I AM writing this editorial while traveling and preaching in the beautiful country of New Zealand on North Island. Jeff Wehr and I are traveling through its picturesque countryside during the day and preaching in the evening. It is a wonderful experience that God has given me to preach this precious message of salvation around the world.

The summer has now faded into fall, setting the scene for winter in this attractive country. Remember that New Zealand is south of the equator where their winter is our summer. Sixty million sheep have been sheared and now range on the lovely hillsides and valleys. Herds of cattle lay chewing their cud in lush pastures of green as we whiz by them at sixty miles an hour to our next preaching appointment.

From here it is difficult to grasp the enormity of the tragedy that hangs ominously over the horizon of our troubled world. The Scriptures tell us that when men cry peace and safety, sudden destruction will come to this world of sin, suffering, and death.

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9.

The United Nations and the so-called religious world unite their voices in a call for peace. The internal strife of nations continues to take the lives of thousands of men, women, and children. More than one-half million people have perished in Rwanda, where my wife and I once labored in the mission service. Thousands more will die from disease and malnutrition. In Bosnia, Russia, and Somalia revolution is now the order of each fateful day. Thousands of people suffer and die.

Christ’s prophecies in Matthew 24 are being fulfilled. Time continues while God waits for His beloved Seventh-day Adventist Church, His faithful and obedient people, to demonstrate to this chaotic world what God can do in fallen human beings when they are willing to be made willing to obey without compromise. When this happens Pentecost will come; the latter rain will fall upon God’s obedient, faithful people. The banner of righteousness will be uplifted before the world in the lives of Christ’s saints, and the gospel will gloriously triumphant in the final battle between truth and error. God’s purified people will glorify His name in the midst of persecution. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12. The very last message to the world is to be a revelation of Jesus’ character in His beloved saints who are being empowered to develop His character of righteousness.

With His perfection of character, the saints will have the peace that passeth the understanding of the carnal heart and will demonstrate His love, His patience, and His faith to a doomed, chaotic world. “Those who wait for the Bridegroom’s coming are to say to the people, ‘Behold your God.’ The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.” Christ’s Object Lessons, 415-416.

The redeeming power of the Holy Spirit has captured the faithful who are obedient to all known truth, and they stand without guile, purified in the blood of their Saviour.

“To the heart that has become purified, all is changed. Transformation of character is the testimony to the world of an indwelling Christ. The Spirit of God produces a new life in the soul, bringing the thoughts and desires into obedience to the will of Christ; and the inward man is renewed in the image of God. Weak and erring men and women show to the world that the redeeming power of grace can cause the faulty character to develop into symmetry and abundant fruitfulness.” Prophets and Kings, 233.

“By dwelling upon the faults of others, we are changed into the same image. But by beholding Jesus, talking of His love and perfection of character, we become changed into His image. By contemplating the lofty ideal He has placed before us, we shall be uplifted into a pure and holy atmosphere, even the presence of God. When we abide here, there goes forth from us a light that irradiates all who are connected with us.” The Ministry of Healing, 492.

The lives of the remnant reflect the character of Jesus perfectly, and they are safe to save.

Ron Spear, Editor

Correction: A misunderstanding occurred in the May issue of Our Firm Foundation. All future orders for Omega II should be directed either to the Adventist Book Center (1-800-765-6955), or American Cassette Ministries (1-800-233-4450). We are sorry for any inconvenience this error may have caused.
It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world.—EDITORS

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A Divided Church

A LARM has been expressed by many over an editorial by Dr. Roy Adams, entitled, “Divided, We Crawl,” Adventist Review, February 19, 1995. To many faithful Seventh-day Adventists this editorial was offensive and caused consternation, bewilderment, and shock.

In the editorial Elder Adams talked of his own ‘dreaming’ in which he envisioned a brave new world of Adventism, himself in charge dictator-like. He claimed that what he was saying was with tongue-in-cheek “but only half-so.” The center of this daydream was that in such a position of dictatorship he would pass a law that no Seventh-day Adventist should quote from the writings of Sister White for 365 days. Under such a moratorium no one would be able to include quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy in “editorials, sermons, articles, Sabbath School lessons, talks, term papers.”

This he declared would force everybody to prove everything from the Scriptures. Then he would stipulate that whatever doctrine or teaching that could not be validated from Scripture during the moratorium should not be allowed to be used when the ban ends.” He claims that:

1. This would lead to a clearing of the air [presumably doctrinally].
2. This would lead to the folding up of many publications.
3. Thousands of sermons would be abandoned.
4. We would then scramble to come up with biblical support for things we were so sure about before.

Let us look at these assertions for a moment. Dr. Adams is writing this editorial in the context of bringing unity to the Seventh-day Adventist Church so that it might fulfill its God-ordained mission. As is becoming more common today, such plans as Dr. Adams espouses are devoid of divine solutions. Let us analyze the fundamental principles that Dr. Adams is presenting.

He is certainly correct that every doctrine that we espouse must be built upon the Word of God. “Thy word is lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105. Not only does the Word guide our spiritual footsteps, it also gives us power to gain victory over sin. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Psalm 119:11.

I grew up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church when we publicly proclaimed, “We have no creed but the Bible. The Bible and the Bible only is our basis of faith and practice.” I rarely hear such statements from our pulpits or publications today. In former generations we not only proclaimed it, we practiced it.

As a leader in self-supporting work and as a former leader in denominational work, I am committed to these principles. The greatest tragedy today is that many in God’s work, both self-supporting and denominational work, including Dr. Adams, do not follow this principle. However, self-supporting leaders give the finest evidence in their preaching, in their writing, in their evangelism, and in their lives that they are riveted upon the words of Scripture. The inferences in Dr. Adams’ editorial are that denominational workers are solidly using the Word of God, while the self-supporting workers use the Spirit of Prophecy as the basis for their decisions.

But the greatest cries of anguish that I hear today are from our faithful people who do not hear the clear, unequivocal Word of God proclaimed from the pulpit. They are listening week after week to pablum from preachers who know not the truth of the everlasting gospel. This cannot prepare a generation for the finishing of the God’s work. Our people hear the-
ology; they hear philosophy. They hear psychology, sociology, and in some cases, politics, but little of the Word of God. Our church in the Western World is faltering before the Ecumenical movement which proclaims that we must not allow doctrinal differences to divide us asunder. Truth is minimized to serve the satanic goals of the Ecumenical movement.

The very implication of Dr. Adams, that the self-supporting workers are responsible for the doctrinal divisions in our church, is preposterous. Yes, there are unfaithful, self-supporting workers; Satan has not left the self-supporting work alone. We grieve over those who have fallen into apostasy in the same way that we grieve over those denominational leaders and workers who have been trapped by nonbiblical concepts. But the great deviations from truth have been spearheaded by denominational theologians and preachers.

I ask our readers, How long has it been since you have heard in your church a biblical-based sermon on the Sabbath? on faithful Sabbathkeeping? on the Sabbath as the seal of God? on Creationism, of which the Sabbath is a memorial? on the Sabbath as the final test of loyalty at the end of this world’s history? How long has it been since you have heard a biblical sermon on the state of the dead? on the dangers of Spiritualism as the final deception at the end of time? How long since you heard a biblical sermon on the sanctuary, including the investigative judgement? the final atonement? the blotting out of sin? of Christ our heavenly High Priest? How long has it been since you heard a Bible-based sermon on the commandments of God as the very character of God, as the basis by which humanity will be judged at the end of time? How long has it been since you have heard a Bible-based sermon on righteousness by faith? on the power of God to forgive and to restore? upon justification and sanctification? upon perfection of character as opposed to perfectionism? upon true conversion as opposed to legalism and antinomianism? How long since you have heard a sermon on the second coming of Jesus? on the preparation of His people for the Second Coming? on the proclamation of the everlasting gospel to every nook and cranny of the world?

These are the central themes of the end-time; these are indeed present truth as we come to the final moments of earth’s history. But week after week the vast majority of our people in the Western World hear nothing on these topics. But those who listen to the powerful presentation of many faithful, self-supporting workers are hearing these messages. Blessed indeed is the congregation who has a faithful pastor preaching upon these living truths.

But some pastors have told me that they are warned against speaking on these issues, and more and more are hesitating to take up that final challenge of identifying the antichrist of biblical prophecy. But a few have accepted the challenge in a spirit of love and deep concern, calling men and women out of Babylon. The very thought of it raises great opposition in the minds of many who are claiming to be the messengers of Christ at this hour. When my brother Russell preached these powerful Bible messages in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in the South Pacific in early 1995, the Seventh-day Adventist leadership joined the Roman Catholic Church in condemning these messages. Thank God for the hundreds of people, many of whom were government leaders, who responded to these presentations of God’s end-time truths. Our leaders condemned these evangelistic meetings on national radio and did all they could to intimidate both pastors and laity in the hope they would not attend. Thank God for the courage of those who did attend, and the laity who, especially in Vanuatu, stood up to the leaders who have sold their souls to the Vanuatu Council of Christian Churches and the Solomon Islands Christian Association.

When in April of 1971, I was ordained to the gospel ministry, like so many other ministers I was challenged with the commission of the apostle Paul to Timothy. “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant

Dr. Adams’ editorial provides a none-too-subtle inference that the study of the Spirit of Prophecy leads to disunity, while studying the Bible leads to unity.

Dr. Adams’ editorial provides a none-too-subtle inference that the study of the Spirit of Prophecy leads to disunity, while studying the Bible leads to unity. But I have lived long enough to know that when our people in Australia and America overwhelmingly believed in the inspired writings of Sister White, there was much greater unity among God’s people.

With what appears to me to be a strange naiveté, Dr. Adams has offered the implied suggestion that, should the Spirit of Prophecy not be used, then the study of God’s Word will bring unity. For nearly two thousand years the full text of Scripture has been available to Christians, but it has not produced unity. It seems that Dr. Adams has learned no lessons from ecclesiastical history. Unity upon truth comes only when the Word is studied under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Adams quotes from Christ’s prayer for unity in John 17, but has overlooked the key which was so important to that unity that Christ referred to it twice in His prayer. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.” John 17:17,19. In the same way the apostle Paul emphasized a truth that sanctifies
as the basis of unity. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried

power of the gospel of salvation. The inspired Scriptures, the inspired Spirit of Prophecy have only unifying power as we allow the Holy Spirit to fulfill His work in our lives. That work in regard to salvation is twofold:

1. The Holy Spirit will lead us into truth. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he

yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up." Christ's Object Lessons, 411.

Most supporters of both denominational and self-supporting work have miserrably failed to allow the Holy Spirit to lead them to the footstool of Jesus. The greatest challenge for those of us in self-supporting work is that many in our midst, though having a profound knowledge of the truth and loyalty to it, have however never been converted. The unconsecrated persons among us present such an unattractive image of the truth that many otherwise faithful people are turned away from it. My challenge is that we will allow the Holy Spirit to do His complete work in each of our lives.

Dr. Adams made a further statement that greatly concerned me. "I see nightmares in the making, with every Tom, Dick, and Mary having the capacity to mass-produce compilations of Ellen G. White—even putting words into her mouth." Dr. Adams, this fact is exactly what the gospel is all about! Indeed, that every Tom, Dick, and Mary might study the Word of God for him or herself surely was the very backbone of the Reformation.

The concept of the priesthood of all believers was the motivation for translating the Bible into the vernacular of the people so that every man and woman could have the opportunity of learning the truth for him or herself. It was the profession priests and theologians who had led the people into the most abject ignorance of God's Word and had misled them into the paths of eternal destruction.

I am alarmed that Dr. Adams would long for a return to the condition of the Dark Ages when the Word of God was bound to convent walls and not freely accessible to the public.

I am alarmed that Dr. Adams would see the activity of common people providing compilations as dangerous. I hope that Dr. Adams' editorial is not inferring that the understanding of truth is the prerogative of the professional theologians. All must have the opportunity to decide for themselves what truth is. Certainly many will sadly choose the wrong pathway, but they and they alone will be responsible. Yet many more will find the pathway to salvation than if the determination of truth is left to the professional theologians. I sincerely hope Dr. Adams is not implying that if only the professional theologians are able to interpret

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about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Ephesians 4:11-15. All emphasis supplied unless otherwise indicated.

The same principle can be seen outlined by Peter in his description of the new birth experience. “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: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” 1 Peter 1:22-23.

I urge all those who, like Elder Adams, have a burden for unity in God's church to preach the only basis for unity. It is no wonder that the servant of the Lord says, "There is no sanctification aside from the truth," (Fundamentals of Christian Education, 432), and that "Unity is the sure result of Christian perfection." Sanctified Life, 85.

We can know all the words of Scripture, but only if we are in deep surrender of our lives to the matchless claim of Christ, can we truly claim to be His sons and daughters. Until the image of Jesus is restored in our lives through obeying the truth, there will not be unity in God's church. All the anguished cries for unity are impotent unless God's people come back again to the full understanding of the

speak: and he will shew you things to come. " Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." John 16:13; 14:17.

2. But too many have not allowed the Holy Spirit to do His second work, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Romans 5:5. Now if we are frank, we must acknowledge that the vast majority of Seventh-day Adventists in the Western World do not pass the first test, for they have not allowed the Holy Spirit to teach them all present truth. They do not know the truth, thus there is a vagueness where general doctrines might be acknowledged, but few can demonstrate from the Living Word the gospel of salvation. Few have awareness of God's power to keep them sanctified. Therefore, they are painfully vulnerable to the assaults of Satan and the nefarious efforts of those who would lead them away from the message of salvation.

But knowing truth is not enough. The vulnerability of those who know the truth is that they may not allow the Holy Spirit to minister that truth into the very fabric of their lives; they have not been broken upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. Thus they become the foolish virgins: "The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth; they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up." Christ's Object Lessons, 411.

Most supporters of both denominational and self-supporting work have miserrably failed to allow the Holy Spirit to lead them to the footstool of Jesus. The greatest challenge for those of us in self-supporting work is that many in our midst, though having a profound knowledge of the truth and loyalty to it, have however never been converted. The unconsecrated persons among us present such an unattractive image of the truth that many otherwise faithful people are turned away from it. My challenge is that we will allow the Holy Spirit to do His complete work in each of our lives.

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The concept of the priesthood of all believers was the motivation for translating the Bible into the vernacular of the people so that every man and woman could have the opportunity of learning the truth for him or herself. It was the profession priests and theologians who had led the people into the most abject ignorance of God's Word and had misled them into the paths of eternal destruction.

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truth then we will have a unified theology. Two thousand years of Christianity proved the falsity of such a theory. The Bible is not written in such a way that only the intellectually elite of society can understand it. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Isaiah 35:8.

It was the principle of the priesthood of all believers that Jesus enunciated. "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren." Matthew 23:8.

The revolution against the truth in our beloved church does not surprise anyone; it is clearly defined in the words of Scripture. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1.

There is no question that this text applies to the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the end of time because we have been entrusted with the faith of Jesus. It will be noted that there will be those who will depart to give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Indeed any deviation from truth is the doctrine of Satan. The difference is that there is only one truth, but there are unlimited numbers of errors. The pluralism espoused by many of our pastors and leaders inevitably incorporates the doctrines of their faulted theology and evidences their surrender to the Ecumenical movement. This is bringing terrible schism to God's church. For without truth there cannot be unity.

Unity will not come to God's chosen ones until there has been the mighty sifting and shaking within God's church. In the sifting process, God has promised that not one faithful individual will be lost. "For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth." Amos 9:9. Paul expresses it plainly, "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." Hebrews 12:23-27.

When that shaking has been completed God will have a people who fully reflect His character. "The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth." Zephaniah 3:13. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17.

It will be noted that this united remnant keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the Spirit of Prophecy. See Revelation 19:10. This united company are not those who would put away the Spirit of Prophecy. They will read it; they will preach it, and know it, and by the power of the indwelling Jesus, they will live it. They will heed Paul's admonition to "Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesycings." 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20.

Such saints are ready for the kingdom of heaven. Unity is not a goal or an object or an aim; it is a result, indeed a sure result. I repeat the words of Inspiration, "Unity is the sure result of Christian perfection." Sanctified Life, 85. When God's people are unified by living the truth, then God can entrust them with the Holy Spirit. This will be followed by the loud cry, enabling the everlasting gospel to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Thus the way will be prepared for our beloved Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to return. I would urge Dr. Adams and those who share his sentiments to rethink their position in light of the Word of God.

Apparently, Dr. Adams is forgetting our church history restoring such long-lost biblical doctrines as the true Sabbath, the state of the dead, and the two-apartment heavenly sanctuary with the investigative judgment and cleansing of sin. The reinstatement of these crucial beliefs, and others, were made possible by the testimonies of the Holy Spirit through Christ's messenger Ellen G. White.

Anyone proposing the elimination of the Spirit of Prophecy for even one day is in danger of promoting Satan's final deception for us as a people—making the testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy of none effect. See Selected Messages, book 1, 48. Anyone dreaming of removing the impact of the Spirit of Prophecy upon the beliefs and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is in danger of removing that which distinguishes God's remnant people from the fallen churches of Christianity.

Our present disunity in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the result of members refusing to allow the full weight of the Spirit of Prophecy to clarify beliefs and govern practices. It is the neglect of the Spirit of Prophecy, rather than its overuse, by the Seventh-day Adventist Church that has led in a marked degree to

I t is the neglect of the Spirit of Prophecy, rather than its overuse, by the Seventh-day Adventist Church that has led in a marked degree to disharmoy and the present confusion of doctrinal pluralism.

That is why the urgent call of Paul for holy living, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:13; Colossians 1:27.

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Entire Consecration Necessary

THE necessity of thorough consecration to God in all those who have a connection with any branch of His work, has been presented before me. Much is lost by fitful service; and yet many serve God at will, and cease from His service as it suits their convenience or pleasure; and this is why many of our workers are in a weak spiritual condition. Satan is wide-awake and vigilant, and is ever persevering and energetic in his efforts to overthrow the soul. He watches diligently that he may weave his ideas and plans into the work of God. It is only through a living connection with the Source of all wisdom and light, that men may become wise unto salvation, and this living connection must be continually maintained; for Satan will overthrow the soul that does not watch unto prayer. We are to overcome, and overcoming means all that the word implies.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; ... He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. ... To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. ... And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations. ... He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ... Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. ... To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my name before my Father, and with the name of my God." Revelation 2:7,11,17, 26; 3:5,12, 21.

When temptation comes upon us, we need spiritual discernment, that we may detect Satan’s agency, and draw close to Jesus. “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.” James 4:8. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Verse 7. Every moment it is necessary to fight the good fight of faith; for doubt must be resisted, and faith must be encouraged. In temptation, inclination must be overruled by reason. Self will clamor for indulgence, but inclination must be resisted, and temptation overcome.

The Lord has given warnings; He has presented principles that it is necessary for every Christian to heed, and bring into his practical life. Those who pass on in indifference to the light and warning which God has been pleased to give, will grow more and more egotistical and self-sufficient. Those who do not place their dependence upon God, will certainly be overthrown by the enemy. Satan is working by every conceivable device to keep in his own ranks those who claim to be on the Lord’s side. He can blind their eyes until they will call light darkness, and darkness light. “Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God. Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye...
have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.” Isaiah 50:10-11.

Though the light of God is shining in more distinct rays than ever before, and will shine more and more clearly as we near the close of earth’s history, those who will be able to discern truth from error, will be men who are often upon their knees, seeking wisdom from God. The bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness can alone reveal the numerous and varied plottings of the enemy. The wicked one is at work with all deceivableness of unrighteousness; and while we are not to keep our eyes upon the powers of darkness, we cannot be ignorant of their devices. But our faith must center in Jesus Christ. Looking unto Him, clinging to His strength as sufficient for every emergency, our heart joins His heart, our life is knit by hidden links to His life, and because He lives, we shall live also. This is practical religion; for we are to be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. No one of us can be safe save as we join the Lord in a perpetual covenant, that shall not be forgotten by us.

Heart union with Christ makes believers heirs of God, and laborers together with Him. At home, at church, and in the world, the believer is to show forth the praises of Him who has called him out of darkness into His marvelous light. Those whom the Lord intrusts with His work should cultivate home religion. They should not remain away from the assembly of the people of God, and cease to take an active part in religious meetings. They should continually consider what will be the influence of their actions upon those around them. They should cultivate such traits of character as will qualify them to stand as head of their own households. They should be housebands, and as Abraham, able wisely to instruct and educate their children, commanding their children and their household after them, that they may keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment.

God chose Abraham as the father of the faithful, because he knew that he would cultivate home religion, and cause the fear of the Lord to be the atmosphere of his dwelling place. The Lord knew that there would be on the part of Abraham no betraying of sacred trusts; but that he would worship the Lord, and Him only would be serve. He knew that His faithful servant would lead his household forward and upward, and influence them to keep the statues of Jehovah. Abraham did not cherish a blind affection for his family; but by the combined influence of affection and authority, he ruled his home. God’s will was made paramount. He feared the Lord with all his house.

Those who have neglected this important work in the home, and have failed to command their children and their households after them to keep the way of the Lord, should now seek to redeem the time. Let parents take their Bibles, and search that they may understand what are the requirements of God in regard to their children. Let them seek to understand from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.” Psalm 51:6-13.

What a prayer this is! How evident it is that sinners in the household are not to be treated with indifference, but that the Lord looks upon them as the purchase of His blood. In every household where the un-

Let parents take their Bibles, and search that they may understand what are the requirements of God in regard to their children. Let them seek to understand what is included in parental duty.

what is included in parental duty. The Word of God must be our rule in conducting our family affairs; and neither the waywardness of children, nor the press of business, should be looked upon as excuses for neglect in following the counsel of God.

Let parents set before their children a worthy example in personal piety, honoring the house of God and respecting His service. The want of home religion is felt in every branch of God’s work, and the necessity of cultivating personal piety in the home should be continually kept before the people. They should have instruction, line upon line and precept upon precept, that all those whose names are upon the church records may hear and obey the Word of the Lord. Parents cannot rightly train their children unless they learn how to cooperate with the Lord in His work upon the heart. The first essential in educating your households in the fear of God, is consecration of yourself and your all to God. Let parents begin with heart work; for out of the heart are the issues of life. Let the prayer ascend from contrite hearts, “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward part: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face converted are, it should be the work of those who know the Lord to work in wisdom for their conversion. The Lord will surely bless the efforts of parents, as in His fear and love they seek to save the souls of their households. The Lord Jesus is waiting to be gracious, O that the work might begin at the heart! “For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it; thou delightest not in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” Psalm 51:16-17. Then let it be understood by all the members of the household that the work must begin at the heart. The heart must be subdued and made contrite through the creating, regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. Realizing the aid of this mighty agency, cannot parents work for the conversion of their children with more zeal and love than ever before?

The promise of the Lord is, “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:25-27. When the Spirit of the Lord works upon the hearts of the parents, their prayers and tears will come up before
O that all would realize how perilous a thing it is to cherish thoughts or do deeds that are out of harmony with the will of God! O that men would understand and take heed to the message that God mercifully sends to them!

your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be built. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it. Thus saith the Lord God; I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the Lord.” Ezekiel 36:33–38.

If those who profess to know the Lord did indeed have an experimental knowledge of God, how evenly would the work move on! All the building fitly framed together would grow into a holy temple in the Lord. The church would be quickened from the paralysis that is upon her, and the people of God would do earnest work. The world would not have occasion to excuse themselves for their ungodliness on account of the example of those who profess to be followers of Christ, who hold the truth in unrighteousness. Unity would exist in the church. Love would be cherished one for another; but now love has become almost extinct.

Shall we not as children of the living God, read the Living Oracle, purposing in our hearts that at whatever cost we will obey God, crucify self, and live unto Christ? No man is qualified to stand in a responsible position, authorized to direct the work, who is not daily directed of God. The whole confederacy of evil, led by Satan, is seeking diligently to increase the ranks of those who transgress the law of God; and the law of the land sustains them in their apostasy. Underneath every movement for the exaltation of the mystery of iniquity, there is a secret undercurrent of effort for the suppression of God’s truth in His holy requirement. Men are seeking again to enslave the souls of men by the decree of the law of the land. Is it not time that those who are under the counsel of God’s shall stand as representatives of Christ in every position of trust? While all the hosts of sin are earnest, zealous, sanguine in advancing their cause, and are stirred by a power from beneath, shall not those who stand in defense of truth manifest earnestness and zeal and enthusiasm? What if the sincere worker for God should be called a fanatic? This is the name that those who have been truly devoted to God have ever been called upon to bear. But infidels have been heard to say, “If I believed what Christians profess to believe, I would be far more zealous than they are.” Since even infidels see in the man who is stigmatized as an enthusiast the only consistent Christian, shall we take a neutral position?

The Lord has spoken. The message of God has been given, declaring that there must be an entirely different spirit from that which now prevails among representative men in our cause. There is altogether too much of self, and too little of Jesus. But there is no safety for anyone, no matter what may be his position, his learning, his past experience, unless he is constantly in the fear and love of God. The Lord looks to the humble, and it may be that He will send a message to those who are in high position through a humble instrument, and He would have those who are in positions of trust of so humble a spirit that they will hear and heed the message, and arouse from their lethargy. We should realize how wicked and how foolish it is to contend against Omnipotence. O that all would realize how perilous a thing it is to cherish thoughts or do deeds that are out of harmony with the will of God! O that men would understand and take heed to the message that God mercifully sends to them! The Lord sees a soul wandering in darkness, and in His love and pity He sends to him a message, which, if received, will serve to bring him to the light; but if the message is rejected, the soul goes on in darkness more dense than before. Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation.

The end of earth’s history is right upon us, and O that all might fully come into the light! O that all might be moved by the Spirit from above! The law of God is trampled underfoot, and the whole world is deceived by the power of the man of sin. Shall we not devote ourselves and our all to God, that souls may be won to Christ? Only a remnant of probationary time is left us, and at this late day, shall our love for God and His truth grow cold? Shall our light flicker and die out in darkness, because we have not the oil of grace in our vessels with our lamps?

The Lord is dishonored by His people when they claim to have light, and yet walk in darkness. They are as men and women looking through smoky glass, and yet they feel competent to judge of the message and the messenger, and do not realize that their vision is perverted. Yet for those who walk in darkness what sympathy should we feel, how tenderly should we labor for them, exercising toward them the pity and love which Christ exercised toward fallen men when He came to earth to suffer and die.

My brethren who occupy responsible positions, your place in the work calls upon you to be representative men. You need the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I beseech of you, do not look upon yourselves as safe unless you are in the channel of light. There is a great work to be done in your behalf. You must form new habits, and your natural customs and habits must be subdued by the Spirit of God. Inclination must be denied. Old enemies that war against the Spirit, that you looked upon as dead, under favorable circumstances revive again, and they must be met
and vanquished. Self must die. We are to engage earnestly in a spiritual warfare which we do not consider as we should, and we fail to appreciate what it means. The confederacy of evil is arrayed against those who would fight the battles of the Lord.

But we battle not alone. The fellowship of the saints in light is ours, the championship of the hosts of Heaven is ours, and more than angels are on our side; for leading the ranks of His armies is the Captain of the Lord’s hosts. He is Commander of the battle, and as He leads His army to the fields of action, His voice is heard above the din of the battle and the strife, “Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33. Our leader is a Conqueror. Advance, then, to victory. The armies of Heaven are engaged in the contest, and we fight as in the sight of invisible worlds. We may calmly face the foe, and by faith press on to the conflict. We shall press the battle to the gate, saying, “Our life is hid with Christ in God, because He lives we shall live also.”

Let every man constrained by the love of Christ, stand in his appointed place, and steadily, cheerfully, bravely bear the burden assigned him by the Lord. Let every burden-bearer contemplate this fact,—God is love. “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. O, what a God have we! what a Benefactor! What claim has He upon our love! Having collected all the riches of the universe, and laid open all the resources of infinite power, He gave all the heavenly treasure into the hands of Christ, and said, “All these are for man. Use them to convince him that there is no love greater than Mine in earth or heaven. His greatest happiness consists in loving Me, and giving his heart to Me who hath loved him with an infinite love.”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, March 14, 1893

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Presenting God’s Plan to Restore the Family

Does anyone doubt that the American family is in a crisis in the 1990s? But who knows what to do about it? Many people are attempting to provide sage advice as better-marriage and child-management books proliferate, and as family-counseling centers do a thriving business.

God tells us in the Scriptures, however, that the wisdom of this world is foolishness in His sight. He counsels us to turn to Him, the only genuine Source of wisdom, for help and guidance.

Two couples did just that, and it changed their lives. They found in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy the true secrets—God’s secrets—of a joyous marriage and a happy household. They discovered how to give to each other and to their children what they most need, and the results were amazing—so much so that they felt compelled to share their exciting discoveries with others.

Hope International is proud to offer a series of audio and video presentations, recorded by three of the founders of Restoration International: Tom and Alane Waters and Jim Hohnberger. They deal with vital topics, and, most importantly, their approach to every subject is decidedly Christ-centered and Bible-based.

Church groups, families, ministers, or Christian counselors who are facing a family crisis or are attempting to correct a chronically dysfunctional family situation, cannot afford to be without this life-changing information. Or, if yours is a happy marriage and home, but you would like to learn how to make it even better, you will discover that the most effective techniques are those God designed. These presentations reveal God’s solutions.

Videos: You may purchase these tapes from Hope International individually, or as a set (all of one speaker’s talks) or all 8 videos (approximately 15 hours), for just $95—and save $65 over the individual prices listed below.

Audio Cassettes: The complete series of 15 audio cassettes is available (one topic per tape) for $50. You may order separate audio tapes for $2.50 each.

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The Sabbath and the Time of Trouble

For several generations now Seventh-day Adventists have discussed the little time of trouble as it is clearly defined in the Spirit of Prophecy, especially in the book The Great Controversy. But now, overwhelming evidence tells us that the world and the church stand at the very edge of such a crisis that could usher us quickly into the time of trouble. However, the church seems unable to give the trumpet a certain sound. Many of our pulpits are sounding a peace and safety cry instead of the warning message so greatly needed to prepare our people for this final hour.

It is at this important hour that God’s faithful, obedient Seventh-day Adventists, His true remnant, will teach the Sabbath more fully. How will it be accomplished? Let us read how God’s prophet explained it:

“I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God’s dear, waiting saints. I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. . .

“Now the fulfilment of that view is beginning to be seen. ‘The commencement of that time of trouble,’ here menioned, does not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary. At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. At that time the ‘latter rain,’ or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.” Early Writings, 85–86.

These inspired words give us a detailed picture which hangs heavy upon our horizon today.

To preach the Sabbath more fully we must have the latter rain and be filled with all the fullness of God. “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:17–21. All emphasis supplied.

These living, Spirit-filled saints, having the faith of Jesus, receive the experience of the second Pentecost. The faith and love of Jesus demonstrates to the world what God can do in fallen human beings when they are born again, willing to be made willing to obey all truth. Immersed in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, that divine power testifies of their prayerful daily walk with their Master, their King, Jesus. Now Sabbathkeeping according to Isaiah 58:13–14 becomes their seal of God’s approval: “If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

Heaven’s blessing fills the saints to overflowing and they give the loud cry to
a doomed world. The little time of trouble just before probation closes brings the final shaking to the Seventh-day Adventist people. At this time many are shaken out; the wheat and the tares have grown together, and now the harvest reveals the true and faithful souls. The foolish virgins finally see their terrible mistakes, but it is too late, and they are refused entry into the wedding. Persecution rages; the saints are tested; many from the other churches respond to the loud cry of Revelation 18:1-4. They receive the power of Pentecost and join the faithful Seventh-day Adventist saints: “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:5-7.

The proclamation of the Sabbath as the final test to mankind will polarize the whole world into two great armies. Ellen White gives us this word picture portraying the final scenes of the shaking and the great controversy:

“In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world’s insignia; the other was led by the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel. Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord’s army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God. An angel flying in the midst of heaven put the standard of Immanuel into many hands, while a mighty general cried out with a loud voice: ‘Come into line. Let those who are loyal to the commandments of God and the testimony of Christ now take their position. Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean, and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters. Let all who will come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.’

“The battle raged. Victory alternated from side to side. Now the soldiers of the cross gave way, ‘as when a standard-bearer fainteth.’ Isaiah 10:18. But their apparent retreat was but to gain a more advantageous position. Shouts of joy were heard. A song of praise to God went up, and angel voices united in song, as Christ’s soldiers planted His banner on the walls of fortresses till then held by the enemy.” Testimonies, vol. 8, 41.

“The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord’s side.” The Great Controversy, 612.

Let us remember that the last movements will be very rapid ones. See Testimonies, vol. 9, 11-13. “Our condemnation in the judgment will not result from the fact that we have been in error, but from the fact that we have neglected heaven-sent opportunities for learning what is truth.” The Desire of Ages, 490.

Then all who remain yoked with the world, all who belong to worldly unions, societies, associations or confederations, all who remain lukewarm Laodicean Seventh-day Adventists, will be purged out of God’s remnant church. All the lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, all who worship nightly before the goddess of television instead of preparing their characters for eternity, will be weighed in the balances and found wanting. See Testimonies, vol. 8, 247.

All who are not daily, completely surrendered to God’s service and to the finishing of the gospel commission under the proclamation of the three angels’ messages, all who cling to and excuse known sin, all who neglect or reject the inspired Testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy, yes, all formal professors of truth who refuse to live up to the inspired principles of our health message, all who will not practice self-denial and sacrifice for the cause of Christ, all who cling to their wealth and earthly goods until their silver and gold is worthless, all who do not reflect the image of Jesus fully in demonstrating His faith and love to a doomed world, all who do not mourn over their own sins and the sins of others, (see Testimonies, vol. 5, 209-211), all who have not learned to dwell in the presence of the Most High in the atmosphere of prayer, cannot and will not be clothed with the garment of Christ’s righteousness to protect them in the time of trouble, and they cannot be members of the church triumphant. What a tragedy! So many good Seventh-day Adventist laity, pastors, and leaders will be lost because they refuse the conditions of salvation. Our prophet says:

“God will prove His people. Jesus bears patiently with them, and does not spew them out of His mouth in a moment. Said the angel: ‘God is weighing His people.’ If the message had been of as short duration as many of us supposed, there would have been no time for them to develop character. Many moved from feeling, not from principle and faith, and this solemn, fearful message stirred them. It wrought upon their feelings, and excited their fears, but did not accomplish the work which God designed that it should. God reads the heart. Lest His people should be deceived in regard to themselves, He gives them time for the excitement to wear off, and then proves them to see if they will obey the counsel of the True Witness.” Testimonies, vol. 1, 186-187.

“Clad in the armor of Christ’s righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. ‘Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with
banners” (Song of Solomon 6:10), she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer.

“The darkest hour of the church’s struggle with the powers of evil is that which immediately precedes the day of her final deliverance. But none who trust in God need fear; for ‘when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall,’ God will be to His church ‘a refuge from the storm.’ Isaiah 25:4.

“In that day the righteous are promised deliverance. ‘The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burning? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; he shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the muntions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.’ Isaiah 33:14–16.” Prophets and Kings, 725.

“Saddest of all words that ever fell on mortal ear are those words of doom, ‘I know you not.’ The fellowship of the Spirit, which you have slighted, could alone make you one with the joyous throng at the marriage feast. In that scene you cannot participate. Its light would fall on blinded eyes, its melody upon deaf ears. Its love and joy could awake no chord of gladness in the world-benumbed heart. You are shut out from heaven by your own unfitness for its companionship.

“We cannot be ready to meet the Lord by waking when the cry is heard, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom!’ and then gathering up our empty lamps to have them replenished. We cannot keep Christ apart from our lives here, and yet be fitted for His companionship in heaven.” Christ’s Object Lessons, 413–414.

The days ahead will be filled with remorse for many Seventh-day Adventists who have not prepared their characters to stand in that awful day of God’s judgment.

Now, in this urgent hour, while probation still lingers, may God’s faithful people come into line, into obedience to all known truth, that they may preach the Sabbath more fully and then survive the little time of trouble. “Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The Lord, The God of hosts, is his name.” Amos 4:12–13.

The (New, Illustrated) Great Controversy

This book is the regular version of The Great Controversy with the standard page numbering familiar to most Adventists, but it has one very attractive addition—192 pages of full-color photos by the late artist and photographer Jim Arrabito. It was Arrabito’s desire that he might be able to document to the world that the seventh day was, until recent centuries, recognized in many countries as the true Sabbath.

The photos, arranged under several subjects, include: The Destruction of Jerusalem; Paganism Enters the Church; The Church in the Wilderness; The Jesuit Order; and The Protestant Reformation.

This is the second time we have been able to offer this book for the special price of $12.95 each. Order yours now; they will move quickly at this low price! See page 3 for shipping and sales tax information.
Early Experiences
No. 9 — The Secret of the Lord

In 1866, John Orr Corliss became a Freewill Baptist, and in 1868, he became a Seventh-day Adventist. He lived with the James White family for some time and was tutored in Seventh-day Adventist beliefs by Joseph Bates. He pioneered Seventh-day Adventist work in Australia as well as in the states of Virginia, Colorado, and California. In the late 1880s, Corliss and A. T. Jones were the first Seventh-day Adventists to appear before legislatures to plead the cause of separation of church and state. See The Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, 307.

This article continues a 10-part series, originally printed in the Review and Herald, January 16–March 20, 1919, in which John Corliss wrote of the beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist movement, especially focusing on the value of the Spirit of Prophecy as an agent to unify God’s remnant people.

—The Editors

JUST as surely as the Bible is the Inspired Word of the Most High, in whom is centered all power (Psalm 32:11), so certainly is His promise infallible that “the secret of the Lord” will dwell with those who reverence His name and might. Psalm 25:14. But the revelation of the divine secret is now reserved, as it has ever been, to be given to humanity through God’s chosen prophets, whom He has made instruments for that purpose. See Amos 3:7. This method was made necessary in order to reveal to sin-darkened minds the wondrous mystery by which God can and will save men from their sins, through the offering of His only begotten Son.

Clearly discerning the consummation of His covenant intention from the first, God foretells each distinct act in a progressive series. One familiar incident may suffice to illustrate the point. Looking into the future nearly two hundred years from a given moment, God announced through the prophet that He had in reserve an “anointed” one by the name of Cyrus, who would be His instrument to deliver Judah from Babylonian captivity. Isaiah 45:1–5. The time of the giving of this prophecy being more than one hundred years before Judah went into captivity, so far as one may judge, the bare suggestion of a Babylonian thralldom had not entered their minds. Yet when the time was ripe, as had been perceived in the divine mind and was actually revealed through the prophet, the wonderful event came to pass as prophesied so long beforehand.

This remarkable prediction, as well as the extended views given to the prophet Daniel, wherein were revealed all the principal experiences before God’s people to the very end of time (see Daniel 7–12), proves that minute secrets of heavenly courts were open to these chosen agents, for the benefit of all who were afterward to be surrounded by the circumstances themselves. But those conditions of ancient times were no more characteristic of those years than God would have them be of all later times. Why, indeed, should not similar conditions now obtain? The fact that the New Testament is in hand does not afford any objection; for the people of olden time had much of the Old Testament, especially that part which was their main stay, the five books of Moses. Then the fact that John the Revelator, at the close of the first century of the Christian Era, was permitted, and even commanded, to portray the many minute changes yet to overtake the cause of Christ down to the end of the controversy with sin, is evidence that God gives continually fuller views of the world’s future events that are to influence moral decisions.

It requires no more stretch of imagination to conclude the same regarding the vision given in the early days of this message, and, in fact, throughout the entire history of this last gospel message, when Satan’s wrath is to be especially manifested. See Revelation 12:12, 17. One has only to read the book Early Writings to be impressed with the reasonableness of its statements concerning the future, agreeing as they do with the sentiments expressed by the Patmos prophet. Take, for instance, the single chapter treating of the sealing time. One who has read carefully the same line of thought from the book of Revelation, cannot fail to be impressed favorably with the similarity. Then, too, one must become aware that the writer, from the graphic description given, had really been permitted to see the entire future, as revealed by Him who knows the end from the beginning.

One item should follow by way of attestation: Quite early in the history of the three messages, when no one seemed to think of making book sales a general occupation, testimony was borne that books and pamphlets should be carried “into thousands of families” that were then sitting in darkness. Instruction was also given that those carrying the books should engage in conversation with, and pray for, those whom they might visit. The subject was made so specific, even, as to say that “hundreds of men should be engaged in carrying the light all through our cities, villages, and towns.” But whispered doubts were held regarding the suggestion. Some were heard to say that while popular volumes might thus be handled with success, they could not see how books containing such unpopular truth as filled our publications, could thus meet with public favor.

There was, however, one person found who was willing to attempt such work. Thoughts on Daniel and Thoughts on Revelation were titles of small trade books then held in stock, but they were designed more especially for our own people to read. Taking these books, Brother George A. King traversed several counties of central Michigan, exhibiting them to the people in a house-to-house canvass. Having demonstrated that they were good sellers, he went to Battle Creek, and pleaded with the author to have the contents of the two books consolidated in a single volume, as in that way, he said, he could more readily place them by a single exhibit.

This seemed like good sense, and so it was finally agreed to make the experiment. But in order not to incur the expenses of resetting the matter in large page form, adapted to the bulk of such a book, it was decided to use the unbound signatures of the two books yet in stock, and unite their small-sized pages into single volumes. The only addition made was a new index, and an encircling line around each page to give it the appearance of larger proportions. The writer remembers well the time he spent in assisting to do the needed work. Soon men were found who succeeded in taking orders for the production, and the necessity soon

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CHRIST came to disprove Satan's claim that the fallen sons and daughters of Adam could not obey God's law. Thus, of necessity, He followed the great laws of heredity and in His lower nature received from His mother Mary all of the weaknesses, appetites, tendencies, and passions of fallen humanity. Only by coming down to the level of those He came to save could He disprove Satan's claim. Thus, Christ, the Ladder, did not fail by any rung of reaching all of the way down to the fallen race. Yes, "The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study." Selected Messages, book 1, 244.

Christ, the Eternal One, the great I Am, took our fallen nature not only to be able to die as our Substitute—to bear the wages of our sins—but also to show us—you, me, and every member of humanity, how we can obey God's law, how we can cease from sin, from rebellion. Yes, Christ came to be our Example in victory over temptation and sin in this present life. Yes, Jesus came to save you and me from the corruptions of the flesh and for life, teacher both by precept and example. He came to show man how to keep the law in humanity, so that man might have no excuse for following his own defective judgment. We see Christ's obedience. His life was without sin. His lifelong obedience is a reproach to disobedient humanity. The obedience of Christ is not to be put aside as altogether different from the obedience He requires of us individually. Christ has shown us that it is possible for all humanity to obey the laws of God." Ibid., book 3, 135.

Yes, the life of Christ is evidence that the fallen nature of man is not hopelessly ruined. By condemning sin in our flesh Christ became the First Fruits, the Example for all to follow in victorious living.

"As we see the condition of mankind today, the question arises in the minds of some, 'Is man by nature totally and wholly depraved?' Is he hopelessly ru-

render of His human will to the divine will of His Father. "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." John 5:30.

"The Son of God was surrendered to the Father's will.... So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans." The Desire of Ages, 208.

"Christ, the true temple for God's indwelling, molded every detail of His earthly life in harmony with God's ideal. He said, 'I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.' Psalm 40:8." Ibid., 209.

Christ's desire to obey His Father's will overshadowed His need for physical food. "In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he..."
said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.” “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.” John 4:31–32, 34.

Christ was born and went through life with a sanctified will. By keeping His will surrendered and thus sanctified, He never yielded to temptation.

“Jesus Christ is our Example in all things. He began life, passed through its experiences, and ended its record, with a sanctified human will. He was tempted in all points like as we are, and yet because He kept His will surrendered and sanctified, He never bent in the slightest degree toward the doing of evil, or toward manifesting rebellion against God.” Signs of the Times, October 29, 1894.

Power From Above

In coming to this earth as a man Christ laid aside His own divine power (see Desire of Ages, 24), and He acknowledged the total inability of His fallen human nature, of itself, to obey His Father with the words “I can of mine own self do nothing.” John 5:30. Because of the inherited weakness of His sinful human nature Christ needed daily to obtain enabling grace from His Father. He thus became our Example of surrendered humanity with a fallen nature receiving outside divine power in order to resist temptation and to live without sin.

“Christ was not to exercise divine power for His own benefit. He had come to bear trial as we must do, leaving us an example of faith and submission.” The Desire of Ages, 119.

“To the consecrated worker there is wonderful consolation in the knowledge that even Christ during His life on earth sought His Father daily for fresh supplies of needed grace; and from this communion with God He went forth to strengthen and bless others. Behold the Son of God bowed in prayer to His Father! Though He is the Son of God, He strengthens His faith by prayer, and by communion with Heaven gathers to Himself power to resist evil and to minister to the needs of men. As the Elder Brother of our race He knows the necessities of those who, compassed with infirmity and living in a world of sin and temptation, still desire to serve Him. He knows that the messengers whom He sees fit to send are weak, erring men; but to all who give themselves wholly to His service He promises divine aid. His own example is an assurance that earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith—faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work—will avail to bring to men the Holy Spirit’s aid in the battle against sin.” The Acts of the Apostles, 56.

“Our Saviour relied upon His heavenly Father for wisdom and strength to resist and overcome the tempter. The Spirit of His heavenly Father animated and regulated His life. He was sinless.” Selected Messages, book 3, 134.

Rather than using His own divine power, Christ defeated sin and Satan through the power resulting from the assimilation of and obedience to the Word of God.

“Christ’s example is before us. He overcame Satan, showing us how we may also overcome. Christ resisted Satan with Scripture. He might have had recourse to His own divine power, and used His own words; but He said: ‘It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.’ Matthew 4:4. To the second temptation He said: ‘It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.’ Verse 7. Christ’s example is before us. If the Sacred Scriptures were studied and followed, the Christian would be fortified to meet the wily foe; but the Word of God is neglected, and disaster and defeat follow.” Testimonies, vol. 4, 45–46.

Humanity United with Divinity

Christ’s life of victory over sin was accomplished by uniting His human forces with the powers of Heaven.

“No single principle of human nature will I violate. Clothing My divinity with humility, I will endure every temptation wherewith man is beset. I will call to My aid the powers of Heaven, that men and women, imbued with My Spirit, may overcome as I overcame. . . . The working out of My purposes in behalf of degraded humanity require that divine and human forces be combined.” Manuscript Releases, vol. 5, 114.

Adam’s sin separated the human race from divinity. In order for mankind to be rescued from bondage to Satan, each child of Adam must once again be united with divinity. Successful victory over sin is dependent upon having and maintaining a union of the human nature with the divine nature. Christ lived His life on earth in just such a nature.

Christ came to this earth to demonstrate that even fallen man, if connected to divinity as man was originally created, could obey God perfectly.

“Christ came to the earth, taking humanity and standing as man’s representative, to show in the controversy with Satan that man, as God created him, connected with the Father and the Son, could obey every divine requirement. Speaking through His servant He declares, ‘His commandments are not grievous.’ 1 John 5:3.” Selected Messages, book 1, 253.

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"In Christ, divinity and humanity were combined. Divinity was not degraded to humanity; divinity held its place, but humanity by being united to divinity, withstood the fiercest test of temptation in the wilderness." 
*Review and Herald*, February 18, 1890.

Though both divine and human, Christ overcame Satan in His human nature relying upon union with His Father for the enabling divine power.

**Discussion**

Each child of Adam receives a fallen, lower nature with inherited propensities, desires, appetites, passions, and tendencies to and from sin. We also inherit our higher powers—the will (choice), reason, and conscience—weekened, uneducated, and unilluminated because of separation from divinity. Our inherited will is also unsanctified with a humanly irresistible bent to self-service—selfishness—and thus by birth in rebellion against the character of God, which is self-denying love. "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Ephesians 2:3. We have each proved such weakened and corrupted higher powers are no match for the temptations arising from our corrupted lower powers. We have all participated in sin by allowing our evil lower natures to rule over our higher powers.

As does every child of Adam, Christ inherited a fallen lower nature with its mixture of good (as well as evil) desires, appetites, passions, propensities, and tendencies.

Christ's overcoming and obedience is that of a true human being. In our conclusions, we make many mistakes because of our erroneous views of the human nature of our Lord. When we give to His human nature a power that it is not possible for man to have in his conflicts with Satan, we destroy the completeness of His humanity....

"The obedience of Christ to His Father was the same obedience that is required of man. Man cannot overcome Satan's temptations without divine power to combine with his instrumentality. So with Jesus Christ; He could lay hold of divine power. He came not to our world to give the obedience of a lesser God to a greater, but as a man to obey God's Holy Law, and in this way He is our Example. The Lord Jesus came to our world, not to reveal what a God could do, but what a man could do, through faith in God's power to help in every emergency." *Our High Calling*, 48.

Though Adam had yielded to temptation in human nature, Christ overcame all temptation in human nature never relying upon His own divine nature.

"When Christ bowed His head and died, He bore the pillars of Satan's kingdom with Him to the earth. He vanquished Satan in the same nature over which in Eden Satan obtained the victory. The enemy was overcome by Christ in His human nature. The power of the Saviour's Godhead was hidden. He overcame in human nature, relying upon God for power." *The Youth's Instructor*, April 25, 1901.

to take our fallen, sinful human nature and yet participate not in the least in its sin of rebellion or of self-serving. With His higher powers strengthened, illuminated, and sanctified by study, prayer, and union with His Father, Christ became our Example in victory over the temptations and weaknesses of the fallen nature of the flesh.

As Christ's incarnation, our separated-from-God, fallen humanity was reunited to divinity. Through His personal perfect obedience to His Father, Christ maintained throughout His life that union of fallen humanity and divinity. Thus His life, demonstrated that the evil tendencies, propensities, and passions of man's sinful nature, though fully inherited, are not experienced in the life as long as the will is surrendered to God's will and union is maintained with divinity, thus receiving divine power to resist every temptation.

Christ's life on earth demonstrated that fallen humanity with lower nature desires, appetites, tendencies, propensities, and passions to sin but with higher powers fully and constantly surrendered to and united with divinity, does not sin. Never having personally participated in sin, Christ was tempted without ever possessing propensities from sin. In this manner our Saviour was distinct from all humanity, except for Adam before the Fall.

"Be careful, exceedingly careful as to how you dwell upon the human nature of Christ. Do not set Him before the people as a man with the propensities of sin. He is the second Adam. The first Adam was created a pure, sinless being, without a taint of sin upon him; he was in the image of God. He could fall, and he did fall through transgressing. Because of sin his posterity was born with inherent propensities of disobedience. But Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature, and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity. He was assailed with temptations in the wilderness, as Adam was assailed with temptations in Eden." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1128.

Christ took fallen human nature with all of its liabilities, but by uniting it with divinity, by constantly keeping His will surrendered to His Father's will, and by constantly receiving enabling power from the Holy Spirit, our perfect Example never took the evil passions of fallen man into His higher nature. Through never
exercising the attributes of His fallen human nature, Christ's spiritual experience was as righteous as though He did not possess that sinful nature. The record of Christ's life in heaven was as clean as if He had never taken any sinful passions, propensities, tendencies, or appetites. Though, by inheritance, Jesus had in His lower nature "all the strength of the passion of humanity." *Signs of the Times*, November 21, 1892. (See part 3 of this series for the larger context.) He never possessed those passions in His day-to-day, all crucial, higher nature. Christ's sanctified higher powers never allowed His inherited, perverted, lower powers to express themselves and thus He was like us except for sin.

"Our Saviour identifies Himself with our needs and weaknesses, in that He became a suppliant, a nightiy petitioner, seeking from His Father fresh supplies of strength, to come forth invigorated and refreshed, braced for duty and trial. He is our Example in all things. He is a brother in our infirmities, but not in possessing like passions. As the sinless One, His nature recoiled from evil. He endured struggles and torture of soul in a world of sin. His humanity made prayer a necessity and privilege. He required all the stronger divine support and comfort which His Father was ready to impart to Him" Testimonies, vol. 2, 201-202.

"He [Christ] was unsullied with corruption, a stranger to sin; yet He prayed, and that often with strong crying and tears. He prayed for His disciples and for Himself, thus identifying Himself with our needs, our weaknesses, and our failings, which are so common with humanity. He was a mighty Petitioner, not possessing the passions of our human, fallen natures, but compassed with like infirmities, tempted in all points even as we are. Jesus endured agony which required help and support from His Father." Ibid., 508-509.

We see this experience of Christ having a fallen, lower nature, against which there is constant struggle with constant victory, and thus not possessing a fallen nature in His higher powers, reflected also in the life of the converted Paul. Saul's encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus resulted in a true conversion experience with a new birth and a new name.

"Ever since he [Paul] had been arrested in his career of persecution against the followers of the crucified Nazarene he had never ceased to glory in the cross. At that time there had been given him a revelation of the infinite love of God, as revealed in the death of Christ; and a marvelous transformation had been wrought in his life, bringing all his plans and purposes into harmony with Heaven. From that hour he had been a new man in Christ. He knew by personal experience that when a sinner once beholds the love of the Father, as seen in the sacrifice of His Son, and yields to the divine influence, a change of heart takes place, and henceforth Christ is all and in all." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 245.

Although Paul had a new heart with new desires and new motives, he found that sanctification involved a daily crucifying of his natural man. True sanctification involved, with the aid of and submission to divine power and guidance, never allowing the old man to enter into his higher power walk with Christ.

"I spoke in reference to genuine sanctification, which is nothing less than a daily dying to self and daily conformity to the will of God. . . . Paul's sanctification was a constant conflict with self, Said he: 'I die daily.' His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did the will of God, however unpleasant and crucifying to his nature." Testimonies, vol. 4, 299.

Christ took our fallen nature but not the sinfulness of a rebellious will or the separation from divinity:

"In taking upon Himself man's nature in its fallen condition, Christ did not in the least participate in its sin. He was subject to the infirmities and weaknesses by which man is encompassed, 'that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet; saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.' Matthew 8:17. He was touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was in all points tempted like as we are. And yet He knew no sin." Selected Messages, book 1, 256.

"In the fullness of time Christ was to be revealed in human form. He was to assume the position of Head of humanity by taking could Christ be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself, 'The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.' John 14:30. The storms of temptation burst upon Him, but they could not cause Him to swerve from His allegiance to God." Review and Herald, November 8, 1887.

"He was in all points tempted like as we are. Satan stood ready to assual Him at every step, hurling at Him his fiercest temptations; yet He 'did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth.' 'He . . . suffered being tempted,' suffered in proportion to the perfection of His holiness. But the prince of darkness found nothing in Him; not a single thought or feeling

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The Exodus in Type and Antitype, Part 6

The Midnight Deliverance

The Passover

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house. And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.” Exodus 12:3, 6-7, 12-13.

Escape from the tenth and last plague of Egypt was possible only to the Israelites who sprinkled the blood of the slain lamb on the doorposts of their dwellings. As the angel of death passed through the land of Egypt he passed over the homes of those who had the sign of the blood. As far as the record goes, this is the only thing required of the Israelites to protect themselves from the plagues. Because their homes were passed over and their firstborn protected, the deliverance was called the Passover and under divine direction a memorial was instituted to commemorate the event.

Mark of God

“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.” Exodus 12:13. The sprinkled blood on the doorposts was a token of redemption, a sign of God’s ownership, a pledge of security, and a mark of obedience. This mark secured the safety of those who exhibited it from the wrath and judgments of God. Deliverance from bondage and the last plague depended on their faith in the sprinkled blood which was symbolic of the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God. The angel of death passed over every home that had the mark of God’s approval and protection. His avenging sword was unsheathed in every other household in the land. The mark was an outward sign of obedience and showed that the inmates were worshipers of the true God and were obedient to His will.

The Antitype

“He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer’s inkhorn by his side; and the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maidens, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city. And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord God! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem? Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full

The angels of death here represent the seven last plagues and only those who have the mark of God will be delivered. This mark is an outward sign of the character of God which is imparted by faith in the sprinkled blood of the Lamb of God. It indicates that all sin has been washed away in the cleansing blood of Christ. Of them the Revelator says: "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Revelation 7:14. The marking angel in Ezekiel's vision is followed by the angels of death who pass over those who have the protecting mark. This mark is a sign of their allegiance to the true God and insures their deliverance from the seven last plagues and from the bondage and persecutions of Babylon.

The Sabbath

"Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them." "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." Ezekiel 20:12; Revelation 7:2-3; see also Ezekiel 20:20.

The Sabbath is the sign of the Creator or the true God, and also of redemption or sanctification. It is the outward sign of a character that has been cleansed from all sin by the blood of Christ. "Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God." Isaiah 58:2.

The Sabbath is therefore the sign of the sprinkled blood of Christ that alone can sanctify and make us holy. It is the seal or mark that secures the receivers from the weapons of the slaughter angels representing the wrath of God. "It is a sign of ownership, a mark of possession, a pledge of security, a badge of service, a token of redemption." Pulpit Commentary. "This sealing secures the safety of the sealed ones as the judgment of the great day goes over the nations." - Seiss.

Delivered at Midnight

"And Moses said, Thus saith the Lord, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt." "And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle." Exodus 11:4; 12:29.

The deliverance of Israel under the Exoduses from Egypt took place at midnight during the last plague. The preparation necessary was to have the blood sprinkled on the doorposts and to have everything packed up and ready to move. They were to be dressed with their sandals on their feet and their staves in their hands.

"And thus shall ye eat it: with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover." Exodus 12:11.

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"And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even

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Also at Midnight

"And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: and it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night." Exodus 14:19-20.

The deliverance at the Red Sea took place at night. All night the Israelites were protected by a guard of angels between them and the enemy. According to verses 24 and 25, the Egyptians were destroyed during the morning watch which came between two in the morning and sunrise. Since several millions of men, women, and children had to make the journey with all their belongings, including livestock, it doubtless required several hours to make the passage. The Red Sea at this point is estimated to have been at least one mile and probably five miles wide or even more. The 600 chariots of Pharaoh with perhaps 100,000 soldiers were in the midst of the passage in the morning watch. This would make the opening of the Red Sea for their deliverance about midnight.

The Distance

George Stanley Fabric declares that "The tongue of the Red Sea at the place is about twelve miles broad. . . . In the time of Diodorus it was three fathoms (18 feet) deep." George Rawlinson wrote: "The space may have been one of considerable width. The Israelites entering upon it, perhaps about midnight, accomplished the distance, which may not have exceeded a mile, with all their belongings, in the course of five or six hours, the pillar of fire withdrawing itself, as the last Israelites entered the seabed, and retiring after them like a rearguard. Thus protected, they made the transit in safety, and morning saw them encamped upon the shores of Asia." Pulpit Commentary.

Death-Sentence Reversed

The sentence of death decreed upon the Israelites returned upon the heads of the Egyptians. "And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. . . . Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore." Exodus 14:27, 30.

The enemies of God's people were all destroyed and the Israelites were delivered from them forever. "There remained not so much as one of them." In connection with the destruction of the Egyptians there took place a terrific storm, accompanied by thunder, lightning, and earthquakes. See Psalm 77:15-20. "Showers of rain came down from the sky, and dreadful thunders and lightning, with flashes of fire; thunderbolts also were darted upon them; nor was there anything, wont to be sent by God upon men as indications of His wrath, which did not happen upon this occasion." Josephus in his Antiquities 2, 16.

Modern Israel will likewise experience a twofold deliverance from the power and wrath of modern Babylon. The first deliverance is from the sentence of death and the second from the world itself at the Second Advent.

Song of Deliverance

See Exodus 15. With their own eyes the Israelites witnessed the destruction of their enemies and saw their dead bodies along the shore. Josephus declared that an eastward wind with the tide carried the bodies of the Egyptians to the eastern shore where the hosts of Israel could see them and that Moses stripped them of their armor and weapons to equip his own army. See Antiquities 2, 16. The song of deliverance is called "The Song of Moses" because it was doubtless composed by him to commemorate the event and to celebrate their triumph. The song is divided into two parts. Verses 1-12 celebrate the deliverance that had just been experienced. Verses 13-18 are prospective of the results that were to come in the future because of the Red Sea deliverance. Verses 19-21 give the sequel to the song, giving its historic background and the part Miriam played in the celebration.

The Antitype

Modern Israel will likewise experience a twofold deliverance from the power and wrath of modern Babylon. The first deliverance is from the sentence of death and the second from the world itself at the Second Advent. "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12:1-2.

This text enumerates four important events: (1) The close of probation, (2) the plagues or time of trouble, (3) the deliverance of God's people, and (4) the special resurrection. The final sentence of death is predicted in Revelation 13:15. Deliverance from this sentence will come before the partial resurrection and therefore before the second coming of Christ and the final deliverance out of the world.

The Apparant Escape

Like Israel of old at the Red Sea, God's remnant people will apparently be trapped with no possibility of escape. They must either yield their allegiance to God and return to Babylon or be killed. "When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproach." The Great Controversy, 635.

"It was an hour of fearful, terrible agony to the saints. Day and night they cried unto God for deliverance. To outward appearance, there was no possibility of their escape." Early Writings, 283.
Guard of Angels

Just as a company of mighty angels stood guard between the Israelites and the Egyptians all through the night of their trial and deliverance, so modern Israel will under sentence of death be protected by angel messengers. “And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.” Isaiah 4:5-6; See also Psalm 91.

“Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ’s patience. With sympathizing tenderness, angels have witnessed their distress and have heard their prayers. They are waiting the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril. . . . Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandmentkeepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and before the time specified, will endeavor to take their lives. But none can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul.” The Great Controversy, 630–631.

“As the saints left the cities and villages, they were pursued by the wicked, who sought to slay them. . . . Angels of God shielded the saints.” Early Writings, 284–285. This is what happened in the flight of ancient Israel from Egypt.

Delivered at Midnight

All laws go into effect at midnight and this will be true of the law with the death penalty. Therefore the deliverance of God’s people from the wrath and power of modern Babylon will take place at midnight. “It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people.” The Great Controversy, 636.

“It was at midnight that God chose to deliver His people.” Early Writings, 285.

Then follows a description of their deliverance, of the special resurrection, and later of the coming of Christ and the general resurrection of the righteous. It seems evident that the final deliverance from the world at the coming of Christ takes place at night, probably at midnight. It may be during the same night as the deliverance from the sentence of death although there is a train of events between the two that may take more time.

Death Sentence Reversed

The wicked will never be permitted to execute their sentence of death against the righteous, but God will execute His death sentence against them. “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb; and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” Revelation 14:9-11; see also 18:5-8; 19:19-21.

There will not be one wicked person left. The righteous will behold the destruction of their enemies. “Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.” Psalm 91:8.

Protected by guardian angels from the wrath and devices of their enemies, the faith and patient endurance of God’s people are finally rewarded. Like the Israelites at the Red Sea they witness the vengeance of God upon their persecutors, and see them rewarded with the very sentence of death they had expected to execute upon the righteous.

An Awful Storm

In connection with the deliverance of God’s people and the destruction of the wicked there will be a great rainstorm with hailstones, thunder, lightning, and a great earthquake. See Jeremiah 4:24-27; Ezekiel 38:19-22; Revelation 16:17-21. “There is a mighty earthquake. . . . The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. There is a roar as of a coming tempest. The sea is lashed into fury. There is heard the shriek of the hurricane like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction. The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed by the angry waters. . . . Great hailstones. . . . are doing their work of destruction. The proudest cities of the earth are laid low. . . . Fiery lightnings leap from the heavens, enveloping the earth in a sheet of flame. Above the terrific roar of thunder, voices, mysterious and awful, declare the doom of the wicked.” The Great Controversy, 636–638. This is what happened in the destruction of the Egyptians at the Red Sea only the latter is on a worldwide scale.

Song of Deliverance

“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, 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 marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty: just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.” Revelation 15:2-4.

Just as triumphant Israel on the shores of the Red Sea celebrated their deliverance in song, so the delivered Advent people will repeat the same song on the sea of glass because they have gone through the same experiences. “By the sea of glass” (R.V.), God’s people rejoice over their enemies who, “like a great millstone” “east into the sea,” go down to rise no more forever. See Revelation 18:20-21; 19:1-3.

In connection with the descriptions of the final deliverance and song of victory, the same terms and illustrations are used as are found in the Exodus description of ancient Israel’s experience and the song of Moses sung at the Red Sea. As Miriam the prophetess of the Exodus movement led in the song celebration at the Red Sea, it may be that the song of triumph of the remnant of Israel who go through the final crisis will be led by the prophetess of the Advent movement. At least it seems appropriate that it should be so. The song of triumph is the song of the Lamb. Jesus, the Lamb of God, won His victory in the Garden of Gethsemane about midnight. His midnight victory made possible our midnight deliverance.

“As soon as we incline our will to harmonize with God’s will, the grace of Christ stands to cooperate with the human agent; but it will not be the substitute to do our work independent of our resolving and decidedly acting.” Mind, Character, and Personality, book 2, 691.
Perhaps we have all used the term "silence is golden," and that is a beautiful truth under many circumstances. There are many circumstances, however, when silence is tragic. The following information will reveal some of those tragic circumstances. The third angel's message is the most serious message that ever came to mortals. It is designed by God to bring every individual on earth to a decision for or against Christ, and to a perfect His people to stand in the time of trouble without a Mediator. His people have never been prepared to do this in the past.

The Bible is clear on what constitutes the everlasting gospel, but, even so, the churches have debated the subject for centuries. After the Holy Spirit's special guidance to our pioneers as they discovered the biblical truths that make up our message, it does not seem possible that even our own church is debating what constitutes the everlasting gospel. Our pioneers, including Ellen White, had no problem understanding that sanctification is an aspect of the gospel and that obedience to the commandments is the true sign of sanctification.

Our church is moving more and more into the Evangelical concept of the gospel, which can never fulfill God's purpose for His church. The silence from most of our leadership on this matter is tragic indeed.

In order to make my subject clear, it is necessary to relate some personal experiences.

Several years ago we were in an elders meeting with the pastor. The subject came up about obedience in relation to salvation. The pastor strongly objected to obedience having any part in salvation, and then told us this story: When he had finished the ministerial course and was entering his internship, his religion professor asked him if he was going to preach that obedience to the commandments was required for salvation, and he answered "No, I will not." His professor said to him, "You stay with that position." Then our pastor told us that we would not find in any of the books coming from our presses statements saying that obedience to the commandments is a condition of our salvation. For years I had been aware that what he said was true for most of the publications, except for one category of books he did not mention. He is now retired, and it was about forty years ago that he started his internship. Surely he had read: "Christ does not lessen the claims of the law. In unmistakable language He presents obedience to it as the condition of eternal life." Christ's Object Lessons, 391. Salvation is obtained by "willing obedience." Ibid., 117.

In Luke 10:25-28 the lawyer summed up the law as love to God and love to man. Then Christ said to him, "This do, and thou shalt live." The comment on this passage in The Desire of Ages, 498, says: "Man's destiny will be determined by his obedience to the whole law."

"To man, the crowning work of creation, God has given power to understand His requirements, to comprehend the justice and beneficence of His law, and its sacred claims upon him; and of man unswerving obedience is required." Patriarchs and Prophets, 52.

Another, "If ye love me keep my commandments." John 14:15. "Here is the sum and substance of the law of God. The terms of salvation for every son and daughter of Adam are here outlined." The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, 1105.

"The gospel that is to be preached to all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples presents the truth in clear lines, showing that obedience is the condition of gaining eternal life." Ibid., vol. 7, 972.

Did you notice that in all our preaching of the gospel we are to make clear that God requires obedience for salvation? The books just quoted have been coming off our presses for about one hundred years, authored by Ellen White, but apparently the pastor failed to read or understand them.

Lowell Scarbrough, an author and retired building contractor, writes from Oroville, California.
Several years ago a friend of mine was writing a book on our message and included some statements on obedience required for salvation such as I have quoted here. A friend of his in a high position at the same institution read his manuscript. He wrote my friend a letter and begged him not to put statements of that kind in his book. He felt such statements would be devastating and could ruin my friend's influence in the church. Thank God my friend did not follow his counsel. Remember that the statements my coworker objected to were inspired by our prophet. Evidently most of our authors who write our denominational books subscribe to the same position as my friend's coworker.

I was teaching a Sabbath school class in a rather large church in California several years ago and I asked the question, "Does God require obedience to His commandments for salvation?" All was quiet for awhile, then one lady answered "Yes." This opened up the discussion, but not another person showed any real conviction to take a stand. About a year later I was teaching a different Sabbath school class, and I asked the same question with almost identical results.

Since then I have asked other individuals this same question and nearly all, without exception, gave no straightforward answer. Their answers were usually like this: "Well, of course God wants us to keep His law, but we are not saved by our works." They have heard so many times the statement that we are not saved by works, without further qualification until they see it as legalism to say that obedience is required. This attitude reveals to some degree at least, how unprepared our people are to face the crisis that is near at hand. This crisis will center around obedience to God's law for salvation.

This silence from our pulpits and publications is a dreadful shame. It is imperative to keep before our people the clear understanding that obedience is required for salvation. If it had been so in the past we would not likely have pluralistic views on salvation in our church today.

"To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forses us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test." Testimonies, vol. 5, 136. In this majority who forses the truth, the groundwork has been laid for many years by silence on the crucial subject of obedience in relation to salvation. This also stands directly in the way of the obedience God has designed to perfect in His people before the latter rain. See Revelation 12:17; 14:12.

Of course, there are good Christian men and women in our denominational work who believe the three angels' messages and what God is going to accomplish in His people, but most have somehow been persuaded that unity with cowokers takes precedence over facing the facts that are crying out to be addressed. This deception and neglect will be at least partly, or largely, responsible for the majority who forses the truth. It could mean hundreds of thousands, or millions, of souls lost for eternity. Keep God's commands. So, to be born of the Spirit and to keep God's commandments are inseparably locked together. It is obedience by faith and love, and there is not a shred of legalism (or saved by works) in it. As mentioned above, this is one's fitness for heaven. We are told in The Desire of Ages, 161, that all of God's created beings (angels and men) are indwelt by the Divine Spirit, except fallen angels and fallen earthlings. The indwelling of the Spirit is the only way we will ever join the heavenly family, and by the Spirit we will keep God's commandments.

When one analyzes what it means to be born and led by the Spirit as a condition of salvation, it is identical to keeping God's commandments as a condition of salvation.

Because one believes God requires obedience for salvation does not mean that one believes in being saved by works. The requirements in this article about obedience came from the Godhead, through the prophets, to the remnant. God's people are required to believe Inspiration. Of course, we are not saved by works. The best Christian that ever lived could not add one particle to his or her standing before Christ, their perfect Substitute. Our obedience has all to do with being born and led by the Holy Spirit, which is our fitness for heaven. Christ made our new birth the condition for salvation when speaking with Nicodemus. See John 3:3, 5.

The crowning work of the Holy Spirit is to impart love, or Christ's righteousness, into human hearts. This love obeys. See Romans 5:5; My Life Today, 49; Testimonies, vol. 8, 139; vol. 9, 40.

When one analyzes what it means to be born and led by the Spirit as a condition of salvation, it is identical to keeping God's commandments as a condition of salvation. The obedience is only the outward expression of the love that the Holy Spirit imparts. For example: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." 1 John 3:9.

"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not." Verse 6. Ellen White comments on these verses: That is, "will not willfully transgress the law of God." Signs of the Times, April 30, 1896. These texts make it clear that those who are born of the Spirit many came out in the open in the late seventies rejecting the third angel's message of righteousness by faith, saying the gospel was justification alone, to the exclusion of sanctification. Since commandment keeping is the true sign of sanctification, that position would mean that obedience has nothing to do with salvation. Almost nothing has been done to correct or clarify our true position to the laymen. We had the righteousness by faith conferences in the early eighties, but that did little for the laymen. There must be an ongoing clarification of this subject or we will revert back to no conditions necessary for salvation. Many church members were amazed because most leaders were so silent.

Instead of making our position crystal clear before the whole world church, in 1979 our General Conference leaders asked that we have a moratorium on discussing righteousness by faith until the Glacier View meetings in 1980. Tragically, all during that time the apostasy became more deeply entrenched.

Now fifteen years later, to my knowledge there is no voice in our church's current publications, and few from our pulpits telling us that obedience to God's commandments is the condition of our salvation. There will be an awesome price that many will have to pay for this tragic betrayal of the gospel of the third angel's message.
A Divided Church
Continued from 7

disharmony and the present confusion of doctrinal pluralism.

Let the reader compare Dr. Adams’ views with those of Francis M. Wilcox, long-time editor of the Review and Herald. See the box that accompanies this article.

I greatly appreciated Dr. Adams’ reminder of the myriads of people in this world who have not heard the gospel message of salvation, men and women who are destined to eternal oblivion if God’s people do not come together on the true basis of harmony. But we must make no mistake about it, God’s promises are sure. He will have a people who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. See Revelation 14:12. He will have a people who overcame by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and who loved not their life unto the death. See Revelation 12:11.

As a leader in self-supporting work, I not only want to be one of those faithful people, but I want to be an encouragement to all of God’s chosen ones, that they too might be sanctified through the truth. This would fulfill the promise recorded by John the Revelator, “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:14.

Francis M. Wilcox and the Spirit of Prophecy

“We believe that today as never before our conference and institutional workers and the rank and file of our church membership have faith in the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. But we all need to realize constantly that a theoretical faith is not sufficient. We need to believe and to practice what we believe. Obedience is the test of faith in all God’s requirements.

“But, perchance, there should be some conference worker who never had faith or has lost his confidence in the gift of prophecy in the church, should he continue to represent the denomination as a public teacher or leader? It would be most inconsistent for him to do so.

“Closely identified as this gift has been with the church from the very beginning of this movement, how could such a worker properly represent the denomination? Not having faith in the gift, he would be unable to pass on to the church the Spirit of the instruction coming through that gift. It seems to me that a loss of faith on the part of a minister in this gift, even if it were unknown to his brethren, would lead him as an honest man to surrender his credentials and cease his labors in a representative relationship.

“While a lack of faith in the subject of spiritual gifts might be excused in the rank and file of the membership, it cannot be justly condoned in the case of those chosen for responsible or official positions in the church. Leadership involves solemn responsibility, and the church has a right to demand that those chosen for positions of trust and influence should be examples to the flock, not alone in the life and character, but also in religious faith. The denomination that issues to its accredited representatives ministerial credentials has a right to expect that in this relationship they will stand for the principles of the people who send them forth and who support them in their work.” —Francis M. Wilcox, Review and Herald, June 9, 1946.

Francis M. Wilcox served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as author, minister, and administrator, and was the editor of the Review and Herald from 1911 to 1944.—Editors.
I received a copy of Our Firm Foundation magazine from my friend. Some of our leaders warned me not to keep it in my hand, but I'm interested more and more. Please send me your monthly issues.

Please send me a copy of your booklet about What Is the Church? by Ron Spear. I want to hear the true and timely messages. I don't fear people, but God because we love Him. ——— Personal Ministries Director.

I'm a relatively new Seventh-day Adventist. I was baptised 3 days before I was 79 years old.

I've just recently had access to Our Firm Foundation, and I've enjoyed reading the articles. MC, Missouri

Responses from Earth's Final Warning

I was a Catholic before I started searching the Bible. Now, I do not claim any religious denomination as mine.

Earth's Final Warning carries all or most of my current beliefs. I listen to the doctrines and teachings of any group who comes my way. Then I search the Bible for their teachings. If the Bible does not teach what they told me, then I shake my head and say, No, you are not the one I want.

My collection of books includes several versions of the Bible. My textbook is the King James Version. Also, in my set of books, the Desire of the Ages, Patriarchs and Prophets, The Acts of the Apostles, Triumph of God's Love, Egermeier's Bible Story Book, ten volumes of Bible Stories and My First Bible for my eight-year-old grandson, and others. I do not have The Great Controversy or Prophets and Kings.

Lastly, I agree with you one hundred percent. May I have the privilege of your offer, free Bible studies? Please.

AB, California

This afternoon a friend said he wanted to show me an anti-New World Order paper that his son brought home from Appalachian University, (Boone, NC). Imagine my surprise when I saw the three angels on the cover. Being an old moss-back (old-time SDA), I was more than glad to see his interest in the paper.

Your newspaper was being well received on campus, but neither of us know where they came from. All I can say is, Amen! Please send me as many papers as $40 will purchase. JK, North Carolina

I have enjoyed reading the fourteen abridged chapters of The Great Controversy and Rome's Challenge in your tabloid. Enclosed is a check for $8.95 for the The Great Controversy book.

MD, New York

Greetings in the name of Jesus. On receiving the Heralds of Truth magazine I was tempted to get deeper in the Bible by requesting your home Bible study course. I know and believe this course will lift me to a brighter future. Thank you very much.

MS, Bahamas

I have read with great interest your tabloid, Earth's Final Warning, and was very much impressed. Please send me Rome's Challenge and The Great Controversy.

YB, British Columbia

I am a member of the United States Air Force presently serving a remote tour in the Republic of Korea. I am originally from Tacoma, WA, and I was surprised to see such wonderful literature in the ROK from home. I've read Earth's Final Warning, and I'm very interested in the free Bible studies, Rome's Challenge, and any other free literature you may have available. Your cooperation in this is greatly appreciated.

RI, Korea

Please send me a copy of The Great Controversy. I would like also to receive the free Bible studies and Rome's Challenge. In addition, could you tell me who you are and which Sabbathkeeping church you come from? I am curious as to your origin. Enclosed is a $50 donation.

GM, Pennsylvania

Please give me more information about your views according to the Holy Scriptures. I am sure that Romans 8:28 is being fulfilled until the day our Lord Jesus Christ comes.

Please send me a free Bible course, Rome's Challenge, and Heralds of Peace. The reason is that your newspaper has brought me closer to Christ. I realized that the message of the kingdom draweth nigh is being preached all over the world; therefore, I must take part in this ending calling of God. But first, I must know the truth. Your newspaper has brought blessings to many homes and I want to personally thank God for you. I also want to know what God means to keep the Sabbath Day holy. I know we should not work, but what is work? How is work defined? Are we not even supposed to eat or cook or wash dishes? Is playing a recreational sport work? Please help me understand what it means to keep the Sabbath Day holy. If God means no work, play, eat, or even a movement, then I'll try to the best of God's given ability to do it. May God increase your ministry as you are obedient to His Word.

OL, California

Last night I took your paper out and reread it with the same results as when I first read it. Once I started, I could not put it down until I finished reading from front to back. I would like to request a free Bible study course, Rome's Challenge, and Heralds of Peace. Thank you for your wonderful publications and for enlightening the readers. I would like to order your other books when I am financially able.

Can you please tell me what type of church keeps Saturday as the Sabbath? I am unable to find any.

LT, Oregon
EVERY day you will be faced with temptation. The enemy may attempt to overwhelm you with a flood of temptations or he may attempt to subtly lead you away from the path of life. How we deal with the daily temptations we face could well decide our eternal destiny. Why do we sometimes find ourselves committing the same sins over and over again? Why do we find overcoming sin such a difficult struggle? You may be wrestling against your cherished sin, your master passion. Your sins may hold such a grip on your life that they seem like massive chains, seemingly impossible to break. You may find yourself in a situation where you have been defeated so many times you are ready to give up in discouragement. The good news is that no matter how seemingly hopeless your struggle with sin is, God has a solution that will work for you.

Overcoming sin is not an insignificant matter in the Christian walk. In Jesus' message to the seven churches (Revelations 2 and 3), He indicates seven times that heavenly rewards are for overcomers. The Spirit of Prophecy emphasizes the importance of conquering sin: "All who enter that city will enter it as conquerors. If you will sing the song of triumph and victory as overcomers, you must first learn here the art of conquering self and sin." Signs of the Times, September 15, 1887. God has provided us with instruction so that we can learn the "art of conquering self and sin." Through the grace of Jesus Christ we have the privilege of becoming partakers of the divine nature and living a life of complete victory. Let us examine seven principles that you can apply in your life to become a conqueror over sin.

1. The Lord Our Righteousness

The most important principle to remember in the fight against sin is that victory is a gift that is received as we receive Christ into our soul.

"Let the subject be made distinct and plain that it is not possible to effect anything in our standing before God or in the gift of God to us through creature merit. Should faith and works purchase the gift of salvation for anyone, then the Creator is under obligation to the creature. Here is an opportunity for falsehood to be accepted as truth. If any man can merit salvation by anything he may do, then he is in the same position as the Catholic to do penance for his sins. Salvation, then, is partly of debt, that may be earned as wages. If man cannot, by any of his good works, merit salvation, then it must be wholly of grace, received by man as a sinner because he receives and believes in Jesus. It is wholly a free gift." Faith and Works, 19-20.

Jesus counseled us, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. Notice that we are to seek His righteousness, not our own. What are "these things" that "shall be added unto you?" Do "these things" include victory over sin and temptation? It is by seeking God, by taking time to commune with Him, by beholding Him that we become changed into His image.

"All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us." The Desire of Ages, 668.

"The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him.

"Not by painful struggles or wearisome toil, not by gift or sacrifice, is righteousness obtained; but it is freely given to every soul who hunger and thirsts to receive it. 'Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat, and eat, and eat, without money and without price.' Their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord,' and, 'This is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' Isaiah 55:1; 54:17; Jeremiah 31:30

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2. Confession

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Proverbs 28:13. We cannot prosper in the battle against sin without confession. The Spirit of Prophecy gives us this instruction regarding proper confession:

"True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as only to be brought before God, they may be wrongs that should be confessed before individuals who have suffered injury through them, or they may be of a general kind that should be made known in the congregation of the people. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty." Testimonies, vol. 5, 639.

It is through confession that we receive cleansing from sin: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

3. Use God's Appointed Means

"The victory is not won without such earnest prayer, without the humbling of self at every step." Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, 142. In addition to private prayer it is beneficial for us to pray with others. James admonishes us, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16. Find a prayer partner you can trust and join together with that person in fervent prayer for victory. There is limitless power when two are joined together in prayer. Jesus said, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 18:19.

In addition to prayer, we should take advantage of every opportunity to worship with fellow believers. Hebrews 10:25 says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is."

4. Diet

The importance of temperance in our health habits should not be underestimated. "The controlling power of appetite will prove the ruin of thousands, when, if they had conquered on this point, they would have had moral power to gain the victory over every other temptation of Satan." Testimonies, vol. 3, 491-492.

"God demands that the appetites be cleansed, and that self-denial be practiced in regard to those things which are not good. This is a work that will have to be done before His people can stand before Him a perfected people." Testimonies, vol. 9, 153-154.

"Intemperance of any kind benumbs the perceptive organs, and so weakens the brain nerve power that eternal things are not appreciated, but are placed upon a level with common things. The higher powers of the mind, designed for elevated purposes, are brought into slavery to the baser passions. If our physical habits are not right, our mental and moral powers cannot be strong; for great sympathy exists between the physical and the moral. . . Habits which lower the standard of physical health enfeeble mental and moral strength. The indulgence of unnatural appetites and passions has a controlling influence upon the nerves of the brain. The animal organs are strengthened, while the moral and spiritual are depressed. It is impossible for an intemperate man to be a Christian, for his higher powers are brought into slavery to the lower passions." Signs of the Times, August 11, 1887.

5. Perspective

Victory over sin would not seem so difficult if we viewed it in its proper perspective. The principle of perspective simply put is: "Count the cost!" Is your cherished sin more valuable to you than eternal life? Think of the consequences. One sin, however small it may be, may end up costing you eternal life. "A moment of thoughtlessness, a single misstep, may turn the whole current of your lives in the wrong direction. And you may never know what caused your ruin until the sentence is pronounced: 'Depart from me, ye that work iniquity.' Matthew 7:23." Colporteur Ministry, 52. "A moment's carelessness may plunge a soul into irretrievable ruin." Testimonies, vol. 5, 540.

Moses showed that he had counted the cost, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Hebrews 11:25. Paul counted the cost and exclaimed, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but lost for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Philippians 3:7-8.

"To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life." Romans 2:7. The psychological pain of resisting the indulgence of sin is small in comparison to the joy of an eternity in heaven.

Paul admonishes us, "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Hebrews 12:4. Take a moment to realize the magnitude of the eternal cost of indulging in sin. Are you willing to pay the supreme price—losing the opportunity to spend ete-
nity with your Saviour? "Resist the devil." James 4:7. It is well worth the cost.

6. Our Part

"Many teach that all that is necessary to salvation is to believe in Jesus, but what saith the Word of truth?—'Faith without thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.' Matthew 5:29. If necessary, toss out the TV, VCR, radio, books, or whatever it is that brings the moral pollution of the world into your home. Use perspective in

If we surrender our lives to Christ, receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and apply His principles in our lives, we can be assured of complete victory. Remember that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

works is dead.' James 2:26. We are to 'fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,' take up the cross, deny self, war against the flesh, and follow daily in the footsteps of the Redeemer. . . . It is a fatal mistake to think that there is nothing for you to do in obtaining salvation." That I May Know Him, 115.

What are we to do?

First: Be faithful in small things. It is easy to overlook small things because we often fail to understand how important small things really are. Be faithful in the use of every talent, every dollar, every moment of time. "It is of highest consequence that God manifest His will to us in the daily concerns of life; for the most important results frequently depend upon small occurrences." Signs of the Times, February 10, 1887.

Second: Avoid worldly friendships and associations with those who are not under the banner of Christ. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away." Proverbs 4:14–15.

"Every soul is surrounded by an atmosphere of its own, laden with the fragrance of love and piety, the heavy fogs of unbelief, or the deadly poison of infidelity and crime. When brought in contact with others, we are unconsciously affected by the atmosphere surrounding them. If this be laden with moral poison, the very life-blood of the soul may become tainted ere we are conscious of danger." Signs of the Times, February 24, 1887.

Third: Guard the avenues to the soul. Jesus said, "And if thy right eye offend your decisions about what to remove, and count the cost.

Fourth: If you live in a city, consider moving to the country. "The world over, cities are becoming hotbeds of vice. On every hand are the sights and sounds of evil. Everywhere are enticements to sensuality and dissipation. The tide of corruption and crime is continually swelling. Every day brings the record of violence—robberies, murders, suicides, and crimes unnamable. Life in the cities is false and artificial. The intense passion for money getting, the whirl of excitement and pleasure seeking, the thirst for display, the luxury and extravagance, all are forces that, with the great masses of mankind, are turning the mind from life's true purpose. They are opening the door to a thousand evils. Upon the youth they have almost irresistible power. . . . Serious troubles are before us, and for many families removal from the cities will become a necessity." The Ministry of Healing, 363–364. If possible, with God's leading, look for a suitable dwelling in the country.

Fifth: Humans are creatures of habit. The longer we practice a habit, be it good or evil, the stronger it becomes. We need to develop the habit of resisting temptation in Christ's strength. The more we practice this habit the stronger we will become. "The power of self-restraint strengthens by exercise. That which at first seems difficult, by constant repetition grows easy, until right thoughts and actions become habitual." Help in Daily Living, 25.

Sixth: "Whatev1er things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever
Our Example In Obedience

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responded to temptation.” Testimonies, vol. 5, 422.

“Thus it is with the leprosy of sin—deep-rooted, deadly, and impossible to be cleansed by human power. ‘The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores.’ Isaiah 1:5-6. But Jesus, coming to dwell in humanity, receives no pollution. His presence has healing virtue for the sinner.” The Desire of Ages, 266.

“The Son of God, who is the express image of the Father’s person, became man’s Advocate and Redeemer. He humbled Himself in taking the nature of man in his fallen condition, but He did not take the taint of sin.” Manuscript Releases, vol. 17, 24.

Though born with a sanctified will and united with divinity, Christ had to live His life of full surrender to the Father’s will on a moment by moment lifetime basis as does all humanity. Christ’s sanctification, just as ours, was the work of a lifetime. Jesus was tempted as all children are tempted and is thus their Pattern.

“Jesus is the perfect Pattern, and it is the duty and privilege of every child and youth to copy the Pattern. Let children keep in mind that the child Jesus had taken upon Himself human nature, and was in the likeness of sinful flesh, and was tempted of Satan as all children are tempted. He was able to resist the temptation of Satan through His dependence upon the divine power of His heavenly Father, as He was subject to His will, and obedient to all His commands. He kept His Father’s statutes, precepts, and laws. He was continually seeking counsel of God, and was obedient to His will.” Sons and Daughters of God, 128.

Christ’s perfect character was not inherited but was wrought out day by day.

“Christ came, and in the likeness of man wrought out before the world a perfect character, that the world may be without excuse.” Manuscript Releases, vol. 9, 125.

Christ was subject to every temptation.

“Christ assumed our fallen nature, and was subject to every temptation to which man is subject.” Manuscript Releases, vol. 17, 29.

For some thirty years Christ struggled against our every temptation. For thirty years Christ maintained His fallen humanity under subjection to the will of His Father. For thirty years Christ depended upon enabling power to resist every temptation, to cherish a wrong thought, or to perform a wrong deed, or to neglect to perform a good deed.

Christ knew that the salvation of mankind required that He bear the guilt and die the substitutionary death for the fallen race. Yet in the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ’s humanity shrank from this crowning sacrifice. Three times He prayed that the cup might pass from Him, but each time He closed His prayer with “nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.” Mark 14:36. See The Desire of Ages, 690–693.

Only upon the cross when the dying Christ cried, “It is finished,” did He irresistibly become the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Only at the end of thirty years of sanctified living was Christ our perfect Example in obedience. Only by a lifetime of constant surrender to the Father’s will and constant receiving of enabling divine power did Jesus, by suffering “every phase of trial and temptation with which humanity is beset” through infancy, childhood, youth, and manhood (Manuscript Releases, vol. 17, 25), become our complete Example.

Because Christ took the flesh of our fallen nature, and because His life condemned sin in that fallen nature, He is the perfect Example of how every son and daughter of Adam may go and do likewise.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you,” Christ continued, ‘He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also.’ John 14:12. The Saviour was deeply anxious for His disciples to understand what purpose His divinity was united to humanity. He came to the world to display the glory of God, that man might be uplifted by its restoring power. God was manifested in Him that He might be manifested in them. Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.” Desire of Ages, 664.

“Christ’s life represents a perfect manhood. Just that which you may be, He was in human nature.” Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 5, 1124.

Early Experiences

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became apparent for an improved type and better illustrations.

By taking up the work of selling this and other truth-filled books, many young men have developed their talent, and have become efficient evangelists in the message, thus fulfilling the prediction that to engage in selling books would “educate men and women to do pastoral labor.” Beside this, it has been fully demonstrated that no more important work can be engaged in, because multitudes have received the truth from reading the literature.

It is, moreover, doubtful if such a work would have been undertaken had not the Testimonies so earnestly and persistently urged the matter forward. Indeed, results show that it was God’s counsel to have such a movement inaugurated, and that at the very time when it would prove most likely of adoption. It should be a matter of deepest gratitude to the Most High that He condescends to communicate to persons, through a human instrument, concerning the manner in which they may best, as a body, become workers together with Him.