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Christ Tempted As We Are
Music and the Great Controversy

To the Shepherds of the Flock, see page 8
IT IS WITH great concern that we see the Seventh-day Adventist Church continue to pursue a course of liberalism and worldliness and compromise. The wedding ring, which for over a hundred years was forbidden by those holding offices in the church has now been approved by official action of the leadership at the recent fall council. How can we rationalize away this inspired counsel from God on this important issue?

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel." 1 Peter 3:3

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broidered hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." 1 Timothy 2:9

"Are we to follow the Word of God, or the customs of the world? Our sister decided that it was the safest to adhere to the Bible standard [and remove her ornaments]. Will Mrs. D. and others who follow a similar course [in continuing to wear them] be pleased to meet the result of their influence, in that day when every man shall receive according to his works?

"God's Word is plain. Its teachings cannot be mistaken. Shall we obey it, just as He has given it to us, or shall we seek to find how far we can digress and yet be saved?"

"Conformity to the world is a sin which is sapping the spirituality of our people, and seriously interfering with their usefulness. It is idle to proclaim the warning message to the world, while we deny it in the transactions of daily life." Evangelism, 271, 272

In many churches today modesty has gone out of style; gold, pearls, costly garments and the fashions of the world are now the fashions of the church. Has the spirit of compromise so overwhelmed us that we do not realize we have compromised? Do we believe we are all right when we are all wrong?

Listen to inspiration speak to us: "Ministers and people are unprepared for the time in which they live, and nearly all who profess to believe present truth are unprepared to understand the work of preparation for this time. In their present state of worldly ambition, with their lack of consecration to God, their devotion to self, they are wholly unifitted to receive the latter rain and, having done all, to stand against the wrath of Satan, who by his inventions would cause them to make shipwreck of faith, fastening upon them some pleasing self-deception. They think they are all right when they are all wrong." Testimonies, vol. 1, 466

Some would say, "These statements were written for Ellen G. White's day. Let us not apply them to our time."

If we would use this rationale, then we would be able to do the same with Scripture and do away with its force and intent as surely as did the rabbis of old. When our prophet said we are following in the exact steps of ancient Israel, only worse than they, we must understand that we are in a very serious apostasy. If we were worse than ancient Israel in the 80s and 90s of the previous century, what are we like now? Has our piety grown with our numbers? Ellen White describes our condition today in the following words:

"In the last vision given me, I was shown the startling fact that but a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctioned by it and be saved. Many will get above the simplicity of the work. They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and become spiritually dead. The humble, self-sacrificing followers of Jesus will pass on to perfection, leaving behind the indifferent and lovers of the world."

"I was pointed back to ancient Israel. But two of the adults of the vast army that left Egypt entered the land of Canaan. Their dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness because of their transgressions. Modern Israel are in greater danger of forgetting God and being led into idolatry than were His ancient people. . . ."

"A blessing or a curse is now before the people of God—a blessing if they come out from the world and are separate, and walk in the path of humble obedience; and a curse if they unite with the idolatrous, who trample upon the high claims of Heaven. The sins and iniquities of rebellious Israel are recorded and the picture presented before us as a warning that if we imitate their example of transgression and depart from God we shall fall as surely as did they. 'Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.' [1 Corinthians 10:11]" Ibid., 608, 609

May God help us now to understand that there will be no place in heaven for those who compromise. May God help us now, to quickly turn from our worldliness, to walk in the narrow path that takes us through the strait gate to heaven.

RON SPEAR—EDITOR

1. See Testimonies, vol. 1, 139; vol. 3, 552, 553; vol. 5, 75, 76, 94, 160
It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of Our Firm Foundation to give the straight testimony and to present Christ and Him crucified. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the truths that place us on a firm foundation in the midst of this troubled world.—The Editors

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Our Firm Foundation
Editorial Office:
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(206) 832-6602

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Invitation to Writers

We are accepting article-length (1800-2800 words) manuscripts (preferably typewritten) for possible publication in Our Firm Foundation. We are not in a position to give consideration to longer submissions. When sending material for our consideration, please retain your original manuscript and send us a photo copy. If you desire notice of a decision in regard to your article, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Address all editorial correspondence to Managing Editor, Our Firm Foundation, P.O. Box 940, Eatonville, WA 98328

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Christ Tempted
As We Are
Part Two

The followers of Christ are called upon to share with Him in His sufferings. The confederacy of evil is arrayed against those who would follow in the footsteps of the world's Redeemer. We are to battle with the mighty prince of evil; but the Saviour tells us that we are not to fight alone. All the heavenly intelligences will come to our help. Amid the darkness of the world, we are to catch the radiance from the throne of God, and to shed the light of heaven to the uttermost parts of the earth.

The Christian is enlisted to fight in the cause of God, to be a soldier of Jesus Christ. Jesus fought all our battles during His life upon earth, and in that He was tempted, He knows how to succor those who shall be tempted. We have no power to war with principalities, and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places, except as we draw strength from Christ. Jesus calls upon you to behold the confederacy of evil, to behold the conflict through which you must pass. He bids us count the cost of standing under the bloodstained banner; He does not flatter us that we shall have no difficulties in this life; but, although we shall be tried and tempted in meeting the confederacy of evil, yet we are assured that all the heavenly intelligences will be enlisted on our side in every battle. But the ministry of angels will not ensure us against sorrow and trial. Angels ministered to Jesus; yet their presence did not make His life one of ease, nor free Him from conflict and temptation. While we are engaged in the work which the Master has appointed us to do, though trials and perplexities and temptations press upon us, we should not be discouraged; for we know that One has endured all these temptations before us.

We each have a battle to fight with the fallen foe. We should begin the conflict in the light of the Bible, gaining victories over self, giving no place to the evil one. We should not sin against God by indulging sinful thoughts or speaking murmuring words. We should not let the enemy control our powers in the least, but throw all the weight of our influence on the side of Christ. God has pledged His word that His grace will be sufficient for us in our greatest necessity, in our sorest distress. Appropriating this grace, Christ will be found to be a very present help in time of trouble.

The Lord expects His servants to excel the lovers of the world in life and character. That they may do this, He has placed at their command unlimited resources. The
Christian is a spectacle unto the world, to angels, and to men. He is looked upon as one who is striving for the mastery, running the race set before him, that he may obtain the prize, even an immortal crown. His motives are to be above the motives of those who love the world. He is to feel that in the great contest in which he is engaged, there is everything to win, and everything to lose. He is to realize that he must make use of every intrusted power to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Grace has been abundantly provided that he may not fail nor be discouraged, but be complete in Christ, accepted in the Beloved.

Those who would be victors should contemplate the cost of salvation, that they may be subdued by the love of Christ, that their strong human passions may be conquered, and their will brought into captivity to their Redeemer. The Christian is to realize that he is not his own, but that he has been bought with a price. His strongest temptations will come from within; for he must battle against the inclinations of the natural heart. The Lord knows our weaknesses; yet He has valued man, even though finite and incapable of any good in and of himself, at an infinite price. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” [John 3:16] Every struggle against sin, every effort to conform to the law of God, is Christ working through His appointed agencies upon the human heart. Oh, if we could comprehend what Jesus is to us and what we are to Him, murmuring would be forever silenced, unbelief would be swept away, the value of the soul would appear, and we would believe that God has loved us with an everlasting love!

You who are tempted and tried and discouraged, look up. Let no weary, halting, sin-oppressed soul become faint-hearted and lose hope. The promises of God come sounding down along the lines to us, assuring us that we may reach heaven if we will abide in Christ. Look up; it is fatal to look down.

Looking down, the earth reels and sways beneath you, and nothing is sure. A divine hand is reached towards you. The hand of the Infinite is stretched over the battlements of heaven to grasp your hand in its embrace. The mighty Helper is nigh to help the most erring, the most sinful and despairing. Look up by faith, and the light of the glory of God will shine upon you. Do not be discouraged because you see that your character is defective. The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in distinct contrast with His perfect character. Be not discouraged; this is an evidence that Satan’s delusions are losing their power; that the vivifying influence of the Spirit of God is arousing you, and that your indifference and ignorance are passing away.

Whatever may have been your past experience, however discouraging may be your present circumstances, if you will come to Jesus just as you are, weak, helpless, and despairing, our compassionate Saviour will meet you a great way off, and will throw about you His arms of love and His robe of righteousness. Do not continue to talk of your weakness; Jesus came to bring moral power to combine with human effort, that we might advance step by step in the heavenward way. Let your faith lay hold of the precious promises of God, and if clouds have encompassed you, the mists will roll back; for the angels of God are ever ready to help in every trial and emergency. We are not left to battle unaided against the prince of darkness. As we realize the attacks of the enemy, we shall feel the need of fleeing to the stronghold; we shall learn to lean upon the mighty One. He will be to us as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, as a covert from the tempest. Deep and fervent will be the gratitude of him who experiences the help of God in times of temptation and trial.

The whole army of heaven is enlisted to fight our battles for us, to work out for us a glorious victory, and Jesus is the Captain of our salvation. But let no one think that we shall not be called upon to endure tribulation. John says:

“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 worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and

Jesus came to bring moral power to combine with human effort

Your faith, your love, your constancy, will be tested

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 to 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:
He is the Pattern that we, as His disciples, must follow

hear the sincere prayer of the contrite soul, and will lift up a standard for you against the enemy.

Jesus left His home in heaven, and came to this dark world, to reach to the very depths of human woe, that He might save those who are ready to perish. He laid aside His glory in the heavenly courts above, clothed His divinity with humanity, and for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich. He came to the earth, that was all seared and marred with sin, “and, being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” [Philippians 2:8] He submitted to insult and mockery, that He might leave us a perfect example. When we are inclined to magnify our trials, to think we are having a hard time, we should look away from self to Jesus, who is the Author and Finisher of our faith, “who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” [Hebrews 12:2] All this He endured that He might bring many sons and daughters to God, to present them before the universe as trophies of His victory.

In order to be overcomers, we must heed the injunction of the apostle, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” [Philippians 2:5] He is the Pattern that we, as His disciples, must follow. We cannot cherish selfishness in our hearts, and follow the example of Christ, who died to make an atonement for us. We cannot exalt our own merits, and follow His example; for He made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant. We cannot harbor pride and follow Christ, since He humbled Himself until there was no lower place to which He could descend. Be astonished, O heavens, and be amazed, O earth, that sinful man should make such returns to his Lord in formality and pride, in efforts to lift up and glorify himself, when Christ came and humbled Himself in our behalf, even to the death of the cross.

Christ came to teach us how to live. He has invited us to learn of Him, to be meek and lowly of heart, that we may find rest unto our souls. We have no excuse for not imitating His life and working His works. Those who profess His name and do not practice His precepts, are weighed in the balances of heaven, and found wanting. But those who reflect His image will have a place in the mansions which He has gone to prepare.

He who is a child of God should henceforth look upon himself as a part of the cross of Christ, a link in the chain let down to save the world, one with Christ in His plan of mercy, going forth with Him to seek and to save the lost. The Christian is ever to realize that he is bought with a price, to stand under the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel, to fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life. He is to reveal Christ to the world. The self-denial, the self-sacrifice, the sympathy, the love that were manifested in the life of Christ, are to reappear in the life of His followers. In order to do this, we must put on the whole armor of God; “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” [Ephesians 6:12] If we do not overcome, we lose the crown; and if we lose the crown, we lose everything. Eternal loss or eternal gain will be ours. If we gain the crown, we gain all things; we become heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.

Christ is coming in a little while. He has been our brother in suffering; and if we overcome, through His grace, we shall see Him as He is. We shall suffer here but a few days longer, and then enter into an eternity of happiness; for there is sweet rest in the kingdom of God. For those that fight the good fight of faith, there is reserved a crown of glory, a palm of victory, an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Let the determination of every soul be “I must run the race: I must over- come.”

Ellen G. White Pamphlets in the Concordance, vol. 1, 291-294
Campmeeting Reservations and Accommodations

If you plan to attend the 1987 Hope International Campmeeting, July 29-August 2, and wish to stay on our grounds, you are more than welcome. We do ask, though, that you write or call to make a reservation. We do not expect to see a shortage of room, but we need this information in order to make the best use of our facilities. Water and restrooms will be available at several locations around the grounds. We plan to provide limited shower facilities, but hookups for water, sewer, and electricity are not available on our grounds. The nearest sewer dump station is one mile away in Eatonville. Please plan on a real campmeeting.

We are not able to provide a cafeteria service, nor will there be a camp store to supply food items and the like. There are, however, two well-stocked grocery stores in town, though they do not have any distinctly "health food" items.

We ask that you do all that you possibly can to provide your own shelter and bedding. But if absolutely nothing works out, please call us a week or two before campmeeting rather than give up on the idea of coming. We can't promise that we will be able to meet your needs, but we'll be happy to try.

If you do not plan to stay on our grounds, you need not make a reservation with us. You should, however, make reservations ahead of time at the hotel or motel of your choice. Unfortunately, one "disadvantage" of a rural location is that hotels and the like are some distance away. The following information may be of some assistance:

Motel Puyallup—25 miles north of Hope International. Rates from $28 to $36 per night depending on the number in the party, kitchen units available for $3 extra. Call (206) 845-8825.

Northwest Motor Inn—25 miles north of Hope International. Rates from $29 to $43 per night depending on the number in the party. Kitchen in single rooms, $3 extra. Call (206) 841-2600.

La Grande Hotel and RV Park—10 miles south of Hope International. Rates from $27 to $40 per night, kitchen units available. (The hotel accommodations here are adequate, but definitely not "fancy.") RV sites, $7 per night. Sewer dump station, but no sewer hookups available. Call (206) 832-6643.

Camp Benbow—10 miles north of Hope International. Tents, $5 per night plus $2 per person; RV sites with water and power $9 per night; with sewer $11 per night. RV rates include one person; $2 extra for each additional person. Call (206) 879-5426.

Children's Meetings

We will endeavor to provide limited weekday meetings for children, in addition to a regular Sabbath School. Any assistance with this work which you may offer would be very much appreciated. If you could help, please call and let us know, even if you can only tell a story or supervise a hike. We especially need help with the primary/junior division. We are not planning on meetings for infants.

Directions to Hope International

From the South: Take I-5 north to exit 88; go east through Tenino to Yelm. Turn right at stoplight, go through and out of town. About one mile from the stoplight, turn right onto Hwy. 702 (look for signs to Mt. Ranier and Northwest Trek). Follow 702 for about 15 miles, crossing Hwy. 7, to a "T" intersection with Hwy. 161. Turn right (south) and go 2 or 3 miles until you come to Ski Park Road. Turn left and go about 1/4 mile; cross a creek and Hope International will be on your left.

From the North, 1 (bypass the cities): Take I-5 south to exit 154; then go east on Hwy. 405 for 2 miles, then south on Hwy. 167 for about 20 miles. Take the Puyallup-Olympia exit onto Hwy. 512 for 2 miles; then take the Eatonville-Mt. Rainier exit onto Hwy. 161 for about 23 miles to Ski Park Road. Turn left and go about 1/4 mile; cross a creek and Hope International will be on your left.

From the North, 2 (simpler directions, more stoplights): Take I-5 south to exit 142 (Hwy. 18); go west to the first stoplight; turn left and go about 30 miles (through the city of Puyallup and on south) to Ski Park Road, one mile north of Eatonville. Turn left and go about 1/4 mile; cross a creek and Hope International will be on your left.

From the East on I-90, Snoqualmie Pass: Take I-90 west to exit 25; go southwest on Hwy. 18 about 25 miles through Auburn to Hwy. 167. Then go south for 6 or 8 miles to Hwy. 512. Follow the directions of From the North (one) from then on.

From the East on Hwy. 12, White Pass: Take Hwy. 12 to the town of Morton; turn right (north) on Hwy. 7. Continue 25 miles on Hwy. 7 past Elbe and Alder. Turn right (northwest) onto Hwy. 161, and go 3 or 4 miles; pass Eatonville and continue to Ski Park Road, 1 mile north of town. Turn right and go about 1/4 mile; cross a creek and Hope International will be on your left.
To the Shepherds of the Flock

NOW MAY the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV quoted throughout, all emphasis supplied)

"And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully." Jeremiah 23:28

In verses 1 and 2 of this chapter warning is given to the shepherds of the Lord's flock. "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: 'You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,' says the Lord." In what way have these shepherds been unfaithful? Verses 5 and 6 point forward to the judgment. These shepherds then must not be warning God's people of the judgment and its terrible consequences to those who are not prepared for it. These shepherds have scattered God's people and have driven them away by not preaching the truth for this hour; the straight testimony. They are crying "peace and safety" and are lulling the flock into a false sense of security.

Verses 3 and 4 say, "'But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,' says the Lord." God says He will gather His remnant back to Himself and He will set up shepherds over them who will feed them. His faithful shepherds will feed them the truth, the straight testimony that is needed today. They will feed them the meat of the message, and not the milk only. There is a work to be done today which involves the faithful remnant and the faithful shepherds. God says that His shepherds will feed them, and they will not fear, nor be dismayed, NOR BE LACKING. The promise is also there that they will be fruitful and will increase. This remnant of God are the ones who have been studying, praying, agonizing before God to bring their lives into conformity to His will. They will bear much fruit for Him and increase. They will do His will and will win souls for Him. "Nor shall they be lacking." The True Witness in Revelation 3:18 tells the Laodicean church to buy of Him gold refined in the fire, white raiment, and eye salve because she is most certainly lacking the needed possessions for a triumphant Christian life. These things are needed to cure her condition of being wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. God's people need a preparation which will enable them to be ready for the coming of Jesus Christ. And God has promised that this group will not be lacking in anything that is necessary; necessary to stand in the judgment before a holy God, and necessary to prepare for translation. This work is to be accomplished by faithful shepherds.

In verses 11-14 God has this to say: "'For both prophet and priest are profane; yes, in My house I have found their wickedness,' says the Lord. . . . 'For I will bring
disaster on them. . . . They . . . caused My people Israel to err. . . . They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns back from his wickedness,' " Verses 16 and 17: "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord. They continually say to those who despise Me, "The Lord has said, 'You shall have peace.' " and to everyone who walks according to the imagination of his own heart, "No evil shall come upon you." " Verses 21 and 22: " 'I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, and had caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings.' " And finally, verses 28 and 29, " 'And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. . . . Is not My word like a fire?' says the Lord."

If those who sound the solemn notes of warning for this time could realize their accountability to God they would see the necessity for fervent prayer

The false shepherds pictured in Jeremiah 23 are guilty of feeding the flock fables of their own devisings, and are guilty of saying that they speak for the Lord when they do not. They are guilty of causing God's people to err. The words that they have spoken have made the flock worthless in God's sight. Then in verse 32 God states: "Therefore they shall not profit this people at all." What a charge to be laid against the unfaithful shepherd!

O shepherds of the Lord's flock, what a solemn responsibility is yours! It is not an easy task that you have undertaken. It is not a pleasant thing to call sin by its proper name and to raise the voice of rebuke for the wrongs and sin in the church today. To sigh and cry over the abominations done in the church, to stand for the right when no one else will, to raise your voices against evil and worldliness is a very difficult task, but one that God nevertheless fully expects you to do faithfully. You are responsible to God and must answer to Him if you do not do this. In volume 4 of the Testimonies on page 527 under the chapter entitled "The Servants of God," Ellen White states, "I wish I could arouse those who claim to be watchmen on the walls of Zion to realize their responsibility. They should awake and take a higher stand for God, for souls are perishing through their neglect. They must have that sincere devotion to God that will lead them to see as God sees and take the words of warning from Him and sound the alarm to those who are in peril." "If those who sound the solemn notes of warning for this time could realize their accountability to God they would see the necessity for His temple, and asking the question, "But who can endure the day of His coming? and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire." The judgment is now taking place and God's people need to be told more than that the investigative judgment began in 1844. They need to be told of the preparation that is necessary to stand in that judgment.

In Ezekiel 9 the Lord calls with a loud voice to those men who have charge over the city of Jerusalem (His chosen people, spiritual Israel) to draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand. Then the man clothed in linen, with a writer's inhorn at his side, He tells to go through the city and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over abominations that are done within it. After this, in verse 5 He tells the first group to "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children . . . but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple. "There are two grave messages to be recognized in these words. First, there is a work that must be done by all of God's people while this sealing angel is going about placing the seal of God on the foreheads of His people. Only those who sigh and cry over the abominations done within the city will receive the mark. What is this sighing and crying experience? How many people within the church know what this means? The second message is that the unfaithful shepherds will be the first to feel the wrath of God, poured out without mercy.

How many people within our ranks know of the existence of Ezekiel 9 or of the work of preparation that we must be doing right now? How many people truly understand what living in the antitypical day of atonement means and know how to prepare to stand before the living God who will judge all men according to their works?

In volume 5 of the Testimonies, page 207, under the title "The Seal
of God," the servant of the Lord makes plain the truths that were given to her. There are many profound statements about the sighing and crying experience that all must enter into if they are to receive the seal of God.

1. "The little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world." 209, 210

2. "While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God's honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any." 210

3. "They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light. They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church." 210

4. "The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God." 211

5. "The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land." 212

6. "Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them." 214

7. "What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth—these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads." 216

What happens to those who refuse to be His faithful shepherds, those who have the greatest responsibility that God ever placed upon man? Again I turn to the above quoted chapter.

1. "Thus 'Peace and safety' is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God." 211

2. "It is with reluctance that the Lord withdraws His presence from those who have been blessed with great light and who have felt the power of the Word in ministering to others. They were once His faithful servants, favored with His presence and guidance; but they departed from Him and led others into error, and therefore are brought under the divine displeasure." 212

3. "Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads. They had the light of truth, they knew their Master's will, they understood every point of our faith, but they had not corresponding works." 213, 214

4. "However high any minister may have stood in the favor of God, if he neglects to follow out who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, 'Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach.'" This is the work of the ministry now, during the antitypical day of atonement. Anything less is an abomination to the Lord. This is the work that is needed today. To give anything less than the urgent message of this hour is to betray the trust that the Lord has placed in your hands. Please, I beg you, be faithful to that trust. The Lord is counting on you. It is your solemn duty.

Being a faithful shepherd of God and speaking faithfully for Him means more than not speaking falsehoods. It means speaking the whole message that needs to be told. The third angel's message needs to be brought before the people of God today and kept before them. Don't save it for evangelistic meetings. It is a truth that is vital, living, and urgent for the church today.

Tell us that we are a prophetic people and that the Spirit of Prophecy is God's word to us and that we

Being a faithful shepherd of God and speaking faithfully for Him means speaking the whole message that needs to be told

the light given him of God, if he refuses to be taught as a little child, he will go into darkness and satanic delusions and will lead others in the same path." 214

In Ezekiel 8:16-18 we see men who are ministering in the Lord's temple between the porch and the altar and who are committing abominations there. God's punishment is upon them and He states that His eye will not spare them; He will have no pity, and though they cry in His ears with a loud voice, He will not hear them. Looking at Joel 2:17 we see what God has said His ministers must do. "Let the priests, must trust it and learn from it. Tell us that without it we are not, we cannot be, the fulfillment of Revelation 12:17 and Revelation 19:10. When you preach, use the Spirit of Prophecy. If we didn't need it, then God would not have given it to us.

Tell us that the pillars of our faith, the truths that our forefathers believed in will never be chipped away, no matter how hard men may try. Those beliefs are truth and will stand forever.

Teach us what our lives must be so that we can understand clearly the plan of salvation. Teach us the health message and tell us that it is

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not an option. Tell us that unless we control our appetites we can never have victory over sin in our lives.

Tell us to come out of the world and be a separate and peculiar people. Teach us how to be holy. Teach us not to touch the unclean thing. Teach us to fall at the foot of the cross every day and be broken. Teach us to sigh and cry, to agonize over the sin in our lives. Tell us to rend our hearts and not our garments. Tell us that through the blood of Jesus we can have victory.

Tell us that Jesus is not waiting for us to evangelize the world while we have a cold formal relationship with Him. It can’t be done. Tell us that Jesus is waiting for us to have the love relationship with Him that makes us willing to be cleansed of all sin, that will make us prefer to die rather than hurt Him by sinning, a relationship that will have us so settled into the truth that we shall not be moved.

Tell us the story of Jesus, of how He died on the cross for us, yes, but also how Jesus lived for us, a life of perfect obedience. Tell us how he assumed our sinful fallen nature upon His sinless nature, and that He understands everything that we go through. Tell us how He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Tell us that by uniting that fallen nature with the divine nature, He has assured us victory over every sin. Tell us that the divine power which He laid hold of by faith is available to each of us today. Tell us that we can overcome every sin in our lives, and more than that, that we must overcome every sin in our lives if we are to see Jesus.

Tell us that He lives today and is finishing the work necessary for our salvation that He began those many years ago when He laid down His life as the sacrificial Lamb. Tell us the work that He is doing now in the courts above. Teach us the very work that He is performing in the Most Holy Place for us now, and show us how to enter in beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies. Tell us that by entering into the Most Holy Place with Him through faith in His atoning blood, that we can put away all sin in our lives. Tell us that we can be perfect even as He is perfect, through faith in Him. Tell us He is waiting for us to stop sinning so that He can finally cleanse the sanctuary and come back for us and take us to heaven to be with Him.

Tell us that when He can see Himself perfectly reflected in us, that He will finish the work in righteousness and will come for us.

God has assured us that His church militant will be His church triumphant. Let us all work together, then, for the hastening of the day when Jesus will come, that His desire will be fulfilled. “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am.” John 17:24

“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not for dishonest gain, nor as lords, but being examples to the flock.”

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not for dishonest gain, nor as lords, but being examples to the flock.

Carbon-14 dating assumes that there was no influx of Carbon-14 into the environment. Yet one of the earliest discoveries of the U.S. Space Program was that the solar wind is dumping vast quantities of Carbon-14 into the earth’s atmosphere. The rate of this influx alone would cause all Carbon-14 dates to be too old by a factor of at least 10.

Carbon-14 dating further assumes that all the carbon of the substance being evaluated started out as a homogeneous mixture of only one isotope of carbon. There has never been any rational reason put forth to support this position.

Another assumption is that radioactive rates of decay, which admittedly have been essentially constant over the past 70 years, have been constant over the past 4,600,000,000 years. This bold, critical, and untenable assumption is made even though no one knows what causes radioactive decay.
For weeks I have not been able to sleep after half past three o'clock. My mind is deeply exercised in regard to our condition as a people. We ought to be far in advance of any other people on the earth because we have greater light and greater knowledge of the truth, which lays us under increased accountability to advance that light and not only profess to believe the truth but also to practice it. When we do practice the truth we are then following Jesus, who is the light of the world; and if we as a people are not constantly elevating, becoming more and more spiritually minded, we are becoming like the Pharisees—self-righteous—while we do not the will of God.

We must have a greater nearness to God. Much less of self and much more of Jesus Christ and His grace must be brought into our everyday life. We are living in an important period of this world's history. The end of all things is at hand; the sands of time are fast running out; soon in heaven it will be said: "It is done." "He that is holy, let him be holy still.... he which is filthy, let him be filthy still." [Revelation 21:6; 22:11]

Let our testimonies be sharpened up; let us have a firmer hold on God. I cannot refrain from prayer at one, two, and three o'clock in the morning for the Lord to work upon the hearts of the people. I think of all Heaven being interested in the work that is going on upon the earth. Ministering angels are waiting about the throne to instantly obey the mandate of Jesus Christ to answer every prayer offered in earnest, living faith. I think of how many who profess the truth are keeping it apart from their lives. They do not bring its sanctifying, refining, spiritualizing power into their hearts. I think how this grieves Jesus.

I think of His great sorrow as He wept over Jerusalem, exclaiming, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" [Luke 13:34]

God forbid that these words shall apply to those who have great light and blessings. In the rejecting of Jerusalem it was because great privileges were abused which brought the denunciation upon all who lightly regarded the great opportunities and precious light that were entrusted to their keeping. Privileges do not commend us to God, but they commend God to us. No people are saved because they have great light and special advantages, for these high and heavenly favors only increase their responsibility.

The more and increased light God has given makes the receiver more responsible. It does not place the receiver in any safer position unless the privileges are wisely improved, prized and used to advance God's glory. Christ said, "Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes." [Matthew 11:21]
When Jerusalem was divorced from God it was because of her sins. She fell from an exalted height that Tyre and Sidon had never reached. And when an angel falls he becomes a fiend. The depths of our ruin is measured by the exalted light to which God has raised us in His great goodness and unspeakable mercy. Oh, what privileges are granted to us as a people! And if God spared not His people that He loved because they refused to walk in the light, how can He spare the people whom He has blessed with the light of heaven in having opened to them the most exalted truth ever intrusted to mortal man to give to the world?

We are far from being the people God would have us to be, because we do not elevate the soul and refine the character in harmony with the wonderful unfolding of God's truth and His purposes. "Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." [Proverbs 14:34] Sin is a disorganizer. Wherever it is cherished—in the individual heart, in the household, in the church—there is disorder, strife, variance, enmity, envy, jealousy, because the enemy of man and of God has the controlling power over the mind. But let the truth be loved and brought into the life, as well as advocated, and that man or woman will hate sin and will be a living representative of Jesus Christ to the world.

God never forsakes people or individuals until they forsake Him

The people claiming to believe the truth will not be condemned because they had not the light, but because they had great light and did not bring their hearts to the test of God's great moral standard of righteousness. The people who claim to believe the truth must be elevated by living it out. Real Bible religion must leaven the life, refine and ennoble the character, making it more and more like the divine model. Then will the home be vocal with prayer, with thanksgiving and praise to God. Angels will minister in the home and accompany the worshiper to the house of prayer.

Let the churches who claim to believe the truth, who are advocating the law of God, keep that law and depart from all iniquity. Let the individual members of the church resist the temptations to practice evils and indulge in sin. Let the church commence the work of purification before God by repentance, humiliation, deep heart searching, for we are in the antitypical day of atonement—solemn hour fraught with eternal results.

Let those who teach the truth present it as it is in Jesus. Under the subduing, sanctifying, refining, influence of the truth of God they are as clean vessels. Let them be leavened with Bible religion, and what an influence would go forth from them to the world! Let the individual members of the church be pure, steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the love of Jesus, and they will then be a light to the world. Let the men standing as watchmen and as shepherds of the flock proclaim the solemn truth, sound the notes of warning to all people, nations and tongues. Let them be living representatives of the truth they advocate, and honor God's law by strict and holy compliance with its requirements, walking before the Lord in purity, in holiness, and a power will attend the proclamation of the truth that will reflect light everywhere.

God never forsakes people or individuals until they forsake Him. Outward opposition will not cause the faith of God's people, who are keeping His commandments, to become dim. The neglect to bring purity and truth into practice will grieve the Spirit of God and weaken them because God is not in their midst to bless. Internal corruption will bring the denunciations of God upon this people as it did upon Jerusalem. Oh, let pleading voices, let earnest prayer be heard, that those who preach to others shall not themselves be castaways. My brethren, we know not what is before us, and our only safety is in following the Light of the world. God will work with us and for us if the sins which brought His wrath upon the old world, upon Sodom and Gomorrah and upon ancient Jerusalem, do not become our crime.

The least transgression of God's law brings guilt upon the transgressor, and without earnest repentance and forsaking of sin he will surely become an apostate. You inquire in regard to the course which should be pursued to secure the rights of our people to worship according to the dictates of our own conscience. This has been a burden on my soul for some time, whether it would be a denial of our faith, and an evidence that our trust was not fully in God. But I call to mind many things God has shown me in the past in regard to things of a similar character, as the draft and other things. I can speak in the fear of God: it is right we should use every power we can to avert the pressure that is being brought to bear upon our people. I know that were our people spiritualized by the truth the greatest love would be maintained.

[We are] not to provoke those who have accepted this spurious Sabbath, an institution of the Papacy, in the place of God's holy Sabbath. Their not having the Bible arguments in their favor makes them all the more angry and determined to supply the place of arguments that are wanting in the Word of God by the power of their might. The force of persecution follows the steps of the dragon. Therefore great care should be exercised to give no provocation. And again, let us as a people, as far as possible, cleanse the camp of moral defilement and aggravating sins. When sin is making its march upon the
people who claim to be elevating the moral standard of righteousness, how can we expect God to turn His power in our behalf and save us as a people that did righteousness?

All the policy in the world cannot save us from a terrible sifting, and all the efforts made with high authorities will not lift from us the scourging of God just because sin is cherished. If as a people we do not keep ourselves in the faith and not only advocate with pen and voice the commandments of God, but also may be the pleas in our favor, will not bring about that which we desire, unless the Lord works by His Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who claim to believe the truth. We may struggle as a mighty man in swimming against the current of Niagara, but we shall fail unless the Lord pleads in our behalf. God will be honored among His people. They must be pure, they must be divested of self, steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. The Lord will elevate the humblest soul that trusts in Him. He will unite His power with human effort, if that man will honor Him as did Daniel. But as a people we need the beauty of righteousness, holiness, and truth. The most harmonious theory will not save us. The God that ruled in Babylon is the same God that rules now.

There are many doctrines current in our world. There is many a religion current that numbers its thousands and tens of thousands, but there is but one that bears the superscription and the stamp of God. There is a religion of man and a religion of God. We must have our souls riveted to the eternal Rock. Everything in God's world, both men and doctrines and nature itself, is fulfilling God's sure word of prophecy and accomplishing His grand and closing work in this world's history.

We are to be ready and waiting for the orders of God. Nations will be stirred to their very center. Support will be withdrawn from those who proclaim God's only standard of righteousness, the only sure test of character. And all who will not bow to the decree of the national councils, and obey the national laws to exalt the Sabbath instituted by the man of sin to the disregard of God's holy day, will feel, not the oppressive power of Popery alone, but of the Protestant world, the image of the beast.

Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme keep them every one, not violating a single precept knowingly, then weakness and ruin will come upon us. It is a work that we must attend to in every one of our churches. Each man must be a Christian. Let the sin of pride be put away, let all superfluities of dress be overcome and repentance toward God be exercised, for the high-handed robbery toward Him which has withheld money which should flow into the treasury to sustain the work of God in its mission fields. Let the work of reformation, of true conversion, be set before and urged upon the people. Let our works, our deportment, correspond with the work for this time, that we may say, Follow me as I follow Christ. Let us humble our souls before God by humiliation, fasting, and prayer, repentance of sin, and putting it away.

The voice of the true watchman needs now to be heard all along the line, "The morning cometh, and also the night." [Isaiah 21:12] The trumpet must give a certain sound, for we are in the great day of the Lord's preparation. All the struggles to carry our appeals to the highest authorities in our land, however earnest and strong and eloquent who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ.

The remnant that purify their souls by obeying the truth gather strength from the trying process, exhibiting the beauty of holiness amid the surrounding apostasy. All these, He says, "I have graven . . . upon the palms of my hands." [Isaiah 49:16] They are held in everlasting, imperishable remembrance. We want faith now, living faith. We want to have a living testimony that shall cut to the heart of the sinner. There is too much sermonizing and too little ministering. We want the holy unction. We need the spirit and fervor of the truth. Many of the ministers are half paralyzed by their own defects of character. They need the converting power of God.

That which God required of Adam before his fall was perfect obedience to His law. God requires now what He required of Adam, perfect obedience, righteousness without a flaw, without shortcoming in His sight. God help us to render to Him all His law requires. We cannot do this without that faith that brings Christ's righteousness into daily practice.

Salvation is not to be baptized, but it is a living union with Jesus Christ

Dear brethren, the Lord is coming. Lift up your thoughts and heads and rejoice. Oh, we would think that those who hear the joyful news, who claim to love Jesus, would be filled with joy unutterable and full of glory. This is the good, the joyful news which should electrify every soul, which should be repeated in our homes, and told
to those whom we meet on the street. What more joyful news can be communicated? Caviling and contention with believers or unbelievers is not the work God has given us to do.

If Christ is my Saviour, my sacrifice, my atonement, then I shall never perish. Believing on Him, I have life for evermore. Oh, that all who believe the truth would believe in Jesus as their own Saviour. I do not mean that cheap faith unsupported by works, but that earnest, living, constant, abiding faith, that eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God. I want not only to be pardoned for the transgression of God’s holy law, but I want to be lifted into the sunshine of God’s countenance. Not simply to be admitted to heaven, but to have an abundant entrance.

Are we so insensible as a peculiar people, a holy nation, to the inexpressible love that God has manifested for us? Salvation is not to be baptized, not to have our names upon the church books, not to preach the truth. But it is a living union with Jesus Christ, to be renewed in heart, doing the works of Christ in faith and labor of love, in patience, meekness, and hope. Every soul united to Christ will be a living missionary to all around him. He will labor for those near and those afar off. He will have no sectional feeling, no interest merely to find a place in my heart? If so, Christ is not there. Do I love the law of God, is the love of Jesus Christ in my heart? If we love one another as Christ has loved us, then we are getting ready for the blessed heaven of peace and rest. There is no struggling there to be first, to have the supremacy; all will love their neighbor as themselves. Oh, that God would open the understanding and speak to the hearts of our churches by arousing the individual members!

The Lord appoints and sends forth ministers not only to preach, for this is a small part of His work, but also to minister, to educate the people not to be fighters but to be examples of piety. There are workers in every department appointed to do their work. When Jesus ascended on high, He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. Some have entered the work with a human commission rather than the divine. They have educated themselves as debaters and the churches under their care show the character of their work. They were not ready, they were not fitted for the work. Their hearts are not right with God. In short, they have a theory but not true conversion and sanctification through the truth. The great issue so near at hand will weed out those whom God has not appointed and He will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain.

Our prayer should ascend to the throne of grace with fervor for the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His vineyard. My heart aches as I look around upon the mission fields and see so feeble efforts to get the truth before the people. No censure can be attached to our leading men. I believe, brethren, you are one with me in heart, in sentiment, in regard to our great need, and in the earnest desire and earnest efforts to meet the mind of the Spirit of God in these things.

Those who are at ease in Zion need to be aroused. Great is their accountability who bear the truth and yet feel no weight or burden for souls. Oh, for men and women professing the truth to arouse, to take on the yoke of Christ, to lift His burdens. There are wanted those who will not have merely a nominal interest but a Christlike interest, unselfish—an intense ardor that will not flag under difficulties or cool because iniquity abounds.

I want to speak to the ears of our people in America in every church. Awake from the dead, and Christ will give you life. Souls are perishing for the light of truth as it is in Jesus. We are standing upon the very borders of the eternal world. Fair-weather Christians will not be wanted for this work. The

God will have a sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain

...to build up one branch of the work over which he presides and there let his zeal end. All will work with interest to make every branch strong. There will be no self-love, no selfish interest. The cause is one, the truth a great whole.

Well may the question be asked with earnest, anxious heart: Is envy cherished, is jealousy permitted to...
The Prime Principle
A.W. Spalding

Arthur Whitefield Spalding (1877-1953) writes from long experience in the field of education. After teaching English on the collegiate level, he was principal of a number of secondary schools. He later founded the General Conference Home Commission, and served as its secretary from 1922 to 1941. During his lifetime he wrote 30 books, the majority intended for children and youth. In 1947 he wrote as follows to two fellow educators, Thomas W. Steen and Herbert J. Welch—the president and the dean of Madison College.

SEVENTH-DAY Adventists have never yet, as a whole, grasped Sister White’s basic concept of education, nor come anywhere near comprehending the extent and character of that education and the radical changes in the educational format necessary to produce it. They have only in part understood where and how it conflicts with the philosophy and the science of the world. . . .

What is the prime principle of Christian education? It is love. Not love, period. It is love with so boundless a field, so deep a meaning, so inherent and infused a nature, that all true education is imbued with it, transforming ideals, objectives, methods, and forms. I can hardly leave this point, because I know that to many minds love is just a word of four letters. Or it is a sentiment. Or it is an obsession. “Oh, of course we love. We must love our fellow Christians. We must love our students. We must love one another.” Which in the majority of cases means only that we like other people when they do not annoy us.

It is the love of God, filling our hearts and minds and lives, and operating in learning and imparting and ministering, that makes the Christian teacher. Not to expatiate further, up in the air, let me present some specific angles.

Love is opposed to selfishness. The great incentive of the world is rivalry, self-aggrandizement, strife for supremacy. It infuses business, society, education, and religion. Opposed to it is Christ’s principle of the love of God, which does not seek selfish preferment, which fulfills its nature in unselfish ministry to others, which finds its reward in companionship with Christ. Just to say Amen to this and keep on with the sort of education which we have, is to fulfill Ezekiel 14:1-8.

Rivalry, perhaps not to the extremes to which the world takes it, but nevertheless superabundant, is manifest in our schools, in scholarship incentives, class and social distinctions, sports, clubs, and the politics of the church and its auxiliaries. Is it not a sickening thing to know that some men covet to be president of the General Conference? They start with striving to be president of the Philadelphia Society or of the Senior Class. Competitive incentives to scholarship are manifest in class ratings, in convocations of honor, in prizes. Rivalry is encouraged in class and club elections, in subscription and money-raising campaigns, in recreations and sports. Every one of these is condemned, in principle and some by name, in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Many of our teachers bridle at the suggestion that we should ditch rivalry, or at least competition, as an incentive. Many defend the sports which the Testimonies specifically condemn. Their attitude is,
"Oh, why make such a fuss? We don't see any great harm in a little 
competition. You would have a flat, stale society if you took out this 
mild stimulation, and you would have nothing but a dead level of 
apathy and mediocrity." They say 
this because they do not know the 
tremendous incentive of love, mani-
fested in many types of applica-
tion. They do not seek to prove the 
Testimonies; they seek to disprove 
them.

Is it negative? It is over and over 
again charged or insinuated that 
this program of reform is merely 
negative. The assumption is that it 
is saying to students, "You can't do 
this and you can't do that. No base-
ball, no tennis, no football, no card 
games, no spirited campaigns for 
office or charity, or incentives to 
 scholarship." And down, down, 
down, would plunge human spirits 
to the depths of apathy and despair. 
Awful prospect!

The fact is that this is all pop-
pycock, the argument of the liquor 
forces, the commercial amusement 
interest, the gambling fraternity, the 
war mongers. "Take away our 
interests, and you leave us in limbo, 
with nothing to do and nothing to 
live for." I am convinced that 
Seventh-day Adventist teachers 
who take this attitude do not want 
to know the truth. They will not 
believe the Spirit of Prophecy, nor 
seek to find ways to demonstrate its 
truth. Knowing only, or chiefly, the 
sports and amusements and incite-
ments of the world into which they 
were born and out of which they 
have not come, they employ what 
efforts they put upon this problem, 
in seeking evasion of the plain Tes-
timones and justification for their 
disobedience. And added to this is 
their fear of innovation, of being 
peculiar, of differing from other 
schools and other systems. The 
philosophy of the mob.

The program of Christian incen-
tive, in the home, in the school, and 
in the church, is positive and con-
structive. Our youth have been so 
subjected to forbiddings picked out 
of the writings of Sister White that 
in general they fear the Testimonies 
as the slave fears the lash. Every 
positive program necessarily has a 
negative side: If you do this, you do 
not do that. But the cue for the 
Christian teacher is to build up the 
constructive, positive side; and the 
Spirit of Prophecy gives great basis 
for this. Whoever does not know 
this does not know the Spirit of 
Prophecy.

Competition, rivalry, is the 
spoiled wine of emulation. If we 
cannot drink unless we drink beer 
and champagne, then also we can-
not emulate without strife. But God 
is not responsible for this devil's 
brew. Recreation, physical, mental, 
and spiritual, is to be found in na-
ture activities and studies, in music, 
in art, in social intercourse, in 
work, in missionary service, all 
without envy, jealousy, or striving 
to be the greatest. The multiplicity 
of these opportunities for recreation 
and generous co-operation are more 
than I can mention here; some of 
them are listed in my book, Who Is 
the Greatest?

Is it destructive? Shall we go into 
a school, among students who have 
for the most part come out of the 
world, or at any rate it is safe to 
say out of a society where competi-
tion is the rule, and say to them: 
"Now drop all that. It is unchrist-
ian. We will not have it. You are to 
become Christlike, unselfish, help-
ful, loving"? The tenets of teacher-
ship forbid that. No real teacher 
begins by antagonizing his pupils. 
The Christian teacher must first 
transforming a school with worldly 
principles into a school with Chris-
tian principles is a process of re-
placing the evil and the unworthy 
with the good and the true.

But it is vital, first, that the 
teachers be truly converted, that 
they be so imbued with the prin-
ciples of Christian love that they 
cannot teach without teaching it, 
and that they have such a vision 
and such a persistence that, though 
they must move with discretion, 
they will move, and will move to 
the goal.

When progress has 
been made it is 
vital that there be 
no retrogression

Furthermore, in a school which 
already has made some progress in 
instilling Christian principles, it is 
vital that there be no retrogression, 
that where competitive sports have 
not been countenanced, they be not 
allowed to intrude, that where 
rivalry in elections and campaigns 
and scholarship has been mini-
mized, it be not allowed to thrive 
again. The Christian teacher and 
administrator must ever be on the 
alert to detect and to thwart every 
motion toward resumption of the 
practices which Christ condemns 
and which have been disallowed. 
Holding this ground, the teachers 
should make steady progress toward 
the ideal.

What will it do to the school 
organization? I cannot say where it 
will first take effect. It may in one 
case be here, in another case, there. 
But at some time it will remove the 
elements of selfishness and expres-
sion of self-aggrandizement from 
the practice of the school. The 
competitive nature of markings, 
which have, it is true, been mini-
mized in the more modern system, 
will be eliminated. Extraneous 
prizes for scholastic effort will not 
be offered: the great incentive is
the better preparation to do service for Christ. If this is not present in students, it will be inculcated by teachers both in precept and example. Class distinctions will be minimized, finally eradicated. I do not want to go so far ahead that the picture will seem chimerical. But I think Christian teachers should look ahead to evident objectives. It is obvious to all who think, that the horizontal class formations of freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior harbor opportunities and incentives to pride and arrogance. I

The government of the Christian school is not to be democratic

believe that the principles of Christian love and ministry will result in replacing these horizontal classes with vertical classes, brotherhoods and sisterhoods (not Greek letter fraternities and sororities), wherein a unit will be composed of a small number of first-year students, naturally one or two fewer second-year students, still fewer third-year students, and one or two fourth-year students. The raw young students will be helped by their upper classmen, they by those who have a year more of experience; and finally, those who have been longest in the institution and therefore most experienced and (by a school policy of certifying according to character as well as scholarship) most stable and capable, will head the whole unit and help all the way down. Such a system would teach Christian responsibility, love, and ministry. This small group of perhaps a dozen students, and as many more such groups as the attendance indicates, would be the foundation units in school government and progress.

Government. The government of the Christian school is not to be democratic, neither is it to be autocratic. God's ideal is patriarchal. The family is God's model for the school. Need I cite to you the declarations of the Spirit of Prophecy on this? A study of family government will reveal to us the pattern for our school government. The youngest are controlled wholly by the parents, but as they are taught to be progressively self-governing, they are with increasing age given greater responsibilities, and in the last stages come to be the helpers of the parents in governing the youngest. Apply this to the school, and you have the pattern of government. The vertical classes which I have above suggested make an instrument for developing this responsibility and duty. Built upon this would be an organization as simple as possible yet giving opportunity to students to bear many and varied responsibilities in government.

I do not advocate suddenly tossing this ideal into the midst of a student body. I think it would have to be the outcome of a process of education in noncompetitive, helpful, loving education. And it must be believed in and exemplified by teachers for quite a long time, possibly, before it could be broached. There are many other angles of social and scholastic and industrial and governmental policies which perhaps would have prior treatment.

I would not make my students wade through the papal portraits of hell

The Curriculum. We are certainly far astray from the ideal of the Spirit of Prophecy in some of the subjects we teach and the way in which we teach them. For example, I cite Literature. The Testimonies tell us that we should not teach pagan authors, and what Sister White says indicates clearly that she means neopagan as well as ancient pagan. It is the essence of the literature, not its period, which determines its character. But in most of our schools we take little account of that instruction. Why? Because our English teachers have gone for their post work to the universities, and have gained a concept of literature which is thoroughly antichristian. I believe that in literature we should teach selectively rather than historically. The true purpose of literature, at least in our case, is cultural, not pedantic. Some authorities (I suppose all "authorities") will disagree with me in this: I would not teach Homer, nor Virgil, nor Dante, nor Shakespeare, nor Victor Hugo. I might give extracts from these authors of noble sentiments worthy of memorizing, but I would not make my students wade through the brutalities of the Trojan War, nor the obscenities of Roman society, nor the papal portraits of hell, nor the blood and thunder and nonsense of Macbeth and The Tempest, nor the rioting imagination of decadent France. These authors are but samples of what I would reject. We simply have not the time to devote to them. Do we realize that we stand upon the threshold of eternity? How can professed Christian teachers face their God while teaching these and other heathen and debasing authors? We make little or nothing of biblical literature. I admit that its Oriental atmosphere and cast of thought require to be approached through an initial appreciation of Western literature, but it should be the intermittent and the final goal of the study of literature.

I might cite other branches of learning that need reformation, but I will not attempt that here. Our curriculum needs overhauling, to preserve and insert the vital and to eliminate the vicious and the corrupting. Every subject in the curriculum needs to be taught with Christ in it; and how to reach that goal is worthy the study of our whole faculty, long sustained.

School Bells and Gospel Trumpets (Maurice Hodgen, compiler; Adventist Heritage Publications, 1978), 142-146
Music and the Great Controversy

Part Two

H. Lloyd Leno

Music with certain characteristics was created to serve a particular purpose

"As a form of music, however, rock 'n' roll initially, meant black R & B (rhythm and blues) diligently bowdlerized and disinfected for white audiences. Even so, it was still awfully rebellious sounding and was duly disapproved of by established society for being too sexual and too defiant of authority...."

He concludes by stating what rock 'n' roll accomplished. "Since it first burst forth from the dark primeval gumbo, rock has been a catalyst that's helped to change the shape of things. It has liberated the body from idiotic self restraints... and has, perhaps somewhere along the line, even placated a god or two."^2

Rhythm and the Body

With the information provided by historians we have traced the evolution and practice of music and dance from Egypt to The United States and, of course, to virtually every part of the world. But what is it we have traced? It is much more than a cultural tradition; more than ethnic music. It is, rather, a way of making music and, because of the intrinsic qualities of the music, the way people have responded to it. In other words, music with certain characteristics was created to serve a particular purpose. To create an atmosphere in which certain attitudes and activities could flourish.

Of all the elements of music rhythm is the most obvious and

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and choral music it is often used to conform to the rhythm of speech as well as to emphasize certain words. With regard to the amount of rhythm we recognize that the music we have discussed is dominated by rhythm. Furthermore it is dominated by a type of rhythm that when used in constant repetition, has special physical effects which makes it so effective and appropriate for immoral songs and dances.

Constantly repeated, this type of rhythm has special physical effects

To clarify the terms “rhythm dominated” and “syncopation” in music perhaps an illustration will be useful. Consider music such as a Sousa march, the Hallelujah chorus from the Messiah or a Strauss waltz. Rhythmically they can be classed as rhythm-oriented, that is, they have some obvious, special rhythm patterns that give the primary impetus or flow to the music. They also make use of syncopation. But a closer observation reveals that first of all the melody is still predominant and in the case of the choral music the rhythm, including syncopation, supports the text; it is not merely an addition for its own sake. Furthermore there is variety; variety in the intensity of the rhythm or a momentary break in the tempo which occurs in both the Messiah and in Strauss waltzes. Furthermore, these melodies contain a great deal of variety in the pitches used, the contour and in their rhythm patterns. There is also a variety of timbre: different voices or instruments are used throughout each piece; in addition, there is variety in dynamics. All of this creates a balance between tension and relaxation; between the emotional and intellectual.

Because we know, both from casual observation and from scientific studies, that rhythm is the most physical of the musical elements, it takes little analysis to conclude that when the rhythmic element is dominant in any music its appeal is primarily to the body. Rather than an aesthetic or spiritual experience it is a physical (body) experience; and when that body experience has immoral connotations the problem becomes even more serious.

The Truth About God

This carefully documented account of the development of music with certain characteristics has been done for one purpose—to show that in the practice of music we can recognize that one of the principle issues of the Great Controversy is involved: the true versus the false concept of God.

We, as Seventh-day Adventists, should be well aware that Lucifer began at the very beginning to misrepresent the character of God. He was accomplishing this in secular music in two ways: (1) Through the immoral influence of music, specifically the perversion of sexuality, he is attacking one of the most important symbols that God has given us to help us understand Him and His love. That symbol is Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as the Bride. Also, in promoting sexual immorality he is seeking to break down the family relationships which help us to appreciate God as

Music involves one of the principle issues of the Great Controversy

a heavenly Parent who deals so graciously with His unruly children.

(2) By the use of religious terminology in song titles as well as in the names of rock groups such as “Black Sabbath,” “Gods of Thunder,” “Triumph Over Death” words
which usually carry theological meanings are coupled with a contradictory term or associated with a philosophy completely antagonistic to the character of God as revealed in Scripture.

In religious music the deception is much more subtle and therefore perhaps more dangerous. Notice these statements from The Great Controversy in the chapter “Modern Revivals.” Speaking of a revival which will result in ministers and members leaving other churches Mrs. White predicts, “The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.” Describing the counterfeit she adds, “There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false that is adapted to mislead.”

Another type of counterfeit is found in spiritualism. We usually associate this religion with mysterious events but notice—there is a new emphasis: “Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil.” What a sobering thought, that through a wrong choice of music one could place himself on common ground with spiritualism!

In the doctrine of hell, Satan has pictured God as a vengeful tyrant who will torture sinners for eternity. This doctrine has made atheists of many and caused others to worship out of fear. In certain styles of religious music another false picture of God is created. Instead of portraying God as vengeful and severe, He is represented as being completely permissive. By means of this concept of God, Satan offers a type of worship that is attractive, but based on man’s natural desires and weaknesses, a religion in which feeling and emotion predominate rather than reason and investigation. The widespread use of the rhythm-dominated styles of jazz and rock in religious music provides just such an experience. The constant monotonous beat, whether hard or soft, is attractive primarily because of its rhythm; and this can range from the heavy hypnotic beat of hard rock to the sweet, mildly sedative soft rock, “cocktail jazz” or “swing.”

In September of 1900 a musical group performed at the Seventh-day Adventist campmeeting in Muncie, Indiana. In a letter to E. G. White an eye and ear witness of this event described the music as “dance tunes to sacred words” In her reply Mrs. White indicated she had already been warned of this and predicted that the problem would recur before the close of probation. “Every uncoth thing will be demonstrated.” But she warns, “The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods... This is an invention of Satan.”

There are many sincere Christians who, without realizing it, find the sounds of soft rock, jazz and swing sweet and soothing. They would be very surprised and perhaps even defensive if their favorite music were to be so identified. But majority opinion, preference and sincerity are not, as history has shown, reliable guides. In order to avoid being misled one must be informed and able to make perceptive value judgments. According to Paul this is the mark of mature Christians: “Their perceptions are trained by long use to discriminate between good and evil.”

Whether used for divine worship or as a medium for witness the music we choose makes a statement. What does it say about God; is it the truth? We might well consider the question Moses put to the back-slidden people at Mt. Sinai, “Who is on the Lord’s side?” Therefore, in all our worship and witness, verbal or musical, should we not aspire to follow Christ’s example and reveal the truth about our God? Then, whether in everyday activities or in public presentations, we will merit the highest of all commendations, the words of God about Job: “He has said of me what is right.”

2. Ibid., 47
3. White, Ellen G. The Great Controversy, 454
4. Ibid., 558
6. Selected Messages, Book 2, 36
7. Hebrews 5:14, NEB
8. See John 6:38–40, 17:16; The Desire of Ages, 19

If you see defects in students or in church members, be thankful to God you have discerned these defects. Do not grieve your Redeemer by imitating them. Notebook Leaflets, 83

In God's plan for Israel every family had a home on the land, with sufficient ground for tilling. Thus were provided both the means and the incentive for a useful, industrious, and self-supporting life. And no devising of men has ever improved upon that plan. The Ministry of Healing, 183, 184

Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings. Testimonies, vol. 4, 391

The atmosphere of unbelief is heavy and oppressive. The giddy laugh, the jesting, and joking, sickens the soul that is feeding on Christ. Cheap, foolish talk is painful to Him. With a humble heart read carefully 1 Peter 1:13–18. Those who enjoy talking should see that their words are select and well chosen. The Kress Collection, 64

Talents used are talents multiplied; experience in spiritual things widens the vision of saints and angels, and both increase in capability and knowledge as they work in their respective spheres. Special Testimonies on Education, 57

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MEN FALL INTO error by starting with false premises, and then bringing everything to bear to make the error true. In some cases the first principles have a measure of truth interwoven with the errors, but it does not lead to any just action; and this is why men are misled. In order to reign and become a power, they employ Satan's methods to justify their own principles. They exalt themselves as men of superior judgment, and profess to stand as representatives of God. These are false gods.

Sinful men can find hope and righteousness only in God; and no human being is righteous any longer than he has faith in God and maintains a vital connection with Him. A flower of the field must have its root in the soil; it must have air, dew, showers, and sunshine. It will flourish only as it receives these advantages, and all are from God. So with men. We receive from God that which ministers to the life of the soul. We are warned not to trust in man, nor to make flesh our arm. A curse is pronounced upon all that do this.

"Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. . . O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters." [Jeremiah 17:5-10, 13]

Let no plans or methods be brought into any of our institutions that will place mind or talent under the control of human judgment; for this is not in God's order. God has given to man talents of influence which belong to Him alone, and no greater dishonor can be done to God than for one finite agent to purchase from men their God-given talent, or the product of such talent, to be absolutely under his control, even though the benefits of the same be used to the advantage of the cause. In such arrangements, one man's mind is ruled by another man's mind, and the human agent is separated from God, and exposed to temptations. Satan's methods tend to one end—to make men the slaves of men. And when this is done, confusion and distrust, jealousies and evil surmisings, are the result. Such a course destroys man's faith in God, and in the principles which are to control His work, to purge from guilt and from every species of selfishness and hypocrisy.

The Lord of heaven, who made our world, and who created man, guards the interests of every soul. To every man He has given his work. We are laborers together with God. There are diversities of gifts, and every man should appreciate the moral and spiritual capital which God has entrusted to him. No one should treat these entrusted talents with indifference. No one is accountable for the talents he has never had; none should complain of the smallness of their gifts. Every one is to trade on that which God has entrusted to him, working where he can, doing the best possible service for the Master. Our talent, well used, will gain other talents, and these still others. The man with a few pence can serve God faithfully with his pence. If he does this, he is judged as faithful in the sight of God as the one who has improved pounds.

All are to realize their individual responsibility to employ their talents to the glory of God according to their ability. Let no man or council of men assume the responsibility of making as little as possible of these talents, according to their human estimate of God's entrusted qualifications. No man is to weigh in the balances of human judgment the talents God has given to other men. Let every man appreciate God's gifts to him, and faithfully trade upon them. No man is to merge his individuality into that of any other man. No man should be urged to make another man his steward. There are diversities of gifts, and a large work to be done in our world in the use of God's entrusted goods. Let us never forget that we are here to be fashioned by the hand of God, fitted to
do the work He has given us to do. That work is our own, the accountability is our own; it cannot be transferred to another. Let not human agents interpose to take another’s work out of the hands of God into their own finite hands.

Every soul who has become the servant of God through the grace of Jesus Christ, has his own peculiar sphere of labor. He is not to be bought or sold, but he is to understand that “ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who by him do believe in God, that raised him from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.” [1 Peter 1:18-22] Who have greater need to be doers of this inspired injunction than those who are living at the very close of this earth’s history?

It is not our property that is entrusted to us for investment. If it had been, we might claim discretionary power; we might shift the responsibility upon others, and leave our stewardship with others. But this cannot be, because the Lord is testing us individually. If we act wisely in trading upon our Lord’s goods and multiplying the talents given us, we shall invest this gain for the Master, praying for wisdom that we may be divested of all selfishness, and laboring most earnestly to advance the precious truth in our world.

Some men or councils may say, That is just what we wish you to do. The Conference Committee will take your capital, and will appropriate it for this very object. But the Lord has made us individually His stewards. We each hold a solemn responsibility to invest this means ourselves. A portion it is right to place in the treasury to advance the general interests of the work; but the steward of means will not be guiltless before God, unless, so far as he is able to do this, he shall use that means as circumstances shall reveal the necessity. We should be ready to help the suffering, and to set in operation plans to advance the truth in various ways. It is not in the province of the Conference or any other organization to relieve us of this stewardship. If you lack wisdom, go to God; ask Him for yourself, and then work with an eye single to His glory.

By exercising your judgment, by giving where you see there is need in any line of the work, you are putting out your money to the exchangers. If you see in any locality that the truth is gaining a foothold, and there is no place of worship, then do something to meet the necessity. By your own action encourage others to act, in building a humble house for the worship of God. Have an interest in the work in all parts of the field.

While it is not your own property that you are handling, yet you are made responsible for its wise investment, for its use or abuse. God does not lay upon you the burden of asking the Conference or any council of men whether you shall use your means as you see fit to advance the work of God in destitute towns and cities, and impoverished localities. If the right plan had been followed, so much means would not have been used in some localities, and so little in other places where the banner of truth has not been raised. We are not to merge our individuality of judgment into any institution in our world. We are to look to God for wisdom, as did Daniel.

Age after age Jesus has been delivering His goods to His church. At the time of the First Advent of Christ to our world, the men who composed the Sanhedrin exercised their authority in controlling men according to their will. If men’s wills were always submerged into God’s will, this would be safe; but when men are separated from God, and their own wisdom is made a controlling power, the souls for whom Christ has given His life to free from the bondage of Satan, are brought under bondage to him in another form.

Do we individually realize our true position, that as God’s hired servants we are not to bargain away our stewardship; but that before the heavenly universe we are to administer the truth committed to us by God? Our own hearts are to be sanctified, our hands are to have something to impart as occasion demands, of the income that God entrusts to us. The humblest of us have been entrusted with talents, and made agents for God, using our gifts for His name’s glory. It is the duty of every one to realize his own responsibility, and to see that his talents are turned to advantage as a gift that he must return, having done his best to improve it. He who improves his talents to the best of his ability may present his offering to God as a consecrated gift that will be as fragrant incense before Him, a savor of life unto life.

Ellen G. White Pamphlets in the Concordance, vol. 2, 464-468
WHEN THE CRISIS HITS

WHAT HAPPENED to the happy, carefree days after World War II when good wages in America were three dollars an hour and there was only one car in the garage instead of the two most Americans now have? Families still talked together over popcorn and homemade fudge on Saturday nights and went on picnics or drives in the country on Sunday.

What suddenly changed our easygoing way of life to one that is so complex? The answer may be found within ourselves, in our demand for things. Materialism has become our god. We demand bigger homes, later model cars, and nicer furniture than the neighbors have next door. Our sophistication also demands that our children be educated for the professions.

Obviously, we would not condemn these goals, if our motivation for what we are doing and accumulating was right. But is our motivation right? The last of the Ten Commandments says, "Thou shalt not covet." Exodus 20:17. But our sophisticated materialistic pursuits make coveting popular. Television and media advertising encourage this tendency, and we have come to believe that in order to be happy we must have those things we see or read about. Easy credit has also encouraged people to obtain things which they cannot now afford, but which they can "enjoy" while they make the "easy" monthly payments.

Our desperate desire for that which does not satisfy ultimately has made us slaves to the second paycheck, and our homes have been robbed of their most important influence—the loving, tender care of a mother dedicated to raising her children in the careful but easy style that produced the kind of character which made America great.

Our desperate desire for that which does not satisfy ultimately has made us slaves to the second paycheck, robbing our homes of a mother’s care.

Retracing Our Economic History

As we retrace our economic history from 1955 to 1965, we find that the money supply grew at an annual rate of only two and one-half per cent. But since 1965, the money supply has grown at about six per cent. From the mid-60s prices began to soar.

From 1960 through 1964 inflation grew at an annual rate of one and one-fifth per cent. But from 1965 through 1968 something began to happen to inflation. It doubled to two and one-half per cent. In the following three years it doubled again to more than five per cent.

President Nixon stepped in to fight inflation in 1971 with price controls on wages, goods, and rents. That intervention seemed to stop inflation for the next two years. But this artificial method only brought a strong reaction, for when price controls were removed in 1973, we instantly returned to the inflationary spiral, and inflation reached 12 per cent.

Suddenly one morning in 1973 Americans awoke to gas lines. Arab sheiks had become aware that they had a commodity the world could not live without. The price of gas suddenly jumped from 30 cents to 60 cents a gallon, and kept on climbing until Americans have paid

Ron Spear

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more than a dollar a gallon. Some countries were paying from two to four dollars a gallon. Under these conditions, small third-world countries could no longer export enough goods to offset the cost of importing oil and food. In America, trade deficits began to spiral at an alarming rate.

To cope with these emergencies, the countries of the world, including our own, responded by printing more money. The resulting inflation turned the American economy from a beautiful symphony into a noisy brass band playing "Happy Days Are Gone Forever."

By 1974, this country had entered a severe economic crisis. Soon credit was tightened to curb the 12 per cent inflation rate. Within four months the country was catapulted into a severe recession; but this artificial resuscitation caused inflation in our economy once more.

Controlling inflation has not proved to be the answer, for the resulting high unemployment has caused low levels of productivity and has reduced the amount of tax dollars. An annual budget deficit of more than 200 billion dollars has been incurred, and our quarterly trade deficits are now reaching the crisis point.

In addition, Americans must now live with the results of the years of inflation. The cost of there seems to be a reprieve from the threat of economic chaos. It is only the hand of God which holds the economy and the monetary system of the world together day by day. When His hand is removed, total economic world chaos will result.

Alternatives to Recession

Former British Prime Minister James Callaghan, in a speech to the Labor Party Conference, said, "We used to think that we could just spend our way out of a recession and increase employment by cutting taxes and boosting government spending. I tell you in all candor that that option no longer exists and that, insofar as it ever did exist, it worked only by injecting a bigger dose of inflation into the economy, followed by a higher level of unemployment. That is the history of the past twenty years."

Harry Brown, economist, comments: "If the Federal Reserve keeps printing money, we are going to have inflation. If we stop printing money, we are going to have depression. It's a hard choice, and there are no other options."

But there is another option—one we don't like—and that is total economic dictatorship. Wage and price controls on everything we buy and sell. If this option should

It is possible that in the near future economic controls will be the only answer to the growing dilemma facing the world

homes and construction has doubled, and the average young American family's dream to own a home has largely faded. The average medium compact car, costing less than $4,000 ten years ago, now retails for more than $8,000; and the average purchaser probably will pay nearly $3,000 for interest over a four-year period.

The history of the 1980s with the great threat of depression hanging over us has now turned, and become a reality, every commodity we bring into our homes, from toothpaste to toilet paper to food, will have a government-controlled price on it. It may seem frightening, but this option has nearly become a necessity.

Herbert Stein, a well-known economist and former chairman of the President's council of economic advisers, recently made this statement, "The political results now visible may be the end of the democratic process and the coming to power of a dictator who promises to end the terrible anxieties of super-inflation by establishing a police state."

What a terrible thought! But what if it does become a reality? Napoleon, the emperor of France, became a dictator because of the collapse of the French monetary system. Will history be repeated?

During the Weimar Republic after World War I, the German economy became a shambles. The government ran printing presses to print huge amounts of banknotes in an attempt to solve its economic problems. Then Hitler came upon the scene. The first time he ran for office he received just 12,000 votes. But, because of the deterioration of the German economy, the next time he ran for office 12 million people voted for him. Why? Because he promised them economic security.

Many Americans believe that dictatorship comes with the arrival of the Hitler-Mussolini type of person on the political scene. But today's dictators do not necessarily wear Hitler mustaches nor scream "Heil!" Often they are clean-shaven gentlemen wearing $500 business suits who seek dictatorial powers over the people of the world in the name of public interest. They are systematically laying the foundations for economic dictatorship.

Dictatorships usually lead to tyranny, and tyranny results in the people of the country involved becoming virtual slaves. Is America ready to go down the same path today? Some people, and even government officials, bury their heads in the sand pretending that the problems will go away if they ignore them or just keep spending and printing more money. Some people call those who are concerned "doomsayers." Although much that appears here may seem startling and alarming, it nonetheless is factual.

The democratic processes do seem to be breaking down, and it is possible that in the near future economic controls will be the only answer to the growing dilemma facing the world. Congress has already given the President power to close banks in case of an emergency. If he exercised this power,
our country would be at the President's mercy for survival.

Those who say 1929 could never happen again are not realists. Civilized, sane, thinking men and women today are frightened. Bankers and economists are fearful for what could happen. We are living in a terrifying moment of the world's history.

Our Day Predicted

The Bible has long predicted that perilous times are to be expected in the last days of this earth's history:

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess." Zephaniah 1:14, 15

"The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up. The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn

There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming?

hedge: the day of thy watchman and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity. Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my sal-

vation: my God will hear me." Micah 7:2-7

Such predictions are in the New Testament as well. From his dungeon cell the apostle Paul penned these words to Timothy, his son in the faith:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5

This text may read like your newspaper or seem like what you hear when listening to the news on television. One thing is certain: we are living in the very last days of this world's history. Some people will say that generations of people have told their children this and yet we are still here, but the Bible is plain that in the last days such scoffers will exist:

"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." Peter 3:1-7

Most people in the world do not want God to interfere or intervene in the affairs of the world, and that's how it was in Noah's day:

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth." Genesis 6:11-13

Jesus compared our time to Noah's and to Lot's day:

"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot: they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:26-30

Someone may ask, "Would the Bible predict a major economic crisis?" Absolutely.

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7

No major catastrophe has ever taken place in our world for which God did not first send a warning. The New Testament has this challenging word for those of us living in the last days:

"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. Behold, the hire of the labourers 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

These prophetic words penned over 1900 years ago tell of strife in the last days between capital and labor and predict that people will store up great wealth, and that the working man will be robbed of his wages. They predict that the world will be living in great luxury at the time of the end, but also indicate that all these riches will come to nothing.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah foretold 2500 years ago that in the last days of the world’s history people would cast their gold and silver and wealth to the bats and the moles. See Isaiah 2:20

Without a doubt, we face the time so accurately predicted in the Bible. The devil’s last effort to control the world and its people will be through control of the economy. The last book of the Bible states:

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Revelation 13:16, 17

The mark in the forehead and in the hand is not a visible mark—it comes when the people make an intelligent decision to honor laws that violate the laws of God. All governments will try to force people everywhere to receive this “mark.” The “mark” that the Bible predicts that will control buying and selling will be an international law dealing with economics. When the law becomes effective, we will be living under an absolute dictatorship—not military, but economic.

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The opportunity for airtime came unexpectedly and called for quick action. We regret that we were unable to notify our readers in advance, but we felt that the opportunity was too good to pass up. The first program aired on the fifth of May, and by the eighth we had received our first request for Bible studies.

Please do what you can to assist in this work. Find some way to turn the satellite dishes in your neighborhood into an influence for good. Truth is free, but for the millions dying without it, reach out and help.

For those who wish to view these programs at their convenience, we have the series of 20 1-hour presentations on video tape. They build one on the other, beginning with the inspiration of Scripture and progressing through the essentials of salvation, the great prophecies, the judgment, the sanctuary, the mark of the beast, the state of the dead, spiritism, the second coming of Christ, and the gift of prophecy. The set of five tapes is available for a suggested donation of $100.
Elder John L. Shuler (1887-1984) is considered by many to be the "father" of twentieth century Adventist evangelism. During his many years of active labor he served the denomination as the president of four conferences, as evangelist for two unions, and as a professor of evangelism at the Theological Seminary.

A GROUP OF travelers stand with faces upturned to Big Ben in the clock tower of the house of Parliament in London, England. The hour hand is at twelve midnight, and the minute hand is closing in. Within minutes the two hands will be in alignment at the top of the dial. What then? We hear Big Ben send forth twelve resounding peals.

With bated breath we also wait for God's clock to strike the climactic hour for the Son of God and all the holy angels to leave the city of God in the third heaven and appear in the sky above this earth. Then the saved in all lands and from all generations will be gathered to meet the Lord in the air and be forever with Him and their loved ones. See 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Matthew 24:3, 31. Jesus said concerning His coming, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Matthew 24:36. But we know His coming is near.

Two interlocked developments work together for the finishing of the mission of the gospel, to usher in the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. First, the final phase of the everlasting gospel will be proclaimed to all the people in the world. Jesus said: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14, emphasis supplied throughout.

Notice that the end of time is inseparably connected with the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom to "all the world for a witness unto all nations." Every soul in every land will have the opportunity to respond to God's gracious invitation for eternal life, as set forth in the final phase of His everlasting gospel. This gospel proclamation to all nations prepares the way for the Lord to come with His reward, "to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12

A second crucial development which rings down the curtain on civilization coincides with this first one. As this gospel of the kingdom is proclaimed to all nations, converted people are being made ready to meet the Lord at His appearing. Those who truly accept God's message are progressively transformed by the inworking of the Holy Spirit until they fully reflect the spiritual image of their Saviour. So it is written: "We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18

These prepared people submit to complete sanctification so that their "whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Robed in Christ's righteousness, they "are without fault before the throne of
God." Revelation 14:5. This full transformation into the spiritual image of Christ is the essential preparation for having their bodies fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body at His coming. See Philippians 3:21. Each candidate will be an outstanding demonstration of what the saving grace of God can accomplish in sinful man and will unmask Satan's age-old lie that God is unjust in expecting obedience to His law.

This making ready of such a people is inseparably connected with the hour of Christ's Second longed desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. *When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own." Christ's Object Lessons, 69*

Notice that the perfect reproduction of the character of Christ in those who are called out by His final gospel message will mark the time for the Lord to appear and gather them unto Himself.

So it is that the prepared way and the prepared people are God's two appointed features for the finishing of the work of His gospel and for ushering in the Second Advent of His Son. As the clock strikes twelve when the two hands come into alignment at the top of the dial, even so when the prepared way and the prepared people come into God's appointed alignment, Jesus will return to consummate the plan of salvation.

Numerous societies and organizations carry forward a commendable work for the betterment of mankind. But from the standpoint of Bible prophecy there is only one movement specifically mentioned in the Bible for achieving eternal victory. It is God's threefold message movement of Revelation 14:6-16, which is represented by the worldwide Advent movement.

This movement is focused on preparing the way for Christ to come and making ready a people for the Lord, as set forth in this prophecy of Revelation 14:6-16. When Christ comes and gathers all His people from every generation to the New Jerusalem, those who have obeyed the truths of God's last message will stand before God's throne with eternal victory. "I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire, and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." Revelation 15:2, 3

The threefold message of Revelation 14:6-12 is the only warning that God has given against obeying the beast power, or his image, or receiving his mark. God has appointed His people to eternal victory on the sea of glass before His throne. What a blessed assurance to be in a movement with such a glorious future.

God has a sure victory plan for this movement. We need to learn what His plan is and then make His plan our plan of action.

The consummation of God's plan for His people is the return of His Son to this earth to gather the harvest of His gospel. Jesus cannot come to reap until the work of the threefold message is finished. A finished work will be accomplished under the fullness of the latter rain. This latter-rain outpouring of the Spirit is identical with the refreshing from the presence of the Lord. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you." Acts 3:19, 20

"I saw that none could share the "refreshing," unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action." Early Writings, 71

Victory over every sin will be achieved by those who experience a thorough spiritual reformation under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. This kind of reformation is the fruitage of a spiritual revival. Such a revival comes only to those who have entered into repentance.

God has a host of faithful ones who are following His plans

in every area of their lives. We can sum up God's plan for His remnant in the five R's: Repentance, Revival, Reformation, the Refreshing, and the Return of Jesus.

The Laodicean message, if heeded, will bring the needed repentance, revival, and reformation. Those who heed the counsel of the True Witness, will "come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may." Testimonies, vol. 1, 187. They will receive the latter rain, or the refreshing, and God will use them to finish His work. Then Jesus will return.

Many church members will not heed the counsel of the True Witness in the Laodicean message. Those who do will follow God's victory plan of the five R's: Repentance, Revival, Reformation, the Refreshing, and the Return of Jesus.

God has a host of faithful ones who are following His plans. Shall not you and I make sure that we are numbered among them? There is no way through to eternal victory except by God's plan.

These five R's are five steps by which He will take us from where
we are to where we want to be—in the land of everlasting joy. Each one leads into the next. Repentance, as God calls for it, brings revival. Revival through the Holy Spirit leads into the needed spiritual reformation in our individual lives. This reformation for victory over every sin is the essential preparation for receiving the refreshing. The refreshing, or the latter rain, in its fullness will bring a finished work. Then Jesus will return to reap the harvest.

All who will gather warmth from coldness, courage from defections...

If under God we will enter into the first R, repentance, then revival and reformation will follow. Are we ready to enter into repentance?

God has told us how to take this first step. “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

The way into revival is by confession, humiliation, repentance, and prayer. Ellen White said: “It is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.” Selected Messages, Book 1, 121

Revival is the key to survival. Only those who now develop a revival spirit will survive the impending crisis. “All who will gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their defections, and loyalty from their treason, will triumph with the third angel’s message.” Review and Herald June 8, 1897

...and loyalty from treason, will triumph with the message

The Lord has made plain what He wants every church member to do at this time. We have been told what is meant by the revival and reformation. “A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.” Selected Messages, Book 1, 128

God is sending the Holy Spirit to lead His people into the needed repentance, revival, and reformation for a greater infilling of His Spirit as a preparation for the latter rain. The decisive issue is, Are you and I responding to the call of His Spirit?

The essence of true faith is to do the right thing at the right time. Repentance, Revival, and Reformation are what God has appointed for this time.

We are confronted with four propositions: We cannot go to heaven until Jesus comes. Jesus will not come until the work of the gospel is finished. This work cannot be finished without the fullness of the latter-rain power of the Spirit. This worldwide Pentecost, or the refreshing, will not come until the way is prepared by repentance, revival, and reformation. It is essential that we enter into these three R’s under the inworking of the Holy Spirit, to the extent of our capacity, as an early-rain experience that will prepare the way for the latter rain.

The deepest longing in the heart of every true Adventist is to go through to eternal victory. Rest assured you will go through to victory if you make God’s plan for victory the plan of your life.

The hands of God’s clock signaling a prepared people and the prepared way for the return of Jesus are almost in alignment. When alignment occurs, the last trump will resound from one end of earth to the other. The Lord Jesus and His mighty angels will appear. The righteous dead will arise with immortal bodies. The righteous living will be made immortal in the twinkling of an eye. Then all of Christ’s people will be caught up to meet their Lord in the air, and be at home with Christ to stay.
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