be demonstrated from nature and history that killing, stealing, lying, adultery, etc. are destructive of civil affairs and the maintenance of society. Thus, the issue of homosexual marriages is an issue in which the government has a responsibility to exercise civil authority to define and regulate, but only on a civil basis. Homosexual marriages are quite obviously contrary to the perpetuation of the species, as well as many other facets of social structure, as is union, or "marriage," with multiple partners, animals, children, etc.

To promote government action or intervention on the basis of religious principles is to do a great disservice to the correct operation of both church and state. Even though all areas of civility between mankind and his neighbor have moral implications and spiritual issues involved, the government has nothing to do with the moral side of the question, and is to be totally blind to the involvement of spiritual values. The government's *only* task is to deal with the maintenance of keeping man civil to his fellow man so that all enjoy equal freedom as far as eliminating the infringement of one man in the exercise of his freedom upon another man that would curtail his freedom. (I use "man" in the generic sense.)

Those who have true spiritual understanding should be able to clearly define the difference between the civil duties affected by the government and their authority,

*Even though all areas of civility between mankind and his neighbor have moral implications and spiritual issues involved, the government has nothing to do with the moral side of the question.*

and the spiritual duties of worship and the authority by which they are controlled, and with which government has nothing to do.

When our president made the statement that we are battling against moral evil, he was saying that government has been called upon to define things that are spiritual issues, and to exercise government authority to regulate according to its definition of "evil." But the government, to reiterate, has no authority in moral issues of evil, but only in civility. As soon as the government tries to deal with any civil issues (which may in themselves be appropriate areas of government involvement from a civil standpoint) on the basis of religious viewpoints

it complicates issues immeasurably, and has no ability to confine its religious meddling to only civil issues. It will inevitably cross the line into legislating and regulating in the areas of worship to God.

Those who classify themselves as Seventh-day Adventists run the same risk when they urge government intervention in issues from a religious standpoint, or on the basis of spiritual reasoning. It would be better for us to avoid urging government regulation in any issue on the basis of biblical reasoning. We may have biblical reasons that we can discuss with fellow believers, but to use such arguments publicly to authorize the government to act is greatly misguided and will eventually come back to haunt us. More than anyone else, Seventh-

day Adventists should be able to clearly uphold the true distinction that must be made between the role of the church and the role of the state. ✨



*Bob Jorgensen lives on a mountain farm in North Carolina, where he and his wife, Vicky, operate their ministry Medical Missionary Press.*

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Jones, A. T., *The National Sunday Law, Argument of Alonzo T. Jones before the United States Committee on Education and Labor at Washington, D.C., Dec. 13, 1888, American Sentinel, Pacific Press Publishing Co., Oakland, CA, 1889.* A facsimile reprint is available from Hope International for \$8.99 plus shipping & sales tax (see page 30.)

# God's Purpose for Us

*Ellen G. White*

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered,

saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” Revelation 7:9–11.

Those whom the Lamb shall lead by the fountains of living waters, and from whose eyes He shall wipe away all tears, will be those now receiving the knowledge and understanding revealed in the Bible, the Word of God. To us has been given the privilege of receiving the wisdom that cometh from God, of seeing the beauty and the glories of that Word which lies at the foundation of all true knowledge. The Bible teaches us what a Christian ought to be, and what he ought to do.

We are to copy no human being. There is no human being wise enough to be our criterion. We are to look to the Man Christ Jesus, who is complete in the perfection of righteousness and holiness. He



is the Author and Finisher of our faith. He is the pattern Man. His experience is the measure of the experience that we are to gain. His character is our model. Let us, then, take our minds off the perplexities and the difficulties of this life, and fix them on Him, that by beholding we may be changed into His likeness. We may behold Christ to good purpose. We may safely look to Him; for He is all-wise. As we look to Him and think of Him, He will be formed within, the hope of glory.

Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand. And let us do all that we can to help others to gain heaven. We are to have an intense interest in Christ Jesus; for He is our Saviour. He came to this world to be tempted in all points as we are, to prove to the universe that in this world of sin human beings can live lives that God will approve.

Think of how much it cost Christ to leave the heavenly courts, and take His position at the head of humanity. Why did He do this?—Because He was the only One who could redeem the fallen race. There was not a human being in the world who was without sin. The Son of God stepped down from His heavenly throne, laid off His royal robe and kingly crown, and clothed His divinity with humanity. He came to die for us, to lie in the tomb as human beings must, and to be raised for our justification. He came to become acquainted with all the temptations wherewith man is beset. He rose from the grave, and proclaimed over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, “I am the resurrection and the life.” John 11:25. One equal with God passed through death in our behalf. He tasted death for every man, that through Him every man might be a partaker of eternal life.

Christ ascended to heaven, bearing a sanctified, holy humanity. He took this humanity with Him into the heavenly courts, and through

the eternal ages He will bear it, as the One who has redeemed every human being in the city of God the One who has pleaded before the Father, “I have graven [them] upon the palms of my hands.” Isaiah 49:16. The palms of His hands bear the marks of the wounds that He received. If we are wounded and bruised, if we meet with difficul-

things that Christ has commanded us. Let us not talk of the mistakes and defects of others. Let us speak the words that Christ has given us to speak. Let us seek for the blessings that Christ has placed within our reach, that we may be made capable of receiving more and still more of His grace, and that we may be filled with a living, active, grow-

*Christ . . . came to this world to be tempted in all points as we are, to prove to the universe that in this world of sin human beings*

ties that are hard to manage, let us remember how much Christ suffered for us. Let us sit together with our brethren in heavenly places in Christ. Let us bring heaven’s blessing into our hearts.

Our Saviour bore all that we are called upon to bear, so that no human being could say, “He does not know my suffering and my trials.” In all our afflictions He was afflicted, and because of this, the Father has committed to Him all judgment.

Satan declared that human beings could not live without sin. Christ passed over the ground where Adam stumbled and fell, and by a sinless life placed the human race on vantage-ground, that every one might stand before the Father accepted in the Beloved.

The Saviour ascended to heaven to plead before the throne of God in our behalf. Just before His ascension He gave to His disciples the commission, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19–20. To us as well as to the disciples this commission is given. We are to speak the

ing faith—a faith that believes the promise, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Verse 20. ✠

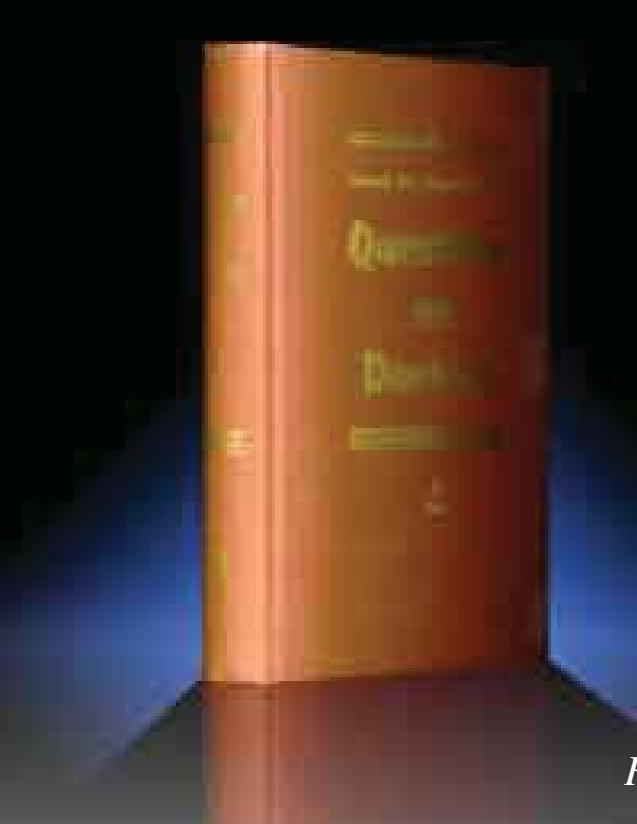
A portion of a sermon given at Oakland, California on Sunday, April 12, 1903, and reprinted in the *Review and Herald*, March 9, 1905.



*Ellen G. White, 1827–1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To*

*this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.*





# The Scandal of a Book: The Capstone

Part 6

Ralph Larson

Earlier this year we noted that the vigorous endeavors of the authors of the book *Questions on Doctrine* have produced a mountain of misinformation. At the very top of this mountain of misinformation there is a *capstone*. It is the changing of *another* foundational doctrine of our church, in regard to “original sin.” Because it is so dramatically illustrative of the methods that were used by the writers of *Questions on Doctrine*, I have chosen to deal with it separately.

The doctrine of “original sin” as held by the Catholic Church and by some Protestant churches teaches that all descendants of Adam are guilty for his sin. Thus if a baby dies shortly after being born, it is subject to the second death, which is the lake of fire. (Revelation 21:8) So writes Norman Gulley in the *Adventist Review*, January 25, 1990:

“If a baby dies a few hours or days after birth, it is still subject to the second death—the condemnation death—even though it has never broken any commandment.”<sup>1</sup> (Bear in mind that for most of those who believe this doctrine, the con-

demnation death, the lake of fire, never stops burning its victims.)

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has never held such a hideous doctrine, in whole or in part. Nevertheless, it appears that the writers of *Questions on Doctrine* labored to bring it into our church with a grim intensity that is mind-boggling.

When they had completed their writing, they submitted their manuscript to the Review and Herald Publishing Association for printing. Fortunately, the editors there recognized some of the departures from the integrity of our faith and deleted them. And even more fortunately, *the original manuscript was preserved in the Review files*. Copies of it are even now available in the White Estate repositories around the world. At the top of the paper it is called the “Prepublication manuscript of *Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine*.”<sup>2</sup> I am indebted to Larry Kirkpatrick, Pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mentone, California, for drawing this to my attention.

This manuscript provides us with a marvelous key to un-

derstanding what the writers of *Questions on Doctrine* may have been trying to do. It helps us understand the mysterious cloak of secrecy that was carefully maintained during the time of writing and conferring with non-SDA theologians. It explains the harsh severity in their dealing with our highly respected theologian, M. L. Andreasen, who caught on to what they were doing and challenged them. This caused him to lose his ministerial credentials and his sustentation (pension).<sup>3</sup> It tells us why the mountain of misrepresentation was necessary. If the church had been told clearly what these men were doing, there would have been an explosion and the whole evil project would have gone up in smoke.

(I once sat in a class room at Andrews University and listened to Roy Allen Anderson explain to the class that Andreasen’s problem was simply that he was an old man whose feelings were hurt because he had not been permitted to take part in the conferences with non-SDA theologians. If I had known then what I know now, I might have

risen to my feet and challenged him from the floor. But I didn't know. The deceptions had done their work, on me as well as on others.)

I have examined the pre-publication manuscript of *Questions on Doctrine* in the White Estate repository in the LLUMC library, and this is what I have found in regard to the false doctrine of original sin. (Emphasis is mine).

"Adam's sin involved the whole human race. 'By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin,' declares the apostle Paul. (Romans 5:12). The expression 'death by sin' shows clearly that he is referring, not to actual individual sins, but rather to *original sin*—the sinful nature which we have all inherited from Adam. Even innocent little children die, for 'in Adam all die.' (1 Corinthians 15:21). By that original sin 'death passed upon all men' (Romans 5:12). Luther (Commentary on Romans, page 81), states the position well when he says:

" 'Original sin is by Adam's transgression. *This sin we bear as his children, and we are guilty on account of it, for with his nature Adam also transfers his sin to all.* As he himself became sinful and evil through that sin, so he begets only sinners and evil-doers, namely, such as are inclined to all evil and resist that which is good.' "

Question: What happens when Jesus is born into the family of Adam? Is He guilty for Adam's sin, like all other descendants of Adam?

Both Catholic and Protestant theologians have been required to struggle with this problem, and have offered two different solutions. The Catholics proposed to solve the problem by inventing a doctrine of Immaculate Conception. This is not to be confused with the doctrine of the virgin birth, as is done by some Protestants. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception teaches that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was by a special miracle protected from receiving the guilt of

original sin from her own mother, so she had none to transfer to Jesus. Just how Mary's mother was protected is not clear.

Protestants, not to be outdone, invented a rather different doctrine of Immaculate Conception. According to this doctrine, Christ was somehow exempted from the laws of heredity, so that He did not inherit the human nature of His mother Mary, but did inherit the human nature of Adam before His fall.

The problem they share is that Scripture knows nothing at all of either of these special miracles, nor did Ellen White. She was, however,

tendencies. Who is to blame? Is God? Why did God let Satan have this power over human nature? These are accusations against the God of heaven, and He will give you an opportunity, if you want it, of finally bringing your accusations against Him. Then He will bring His accusations against you when you are brought into His court of judgment." *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 122.

Many of us Seventh-day Adventists have given up hope that we can fully live up to God's requirements. Could it be that the seeds of doubt were planted in our mind through a belief in "original

*Had Questions on Doctrine been published as written, it would have introduced two major changes in Seventh-day Adventist theology, one regarding the nature of Christ, and the other regarding the doctrine of original sin.*

well aware of the use that was made of the false doctrine. Witness her words at the 1888 conference in Minneapolis:

"Now, what we want to present is how you may advance in the divine life. We hear many excuses: I cannot live up to this or that. What do you mean by this or that? Do you mean that it was an imperfect sacrifice that was made for the fallen race upon Calvary, that there is not sufficient grace and power granted us that we may work away from our own natural defects and tendencies, that it was not a whole Saviour that was given us? or do you mean to cast reproach upon God? Well, you say, it was Adam's sin. You say, I am not guilty of that, and I am not responsible for his guilt and fall. Here all these natural tendencies are in me, and I am not to blame if I act out these natural

sin" and its kindred doctrines?

So the evidence before us is unmistakably clear. Had *Questions on Doctrine* been published as written, it would have introduced two major changes in Seventh-day Adventist theology, one regarding the nature of Christ, and the other regarding the doctrine of original sin. This was in spite of a denominational policy that such changes may be made only by a General Conference in session.

Such a change could not be accomplished unless the authors did their work in secrecy, using methods that can only be described as scandalous.

### **The Most Divisive Book**

As I bring this paper to a close, I pause to reflect upon the first sentence in the "Introduction" to the newly republished (and annotated)

edition of *Questions on Doctrine*. It is sobering in the extreme.

"Questions on Doctrine *easily qualifies as the most divisive book in Seventh-day Adventist history.*"<sup>4</sup>

Then why, in the name of reason, is it being republished? Can folly be greater than this?

Are its proponents hoping to finish the job of bringing to ruin the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

If so, I have news for them. They will not succeed. A higher power has given us this description:

"In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world's insignia; the other was led by the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel. Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-

keeping people of God." *Reflecting Christ*, 226.

"But there are men who will receive the truth, and these will take the places made vacant by those who become offended and leave the truth. . . . The Lord will work so that the disaffected ones will be separated from the true and loyal ones. . . . The ranks will not be diminished. Those who are firm and true will close up the vacancies that are made by those who become offended and apostatize. . . ." *Selected Messages*, book 3, 422 emphasis supplied.

So let us not be confused or dismayed by the smoke and dust of the conflict.

"To stand in the defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from

the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. . . ." *Sons and Daughters of God*, 201. ❀



Ralph Larson, retired pastor and theologian, last served as dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Far East.

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> "In Every Way But One: The Crucial Difference Between Us and Jesus," 13.
- <sup>2</sup> "Replies to a group of inquiries concerning S.D.A. theology," *Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine*, pre-publication manuscript.
- <sup>3</sup> The U.S. government required the church to reinstate his pension and his credentials were restored posthumously.
- <sup>4</sup> Andrews University Press, Berrien Springs, Mich., 2003.

## It is For Us

"It is for us," I've heard it told,  
Through stories from those days of old,  
How mighty men of God did they  
The weapons of the devil stay.

Though tossed about and torn in two  
And forced to light the world anew,  
With life and limb at no small price  
They made the final sacrifice.

"It is for us," renews the call,  
As seeing Christ in Pilate's hall,  
The silent Lamb of God stands He  
To pay the price for one like me.

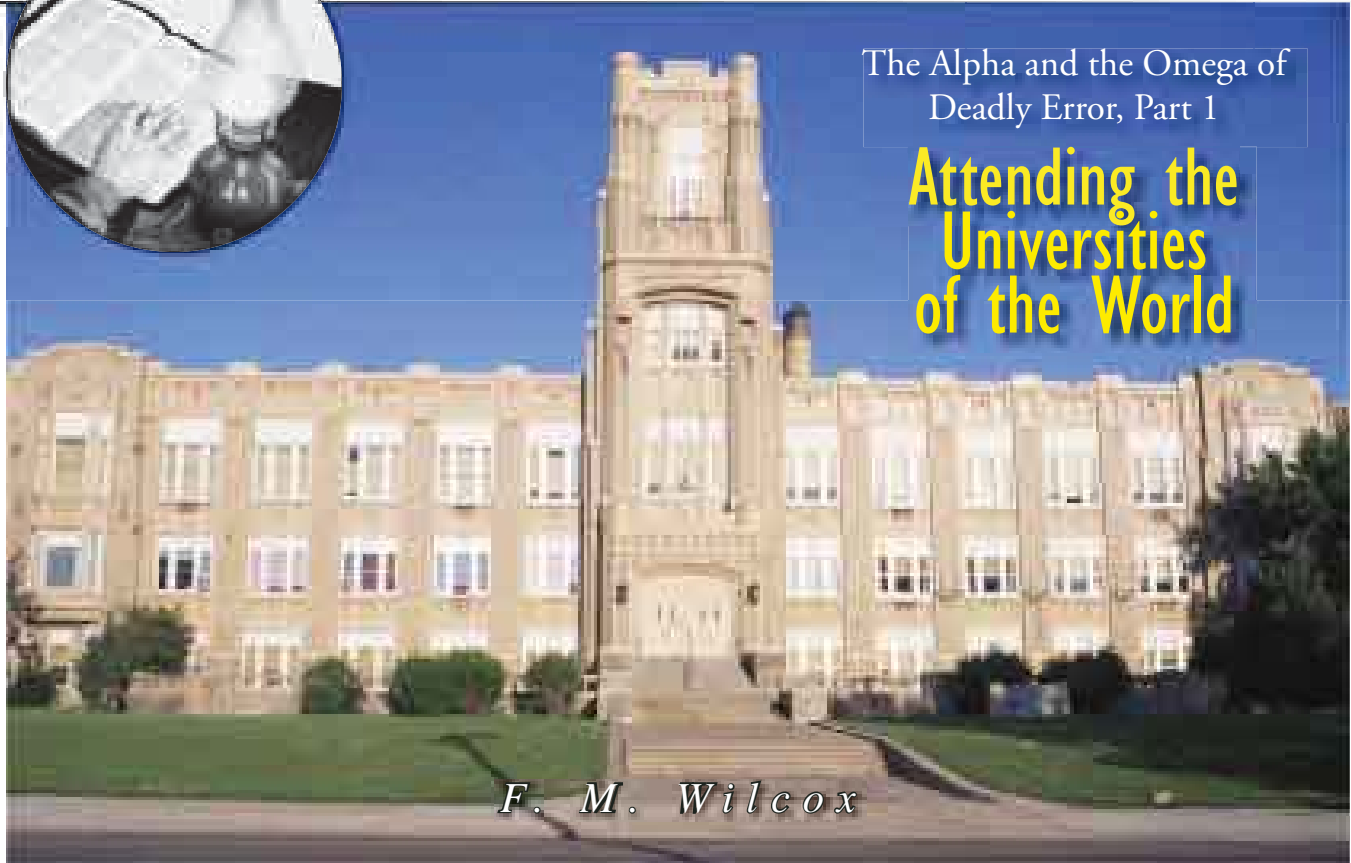
But how did Christ His strength renew  
To do the things He had to do?  
When daily faced with trials so sore  
He still had grace to give some more.

It was through morning's time with God  
He found the strength to walk this sod,  
And sorely torn by trials hurled  
He faced as blessing for this world.

Now we like Him must once again  
Proclaim this victory over sin  
And know that every trial we face  
Is given us of God's good grace.

—Lee Forbes





The Alpha and the Omega of  
Deadly Error, Part 1

## Attending the Universities of the World

*F. M. Wilcox*

“Our people are now being tested as to whether they will obtain their wisdom from the greatest Teacher the world ever knew, or seek to the god of Ekron. Let us determine that we will not be tied by so much as a thread to the educational policies of those who do not discern the voice of God and who will not hearken to His commandments.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 255.

What occasions the discussion now going through the *Review* relative to the question of Christian education? Why do we need to consider our relation to the great educational systems of the world? Why review the instruction which has come to us through the Spirit of Prophecy?

We answer, Because we face vital dangers to the youth of this denomination; because we face vital dangers to the very integrity of this movement. The world is full of delusive error. Subtle philosophies are supplanting Christian faith and doctrine in the minds of thousands

of professed Christians; and these beliefs in many instances have reached the stage of rank atheism in the minds of those who hold them. The question is no longer as to what sort of God we worship, but whether there is any God at all; and with the denial of God goes the denial of all divine revelation. Christ is discredited as the Saviour of mankind, and all the cardinal doctrines of the Christian religion are thrown into the discard.

### Atheism Rampant

And unfortunately the very heart of this teaching is found in some of the great educational institutions of the present day. Pantheism, naturalism, evolution, so-called higher criticism, which is practically disguised atheism, find earnest and zealous advocates among learned professors in the world of popular education. As expressed by a writer in the *Sunday School Times*:

“University professors make their polite bow to the Lord Jesus

Christ, and profess to admire Him and recognize Him as one of the world’s great teachers. But most university professors—and certainly the very large percentage of those with the greatest molding influence in the classrooms—trample underfoot with quiet, perhaps unconscious, scorn, or with outspoken, coarse ridicule, the fundamental verities of the Christian faith. They do not deign to stoop to argue against such ideas as the fall of man, or atonement through blood, or the inspiration of the Bible—or of the Koran! The argument is all over. These things are interesting as relics of matters that our forefathers really considered serious and vital.”

Man is represented as his own savior, and the exercise of his natural instincts as the expression of his true self, which should be cultivated and not suppressed. The essence of this seductive philosophy is well expressed in the following quotations from recent publications:

President McGiffert, of Union Theological Seminary, says: “Divine

and human are recognized as truly one. Christ therefore, if human, must be divine, as all men are. Christ is essentially no more divine than we are or than nature is." — *The Rise of Modern Religious Ideas*, 207–208.<sup>1</sup>

Frank C. Doan: "Do you ask me whether God is simply the spirit of humanity? I reply that God is essentially and simply just that." — *Religion and the Modern Mind*, 76.<sup>2</sup>

*There is sown in the susceptible student mind the seed which . . . destroys the simple childlike faith so essential to well-grounded Christian experience.*

Prof. W. A. McKeever, of the University of Kansas: "I worship God through man. To know God is first to know man, and to know man is to worship the divinity in him. . . . Man is my best expression of deity, and so I bow reverently at this shrine." — *Man and the New Democracy*, 94.<sup>3</sup>

The influence of such teaching tends to break down all moral standards, and lessen respect for the laws of man, and particularly respect for the law of God. This is well expressed by Dr. William B. Riley in his book, *The Crisis of the Church*:

"It is needless here and now to elaborate the immoral influences of infidelity. They are not matters of past history only, but a present output as well. The very men in our universities who are naming the Scriptures as 'myths' and the Son of God merely a 'unique man,' are also the men who are teaching youth that the decalogue is a social code already outlived and supplanted by one that lays a light leash on the lusts of life; that in 'the new teaching' marriage is not so sacred as the liberties of love; that life itself

is not to be hedged in by ethical rules—imagined to be moral only because they have back of them some centuries of standing."<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Riley does not charge, nor can we believe, that the men who teach these doctrines so subversive of right principles, designedly contribute to the moral breakdown of society. This surely is not their purpose. Many of them bear honored names, they hold positions of

honor and trust, and are regarded as leaders in the church and the social communities where they live. They with us undoubtedly deplore the grave conditions found in present-day society, little appreciating, however, that these conditions are the ultimate logic of their own teaching. Any preaching or teaching which sets aside the binding obligations of God's moral law of Ten Commandments, lessens the moral sensibilities of the human family, and paves the way for the grosser violations of all moral principle.

### **Not All, But the Majority**

In saying what we have about university training, we would not be understood as condemning every subject taught or every one who teaches in these institutions. We recognize that there are noble men and women connected with the great educational centers of the land. Some, but very few, are endeavoring to stand for the old fundamentals of Bible truth; but the very large majority of university teachers are believers in evolution, in higher criticism, and some of them are out and out atheists.

And this statement is not based on mere assumption. Data collected several years ago by Prof. James H. Leuba, of Bryn Mawr University in Pennsylvania, reveal that of the teachers in American colleges and universities only 14 percent of the psychologists, 18 percent of the biologists, 19 percent of the sociologists, and 32 percent of the historians believe in the existence of God, and that from 40 to 50 percent of the young men leaving college do not believe God hears or answers prayer. These facts have been fully confirmed by later investigation on the part of others, as well as by the confession of many students who have had their Christian conscience wounded by what they have been taught in these schools.

Much of this unchristian teaching is not avowedly anti-Christian or atheistic. By insinuation and subtle suggestion, by ridicule and pleasantry, by appeal to a larger life outlook and a liberal broad-mindedness, there is sown in the susceptible student mind the seed which produces the harvest of doubt and unbelief, and destroys the simple childlike faith so essential to well-grounded Christian experience.

### **A Sad Confession**

This is the sort of teaching that scores of Seventh-day Adventist youth are meeting in their attendance at worldly schools at the present time. And sad to say, some of them, having drunk in the spirit of this teaching, have lost their faith in this movement, their faith in the Bible, their faith in God, and are drifting in the great sea of doubt and unbelief.

Personally we know of nearly a score of bright, intelligent young men and women who, by their attendance at worldly schools, have drifted out of this church. And this number is not a tithe of others who have gone the same way. Many of these, while in attendance at our own schools, were devoted believers. They were fired with a love for

this message, and with a desire to devote to its promulgation their life and energy. But for one reason or another they found their way to some of the great universities of the world. They fell under the influence of teachers who knew not God. They imbibed their seductive philosophy, which proved the very contagion of error. In consequence they lost faith in God.

This experience has been duplicated again and again through the years, and it is being duplicated today. There are scores of our young men and women in attendance at these great universities who are passing through a crisis in their Christian experience. And we know from personal knowledge that some of them are losing out.

This is no fanciful tale. It is a solemn, sad reality. And yet, regardless of this experience, regardless of the fact that scores of young men and women have lost their faith in God by this very means, and others are doing it today, the trend toward university work is still encouraged and defended. ❀

*Francis McLellan Wilcox served the Seventh-day Adventist church as author, minister, and administrator and was the editor of the Review and Herald from 1911 to 1944.*

Source: "Why Our Educational Symposium? The Alpha and the Omega of Deadly Error: A Review of Significant Warnings and Special Instruction From the Spirit of Prophecy, in Two Parts—Part 1," *Review and Herald*, Takoma Park, Washington, DC, October 16, 1930, vol. 107, no. 53, 3–4.

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Macmillan Co., New York, NY, 1929.
- <sup>2</sup> Frank Carleton Doan, *Religion and the Modern Mind, and Other Essays in Modernism*, Sherman, French and Co., Boston, Mass., 1909.
- <sup>3</sup> William A. McKeever, *Man and the New Democracy*, George H. Doran Co., New York, NY, 1919.
- <sup>4</sup> C. C. Cook, New York, NY, 1914.

# Historical Footnotes

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." —E. G. White, *Life sketches*, 196.

Many today have neglected to study the history and people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. To help encourage interest in Adventist history, we have put together questions about people and events of our past. Our goal is to spark faith, and *further study* into "the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

1. What country has made the most postage stamps featuring Seventh-day Adventists?
  - a. Pitcairn Islands
  - b. Australia
  - c. USA
  - d. England
2. Who was known as the most honest man in Battle Creek?
  - a. Uriah Smith
  - b. James White
  - c. David Hewitt
  - d. J. H. Kellogg
3. Who had their leg amputated when they were thirteen years old?
  - a. James White
  - b. Joseph Bates
  - c. A. T. Jones
  - d. Uriah Smith
4. What were you most likely to see J. H. Kellogg doing to stay in shape?
  - a. Swimming
  - b. Playing tennis
  - c. Step aerobics
  - d. Riding a bicycle
5. In 1875 where was the first Seventh-day Adventist College opened?
  - a. Loma Linda, California
  - b. Berrien Springs, Michigan
  - c. Battle Creek, Michigan
  - d. Madison, Tennessee
6. What year did the Sanitarium in Battle Creek burn down?
  - a. 1902
  - b. 1888
  - c. 1863
  - d. 1904
7. Who was the first teacher of the first denominational school, which opened in Battle Creek?
  - a. E. G. White
  - b. J. H. Kellogg
  - c. E. J. Waggoner
  - d. G. H. Bell
8. What war did E. G. White predict would be a long and bloody one?
  - a. World War II
  - b. The Civil War
  - c. The Gulf War
  - d. The War in Iraq
9. Who is credited with bringing the Sabbath truth to Advent believers?
  - a. Joseph Bates
  - b. William Miller
  - c. Rachel Oaks Preston
  - d. Ellen White
10. Where was the first Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting held?
  - a. In Wright, Michigan on the farm of E. H. Root
  - b. In Battle Creek, Michigan in the Dime Tabernacle
  - c. In Low Hampton, New York on William Miller's farm
  - d. In Hagerstown, Maryland on the grounds of the Review and Herald

Answers: 1.a; 2.c; 3.d; 4.d; 5.c; 6.a; 7.d; 8.b; 9.c; 10.a.

Source: The answers to most of the questions may be found in *James White*, by Virgil Robinson, Review and Herald Publishing Assoc., 1976.



## Our Consuming Interest

**News Item:** “We are a nation that believes in having it all. In 1950, American families owned one car and saved for a second. In 2000, nearly 1 in 5 families owned three cars or more. . . .

“Americans shell out more for garbage bags than 90 of the world’s 210 countries spend for everything. Indeed, America has double the number of shopping malls as it does high schools.” Linda Kulman, “Materialism: Our Consuming Interest,” *U.S. News & World Report*, June 28 / July 5, 2004, 59.

**Comments:** We are to receive from the Lord to give to others, but it appears we have received and kept! Americans have lost sight of why God has blessed us so. Hopefully, Adventists have not done the same.

“Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.” James 5:1–3.

## Vatican City Guests

**News Item:** “In an ornate reception room at the Vatican, Bush

bestowed on the Pope a Medal of Freedom, lauding him as a ‘hero of our time’ for his role in helping ‘to topple communism and tyranny.’ The pope, hands and legs shaking and his voice quavering at times, read a statement commending Bush’s ‘commitment to the promotion of moral values in American society, particularly with regard to respect for life and the family.’” Thomas Omestad, *U. S. News & World Report*, June 14, 2004, 18.

**Comments:** “In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the State, Protestants are following in the steps of papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World.” *The Great Controversy*, 573

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” Revelation 13:3–4.



## The Catholic Vote

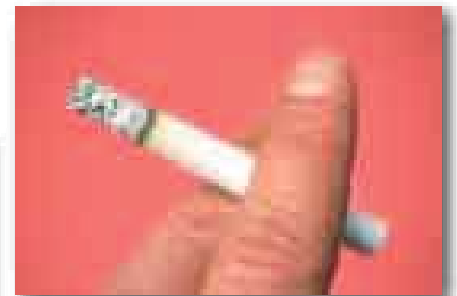
**News Item:** “Catholics are a key prize. ‘You bet we pay attention,’ says a top Bush aide, noting that 1 in 4 voters is Catholic. . . .

Bush’s meeting last week with Pope John Paul II—to present the

Presidential Medal of Freedom—was at the White House’s request.” Gorla Borger, “Why Church Matters,” *U.S. News & World Report*, June 14, 2004, 33.

**Comments:** “The Roman Catholic Church, with all its ramifications throughout the world, forms one vast organization under the control, and designed to serve the interests, of the papal see. Its millions of communicants, in every country on the globe, are instructed to hold themselves as bound in allegiance to the pope. Whatever their nationality or their government, they are to regard the authority of the church as above all other. Though they may take the oath pledging their loyalty to the state, yet back of this lies the vow of obedience to Rome, absolving them from every pledge inimical to her interests.” *The Great Controversy*, 580

How many of us were aware that 1 in 4 voters is Catholic? When will we believe that the end is almost upon us? What we do, we must do quickly!



## Tasty Tobacco

**News Item:** “What’s more addictive than cigarettes? Some people would say chocolate, and that may be why British American Tobacco is considering chocolate-flavored smokes. The Agence Presse France news service reports that the company has been testing cigarettes with chocolate, wine, sherry, cherry juice, and vanilla flavors, in what



anti-smoking activists call an attempt to lure children into smoking" *World*, June 19, 2004, 11.

**Comments:** "Many parents educate the tastes of their children, and form their appetites. They indulge them in eating flesh meats, and in drinking tea and coffee. The highly seasoned flesh meats and the tea and coffee, which some mothers encourage their children to use, prepare the way for them to crave stronger stimulants, as tobacco. The use of tobacco encourages the appetite for liquor; and the use of tobacco and liquor invariably lessens nerve power." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 234

We must educate our children, not only about the effects of tobacco, but what leads to the desire for it, namely, meat, tea, coffee, and their related products! ❀

### I'm a Christian, Vote for Me!

**News Item:** "Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come," John Kerry said in greeting thousands of Baptist ministers here recently. They burst into cheers after the first few words, recognizing the third verse of *Amazing Grace*, and continued as he finished: 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.'

"President Bush's speeches and statements are studded with references to hymns, Scripture, God and prayer. This year he has company in Kerry, the Democratic presidential nominee. . . .

"When a woman in Anoka, Minnesota, asked Kerry whether he was a Christian, he said Yes—"but that should not be what decides whether or not somebody votes for me." Half the audience stood for an



ovation, half did not." *USA Today*, September 20, 2004, 9A.

**Comments:** God is trying to help us wake up and see where we are in the stream of events. Things are taking place much faster than we anticipate, and much is taking place that we are unaware of.

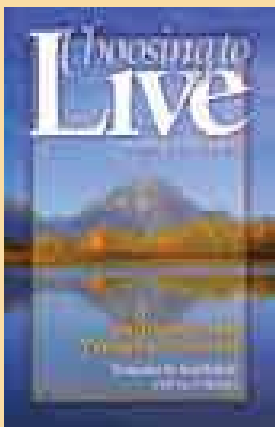
"We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming

multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future well-being and also the salvation of other souls depend upon the course which we now pursue. We need to be guided by the Spirit of truth. . . . We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us. We are on Satan's enchanted ground. Sleep not." *Reflecting Christ*, 116 (*The Great Controversy*, 598-601).

"We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are transpiring around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey." *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 419.

*If you find a noteworthy item in the news, please send it to us. You can mail it to Hope International, or you can email it to [newswatch@hopeint.org](mailto:newswatch@hopeint.org).*

*Contributor: Joe Olson*



One beautiful March morning in 1996, Dr. Benjamin R. Sanidad, Jr., 51 years of age, began the darkest journey of his life. He collapsed while administering anesthesia for surgery at Marion General Hospital. When a friend-colleague looked down an endoscope into Dr. Sanidad's stomach, his eyes filled with tears. By then, Dr. Sanidad writes, "I was ready to hear the diagnosis. But I was not as ready to hear the location." It was cancer of the esophagus, a disease usually fatal within months.

Resigned to die, Dr. Sanidad accepted treatment to appease his colleagues. He tried to pray, asking God to draw his family close. "I didn't even know if God had heard me," he writes. But after surgery, something changed in Dr. Sanidad. With the support of family and friends, he began to fight for survival. He refused chemotherapy and opted for an alternative, natural treatment. He also renewed and deepened his faith in God.

Four years later, Dr. Sanidad returned to work.

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# The Nearness of The End

*Ellen G. White*

**T**roublous times are right upon us. The fulfilling of the signs of the times gives evidence that the day of the Lord is near at hand. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men and women and little children. All these things testify that the coming of Christ is near at hand.

The doctrine that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation, and opened the flood-gates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness and dissipation and corruption are sweeping upon us like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil sur-

prising, hypocrisy, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin.

Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by a desire for gain, and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many, so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. "Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity can not enter." Isaiah 59:14. Men are rushing on in the mad race for gain and selfish indulgence as if there were no God, no heaven, and no hereafter.

The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before

Christ's second coming. The apostle James pictures the greed and oppression that will prevail. He says: "Go to now, ye rich men, . . . ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton. Ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." James 5:1-6. This is a picture of what exists today. By every species of oppression and extortion, men are piling up colossal fortunes, while the cries of starving humanity are coming up before God.

In accidents and calamities by land and by sea, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific

hail-storms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes—in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. The visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. “The earth mourneth and fadeth away, . . . the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.” Isaiah 24:4–5.

The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling against one another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse-races, gambling-hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation’s hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agents to work, that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut. The time is right upon us when there will be sorrow that no human balm can heal. Sentinel angels are now restraining the four winds, that they shall not blow till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads; but when God shall bid his angels loose the winds, there will be a scene of strife such as no pen can picture.

The “time of trouble, such as never was” (Daniel 12:1), is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which many are

too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality, but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation can not reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that trial every man must stand for himself before God. Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in the land, “as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters;” “they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness.” See Ezekiel 14:14–20.

Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of himself, “The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.” John 14:30. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept his

Father’s commandments, and there was no sin in him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.

“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself.” Psalm 50:3–6.

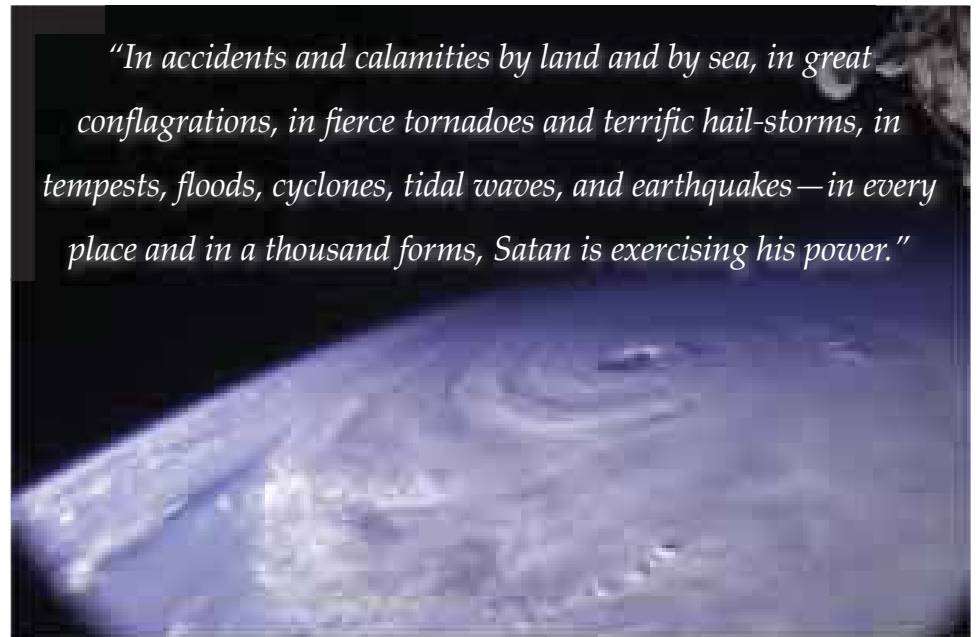
*Review and Herald*, March 14, 1912.



*Ellen G. White, 1827–1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God.*

*To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.*

*“In accidents and calamities by land and by sea, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hail-storms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes—in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power.”*



This image of Hurrican Ivan, one of the strongest hurricanes on record, was taken September 11, 2004, from an altitude of about 230 miles by Astronaut Edward M. Fincke, NASA ISS science officer and flight engineer, looking out the window of the International Space Station. At the time, Ivan was in the western Caribbean Sea and reported to have winds of 160 mph. (Photo: NASA/JSC)

# Suggested Gifts for Friends and Family

available from the

## Hope International Bookstore

Looking for a gift that will draw someone closer to Jesus? Here is a selection from our bookstore—including some very popular items, many of which are brand new!

*Be sure to look for the new expanded 2005 catalog!* You may also browse online at [www.hopeint.org](http://www.hopeint.org). Please see page 30 for shipping and sales tax information.

### Children and Youth

#### Mackall, Dandi

Little hands will love putting together the simple puzzles as each page is turned. With colorful art and lively rhymes, these are great quiet time books.

#### **New!** *Birthday Blessings*

*Birthday Blessings* will help little ones feel special—on their birthday and everyday!

Cardboard, 5 Puzzles, ages 0–5, 2003  
**BEMD-BBLE \$4.75**

#### **New!** *Blessings Everywhere*

*Blessings Everywhere* will remind your child that God's gifts are everywhere.

Cardboard, 5 puzzles, ages 0–5, 2003  
**BEMD-BEVE \$4.75**

#### **New!** *God Makes Nighttime Too*

*God Makes Nighttime Too* is sure to become a favorite part of a child's bedtime routine.

Cardboard, 5 Puzzles, ages 0–5, 2003  
**BEMD-GMNT \$4.75**

#### **New!** *Rain or Shine*

Sure to become a favorite part of a child's day, no matter what the weather!

Cardboard, 5 puzzles, ages 0–5, 2003  
**BEMD-ROSH \$4.75**

### Audio

#### Hare, Eric B.

These wonderful mission stories—told by a great story teller, Eric B. Hare—will become a favorite past-time for your children and you, while teaching valuable lessons about living a life for Jesus. Your children will remember and cherish these stories for many years to come.

#### *Eric B. Hare Stories*

**Cassette 1:** "Mister Crooked Ears," "Silver and the Snake," "Me Me," and "The Chinese

Lady and the Rats."

**AEHE-EHS1 \$5.39**

**Cassette 2:** "Little Engine," "Bunny and Jim," "The Big Yellow Truck," and "Pip Pip, the Naughty Chicken."

**AEHE-EHS2 \$5.39**

**Cassette 3:** "Sweet Potatoes," "White Bean," "The Hermit and the King," and "Jack's Quarter."

**AEHE-EHS3 \$5.39**

**Cassette 4:** "Who Put the Fire Out?" "What a Fool I've Been," "Little Call," and "Guess Who Saw the King?"

**AEHB-EHS4 \$5.39**

**Cassette 5:** "The Mean Mistress," "Ronnie and the Robber," and "The Impossible Fish Story."

**AEHE-EHS5 \$5.39**

#### Thy Word Creations

You will be amazed how easy it is to memorize long passages—even a whole chapter of the Bible—when it is put to music. The read-along book and its accompanying audio cassette will help you memorize some of the most important passages of Scripture.

#### *The Beatitudes*

**AETW-BEAT \$9.49**

#### *Isaiah 53*

**AETW-IS53 \$9.49**

#### *The Lord's Prayer*

**AETW-LPRA \$9.49**

#### *Psalms 139*

**AETW-P139 \$9.49**

#### *Psalms 23*

**AETW-PS23 \$9.49**

#### *Psalms 91*

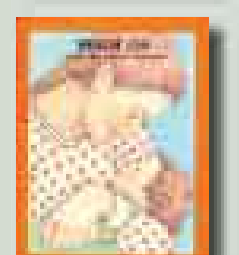
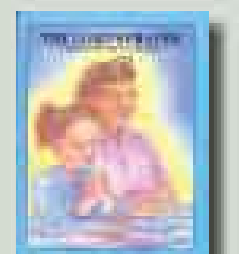
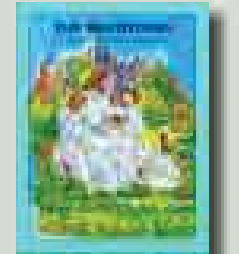
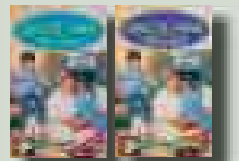
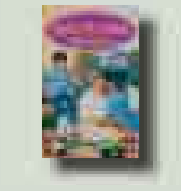
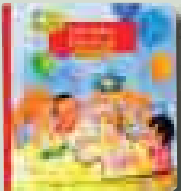
**AETW-PS91 \$9.49**

#### *Temptations of Jesus, The*

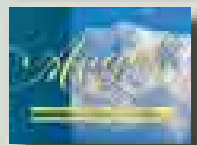
**AETW-TOJE \$9.49**

#### *Ten Commandments, The*

**AETW-TCOM \$9.49**







# Spirit of Prophecy

**White, Ellen G.**

**New! Angels**

This little book provides a sampling of Ellen White's most memorable writings about God's faithful emissaries. Turn to any page in Angels and you'll find a quotation that will enlighten you to the diligent care and selfless love of Heaven's messengers.

Paperback, 141 pages

**BEWE-ANGE \$5.39**

**New! Assurance**

In Assurance, some of Sister White's most encouraging messages are brought together in a treasury of precious hope. Open the book to any page, and you'll find a simple, beautiful quotation that will free you from doubt and give you the assurance you need to face life unafraid.

Paperback, 140 pages

**BEWE-ASSU \$5.39**

**New! Conflict and Courage**

This devotional volume presents relevant lessons from the lives of saints and sinners depicted in sacred history. From the voluminous and rich source of Ellen G. White materials the 365 brief sketches that comprise this devotional volume have been selected.

Hardback, 371 pages, 1970

**BEWE-CACO \$11.19**

**New! That I May Know Him**

This daily devotional was compiled to help you become better acquainted with Jesus, our Lord and Savior. You will gain a deeper appreciation of His sacrifice, His character, and the heights to which we are called in our own character development.

Hardback, 371 pages, 1992

**BEWE-TIMK \$10.49**

## Bibles & Bible Study

### God's Word

*KJV Holy Bible and Spirit of Prophecy*

A leather-bound study Bible that also includes the full text of the Conflict of the Ages books (PP, PK, DA, AA, GC) plus MB, COL, and SC. Includes scripture cross-references only to these eight S.O.P. books.

Includes maps. (No marginal references, concordance, or subject index.)

Leather-bound, Black, Zipper, KJV, 2285 pages, Regular price: \$59.95

**BEGW-KHBS \$47.55**

### Study Bible, The

*The Study Bible*—The perfect companion for the serious Bible student. Contains commentary from the Spirit of Prophecy, marginal references, scriptural index, concordance, and subject index of the commentary.

Leather-bound, Black, Large Edition, King James Version, 1620 pages, 1993, Regular price: \$69.95

**BEGW-SBLK \$54.49**

Leather-bound, Black, Small Edition, King James Version, 1758 pages, 1997, Regular price: \$45.00

**BEGW-SBSK \$32.99**

Leather-bound, Burgundy, Small Edition, King James Version, 1758 pages, 1997, Regular price: \$45.00

**BEGW-SBSB \$32.99**

## Anonymous

### New! Study Mark Set

Want an attractive, easy, and quick way to share Bible truths (from the Old and New Testaments) about the Sabbath, the State of the Dead, the Second Coming, or Salvation? Then try out these beautiful Bible bookmarks!

Laminated, 4 bookmarks per set

**TEMS-SMSE \$0.45**

## Music

### Cook, Russell

**New! Morning Has Broken**

Instrumental Hymns on the Hammer Dulcimer, an ancient stringed instrument played by striking the strings with two small mallets. You will enjoy the different and beautiful sound of this instrument.

Audio CD, 11 Tracks

**CECR-MHBR \$11.95**

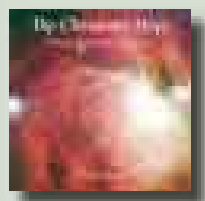
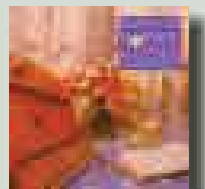
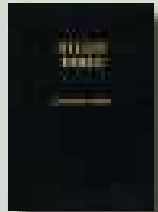
### Sawyer, Derrol

**New! Christian's Hope, The**

13 songs to encourage God's people to proclaim and not lose sight of the Christian's Hope. Accompanied by guitar, violin, and keyboard.

Audio CD, 13 tracks

**CESD-CHOP \$11.49**





### Taste and See

These twelve songs will inspire you to walk with God. Accompanied by guitar, violin, and keyboard. Most of the songs were written by Derrol and Cindy Sawyer.

Audio CD, 12 tracks, 42:17, Regular price: \$14.99

CESD-TSEE \$11.49

### Tindle, Mark

#### New! Blessed Assurance

Hymns of Promise played on the Mountain Dulcimer with Guitar, Penny Whistle, Native American Flute, fiddle, Mandolin, Dobro, Cello, Bass, Hammer Dulcimer, and Keyboard.

Audio CD, 14 tracks

CETM-BASS \$11.95

### Vailant, Patti

#### Scripture Songs

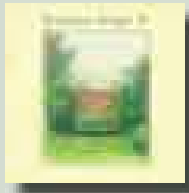
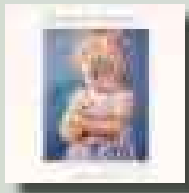
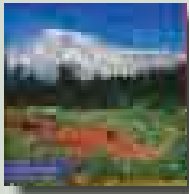
The Scripture Songs series from Valiant Recordings offers the words of Scripture in beautiful vocal and instrumental arrangements. Five different albums are available.

Vol. 1, 28 Tracks

Cassette: AEVR-SSO1 \$6.99  
CD: CEVR-SSO1 \$9.98

Vol. 2, 24 Tracks

Cassette: AEVR-SSO2 \$6.99  
CD: CEVR-SSO2 \$9.98



Vol. 3, 16 Tracks

Cassette: AEVR-SSO3 \$6.99  
CD: CEVR-SSO3 \$9.98

Vol. 4, 16 Tracks

Cassette: AEVR-SSO4 \$6.99  
CD: CEVR-SSO4 \$9.98

Vol. 5, 17 Tracks

Cassette: AEVR-SSO5 \$6.99  
CD: CEVR-SSO5 \$9.98

## Cookbooks

### Malkmus, Rhonda

#### New! Recipes for Life

This is a "how-to" manual on returning to God's original diet for mankind. Learn about the vital distinction between food that is dead and food filled with life — our gift from God.

Spiral-bound, 356 pages, 2004

BEMR-RFLI \$20.99

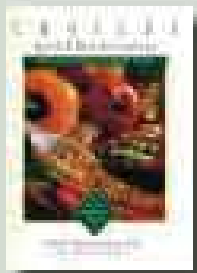
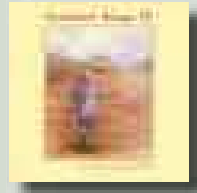
### Peters, Cheryl D. Thomas, R.D.

#### Choices

Bring the natural goodness of fruits, nuts, legumes, and grains together to make delicious, heart-healthy meals that can be prepared in 30 minutes or less!

Paperback, Spiral-bound, 137 pages, 1994, Regular price: \$14.99

BEPC-CHOI \$13.49



## Subscription, Shipping, and Sales Tax Information

### Subscription Information

**United States:** US \$18.75 per year  
**Canada and Mexico:** US \$23.75 per year  
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**Foreign (Air Mail):** US \$60.00 per year  
**Large Print Edition:** US \$29.95 per year  
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- If actual shipping charges are greater, you will be billed the difference.

**Sales tax:** Illinois residents, please add 6.5%. Washington state residents, please add 7.8%.

**All money received must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.**

# Letters to the Editor



I want to let you know how much I appreciate your work and your magazine. This is what we need now—the truth as it is in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy—not a mixture of truth and falsehood, which is spreading so rapidly in our church today.

MK, e-mail

I just want you to know that the messages in *Our Firm Foundation* have changed my life and those of whom I share it with. I thank God for your ministry.

MH, Brazil

Thank you and bless you for *Our Firm Foundation*. Someone was kind enough to provide three trial issues to me, and I can't put them down. Several articles I have read over and over again and will become a permanent part of my resource/reference library. You have a refreshing publication, a voice crying in the wilderness. My subscription check went in the mail today.

JK, Maryland

A friend just lent me your July 2004 magazine. I find it very interesting and would like to subscribe. I would like to have the edition of July 2004 if possible to start. Thanks and continue in the Lord. My prayers have been sent on your behalf to issue your magazine in the undiluted truth for the souls to feed on with the Word.

DC, Canada

Thank you for *Our Firm Foundation*. Such good sermons and timely message for these last days! I pray that God will bless you daily. Hold fast to your faith. Your faith is

important. Here in this home each issue is read by 3 people and passed on to other members. Hold fast and endure.

VJ

I love my trial subscription! I have been downloading *Our Firm Foundation* from the web.

FM, Florida

I don't know who sent the gift copies of *Our Firm Foundation*, but I thank the Lord for them. So I thought I would send it to my son also.

WF, North Dakota

I appreciated your recent letter. Your ministry means a lot to me. It's a real encouragement to know that God does have a remnant who are faithful and preaching the straight testimony. I would really like to be able to support you more and also come to camp meeting, but I am retired on Social Security and have health problems, so I just can't do either. My daughter-in-law has a health food store and vegetarian restaurant here, which is a real witness to the community. We see how the devil is working because he has such a short time. I will keep your ministry in my prayers.

JW, Illinois

Thanks for the wonderful tapes. They certainly lift up our spirits, giving strength and determination to always lift Him up. Praise to God and Jesus Christ. We wish we could do more, but are short on money. We do trust our Savior to guide us and bless you all further.

DC, Florida

I received your books and I'm eagerly reading them. Please accept this offering toward God's ministry through you! Thank you for blessing me.

AG, California

Thank God for all of you. It takes all of you to make and produce this wonderful magazine of truth to the world. The articles are so timely for now. We all need to pray for you and your work. I appreciate every article. Wish I had more each day. May God continue to bless your work and to give you strength to continue until the end, and may the end come soon.

HC, Arizona

All at once I realized we hadn't received *Our Firm Foundation* for awhile and checked and discovered our subscription was out. We have so many things to read and we get a bit behind but we do appreciate *Our Firm Foundation*, so here is our subscription fee.

WZ, Wisconsin

My friends from church told me about Hope International. We are now an independent church. We find the information sent to us very informative and appreciate all the material and tapes sent. Thank you for being there for all of us that need your ministry. May we all be overcomers. Please pray for me. I am an impatient person and have a temper that I have been trying to overcome for a long time. May God grant me the victory over this.

BM, Michigan

I have been getting *Our Firm Foundation* for the past year and have been very blessed by it. We desperately need this magazine, and I sometimes feel very thirsty for more of Jesus. I am looking forward to receiving godly penpals and new friends to meet in the Lord!

EC, Alaska

God bless all of you in the work you are doing. May we all stay strong until our Jesus comes to take us home. You are all in my prayers.

RD, North Carolina

# FALL CAMP MEETING 2004

September 29 to October 3, Hope International held its first camp meeting at its Illinois location. Each message was "present truth" for the hour, and those who came said how thankful they were for the wonderful camp meeting and the Christian fellowship. Now you can receive the blessing of our 2004 fall camp meeting and share it with friends and family.

## Prices

Audio Cassettes: \$1.99 each

Audio CDs: \$2.99 each

Video Tapes: \$4.99 each\*

\*includes free video tape album for each 8 videos purchased.

DVD Videos: \$5.99 each

*Save more —*

## buy the entire set!

Set of 20 audio cassettes: \$32.95

Set of 20 audio CDs: \$51.95

20 Messages on 1 MP3 CD: \$14.95

Set of 20 video tapes: \$84.95

\*includes 3 video tape albums valued at \$10 each

Set of 20 DVD videos: \$94.95

See page 30 for shipping and sales tax charges.



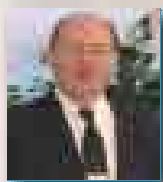
### Clark Floyd

- All that Live Godly in Christ Shall Suffer Persecution



### Lee Forbes

- It Is For Us
- Portugal Report



### George Gomoll

- Do We Expect Miracles?



### Richard Harris

- Simple Simon
- Teasing the Beast
- True Lies



### Diane Herbert

- Simple Home Remedies
- Arguments for Vegetarianism



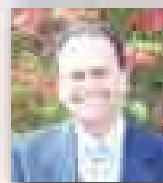
### Patrick Herbert

- Drinking, But Not Drunk
- Keeping the Camp Clean



### Joe Olson

- Don't Go to Egypt!



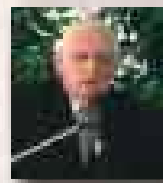
### J. C. Perozo

- Dead or Alive?



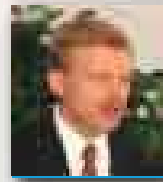
### Ron Spear

- These Times
- Preparing for the End



### Colin Standish

- Ecumenism and Persecution



### Harvey Steck

- Let This Mind Be in You

### Speaker Panel

- Talk Back Live, Part 1
- Talk Back Live, Part 2
- Talk Back Live, Part 3



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