Preparation for Heaven
Let It Rain!
The Mary of Scripture
Hold Fast, and Repent
Bible Sanctification
The Ladder With Eight Rounds

See page 4
LET us review the conditions of salvation that God has set down for the whole human family. When Adam and Eve sinned, God’s plan of salvation immediately provided a Saviour in Jesus Christ. Since then and in every generation of the 6,000 years of the great controversy, He has found a few who are seeking for righteousness with all their heart and soul. These He can trust with redemption and, finally, immortality. See Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 6:33. It is by granting salvation only under these conditions that God can assure us that sin will never rise again.

Jesus came to show to this world and to the whole universe the conditions for eternal life for all sinners. His life of obedience to His holy, sacred law is our Example, and His beautiful character will be the character of all the redeemed when probation closes. When all rebellion in our hearts is forever forsaken, we will be safe to save.

What do the Scriptures say about the conditions of salvation? Let us now turn to let Inspiration verify these statements:

"Seeing ye have purifyed 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.

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:3-4.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14.

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48.

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy," 1 Peter 1:15-16.

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Hebrews 5:9

The scriptures are very clear that the redeemed are peculiar to the world. Their Christlike characters will bring a terrible persecution upon them. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12. This persecution will come first from the church and then from the world. See Matthew 10:16-18. Selected Messages, vol. 1, 406. Let us review a few of Ellen White’s inspired statements on the conditions of salvation:

"In all His dealings with His creatures God has maintained the principles of righteousness by revealing sin in its true character—by demonstrating that its sure result is misery and death. The unconditional pardon of sin never has been, and never will be. Such pardon would show the abandonment of the principles of righteousness, which are the very foundation of the government of God. It would fill the fallen universe with consternation. God has faithfully pointed out the results of sin, and if these warnings were not true, how could we be sure that His promises would be fulfilled? That so-called benevolence which would set aside justice is not benevolence but weakness." Patriarchs and Prophets, 522.

"Let none say that there are no conditions to salvation. There are decided conditions, and everyone is put to the strenuous task of diligently inquiring and searching for the truth from God’s Word. At the peril of our souls we must know the prescribed conditions given by Him who has given His own life to save us from ruin. We will certainly be lost if we float along with the current of the world, receiving the saying of men. By our selfish love of ease and by our indolence we endanger our souls and the souls of others. We are to seek earnestly to know what saith the Lord." Manuscript Releases, vol. 13, 22.

"Genuine faith will be manifested in good works; for good works are the fruits of faith. As God works in the heart, and man surrenders his will to God, and cooperates with God, he works out in the life what God works in by the Holy Spirit, and there is harmony between the purpose of the heart and the practice of the life. Every sin must be renounced as the hateful thing that crucified the Lord of life and glory, and the believer must have a progressive experience by continually doing the works of Christ. It is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained.

"Those who are justified by faith must have a heart to keep the way of the Lord. It is an evidence that a man is not justified by faith when his works do not correspond to his profession. James says, ‘Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was his faith made perfect?’ James 2:22.” Selected Messages, book 1, 397; see also Testimonies, vol. 3, 106-107; vol. 6, 405; Matthew 7:12-13, 21-23.

Yes, the conditions are very clear. No one is justified while committing known sins or neglecting known duties, and unless we are willing to be made willing to obey all known truth, we will be lost. See Selected Messages, book 1, 366. May the Lord find each of us partaking of His grace, perfecting our characters after the similitude of our lovely Jesus, and preparing to give the loud cry to the world in the power of the latter rain.

Ron Spear—EDITOR
Table of Contents

Vol. 12, No. 4  April 1997

Articles

Bible Sanctification  James White  4
Eight tips from an old warrior

Preparing for Heaven  Ellen G. White  8
Now is the time to confess and forsake our sins

The Mary of Scripture  Jeff Wehr  12
Biblical facts, religious dogmas and dangers of Mariolatry

A Strike Against the Authority of God  Lowell Scarborough  16
Obedience: the result or the condition of salvation—or both?

Mad Cow Disease  Suzanne Sutton  20
Are “clean meats” safe any longer?

Let It Rain  Ron Spear  24
Let us no longer delay the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Hold Fast, and Repent  Ellen G. White  28
An appeal to depart from iniquity and develop a pure Christianity

Departments

Editorial  2  Medical Missionary Corner  23
Letters  31

Hope International is a special ministry assisting in the God-given work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We believe this Remnant Church of Bible prophecy has been brought into existence by the calling of the Lord, and we look for its final triumph in purity at the second coming of Christ. That the church does not now perfectly reflect the will of our Lord is cause for sorrow, but not for discouragement. The Word of God stands pledges that all within her borders will be sifted and tried, and though the greater portion will fail the test, there will yet remain a remnant to honor the Lord by their obedience to all His commands. Therefore, Hope International urges upon all the duty of supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church in every way possible, insofar as it is consistent with the principles of the government of God and the leading of His Holy Spirit upon the heart.

Shipping Information: For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted):
Please add 10% of your total order for shipping plus $2.00 for handling.
For destinations outside the U.S., please add 15% of your total plus $2.00 for handling.
Washington residents please add 7.7% sales tax to your total order, including shipping and handling. All prices are in U.S. dollars.
Bible Sanctification
The Ladder With Eight Rounds

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:1-11.

This quotation from Peter is a clear and beautiful illustration of the advances in the Christian life which constitute Bible sanctification. In introducing this subject we call attention to the following points:

1. The apostle addresses young converts, or those who have just "obtained like precious faith," and sets before them the victories to be obtained, or the graces to be added, in their order, necessary to insure an admittance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2. If the apostle regarded a happy frame of mind as alone constituting sanctification, then we might expect him to illustrate the victories of the onward course in the Christian life by higher and still higher flights of feeling. But in this quotation he is silent in regard to feeling, and presents progress in well-doing as the basis of true sanctification. The love of God shed abroad in the heart, enlightening the mind, and purifying the affections, is the result of faith in Jesus Christ while living in obedience to the Word. Such blessedness, resulting from walking in the self-denying path of obedience is Bible sanctification. It is illustrated by the following impressive sentence of the agonizing prayer of Christ for His followers, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17. And it is the privilege of the true Christian, who walks in willing obedience to the Word, to enjoy all that peace and fullness of joy expressed in the Bible. But to make flights of feeling constitute the sum total of sanctification, is to expose the minds of inexperienced disciples to the wildest freaks of fanaticism.

3. Peter's progressive work system of sanctification is safe to embrace and follow, as it leads to all that faith and hope can grasp. It secures an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. See 2 Peter 1:10-11.

4. The apostle teaches the young Christian to progress by the simple rule of addition, with an all-persevering hand,
all the way through to the kingdom. He says, “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge,” and so on. Or, we may illustrate his system of sanctification by a ladder with eight rounds, reaching from earth to heaven, or from a state of sin to a condition of moral fitness for the kingdom of God. Here are the rounds of the ladder: “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your

1. FAITH [upon which the young disciple stands],
2. VIRTUE; and to virtue,
3. KNOWLEDGE; and to knowledge,
4. TEMPERANCE; and to temperance,
5. PATIENCE; and to patience,
6. GODLINESS; and to godliness,
7. BROTHERLY KINDNESS; and to brotherly kindness,
8. CHARITY, or love, the crowning
Christian grace.”

The order in which the apostle has given these progressive steps is worthy of special notice. The young disciple, who has just embraced the faith of the gospel, must first add to his faith, virtue, and then to virtue, knowledge. He may have been vicious; at least, he has lacked the principles of real virtue. His first work is to seek for purity of thought, words, and acts. Then, in a pure mind and heart, he may add knowledge of the Word of God to enable him to defend his position before the world. Some make a careless stride over the first round, and add to their faith knowledge. They neglect to cultivate virtue, and labor to store their minds with knowledge that they may be able to argue down their neighbors. Such seldom turn men from error to truth, but frequently, from their lack of piety, disgust and prejudice those with whom they mingle. They may talk the truth, but it is poorly represented by them. The food they offer is good of itself, but tastes badly of the dish. They generally become self-righteous, and say in their heart, “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing” and they know not that they are “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Revelation 3:17.

The misfortune of these deceived souls is sometimes the result of wrong impressions received from the minister who first taught them the truth. Perhaps he is a smart debater. (This is good with an even balance of deep piety.) And he is really witty, sometimes, and bears an air of self-confidence and self-righteousness. Such ministers may convert the head, but they generally leave the heart untouched, and many of those they bring to the acknowledgment of the truth are brought just far enough for Satan to make them religious bigots. But if the minister who first teaches them the truth be a godly man; if he, instead of producing a smile on his audience, weeps over sinners as he delivers the message—the most solemn ever committed to men; if he in all his deportment makes a deep

Who can but admire the order in which the apostle has given the victories in the Christian life? He continues, “and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience.”

harmony with the principles of purity and cleanliness taught that people. And when we come to the New Testament we may see that every declaration re-quiring purity, cleanliness, and self-de-nial is a plain rebuke on tobacco using.

But many continue the use of to-bacco because it is not convenient to leave it off. It was not convenient for Christ to die on Calvary. What! A cross-bearing, tobacco-eating, tobacco-smok-ing, tobacco-snuffing follower of the crucified One! This is but a trifle short of a burlesque upon the Christian religion. But physicians recommend tobacco as a medicine. May God pity them! Tobacco will not remove disease. It is a cause of disease itself. It may change the form of disease in some cases; so will the small-pox, and the ague [chill] and fever. But who would expose himself at the pest-house [a hospital infected with disease], or to the miasma [poisonous atmosphere] of a Michigan marsh, to find relief from some of the trifling ailments to which human nature is heir?

The habitual use of tobacco is injurious to the constitution. As one proof of this we refer to those who have become so nervous and shattered by long use of this slow poison that they are compelled to abandon it. Says a veteran tobacco user, “I have used it thirty years, and I do not see that it has much influence on me.” Well, you certainly had a good constitution at the start, or you would now probably be in your grave. But if tobacco is not deranging your system, and injuring your constitution, what makes you feel so dreadful when your
tient unless domestic matters move off smoothly. But the drunkard goes for his dram [a small draft] and he feels better, for the steam is up again, while the others find similar relief in their morning rations of tobacco and tea.

And are any of these real Christians? Some think they are. Doubtful Christians, these! And do they think of meeting Jesus at His coming with a smile, while their lips and beard are stained with tobacco and their whole system and soul tainted with it? May God have mercy, and help them to cleanse themselves "from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1. This is Bible holiness. When men, seeking for the grace of life, are thus cleansed from their idols, the light of Heaven will illuminate their minds, and enable them in all the walks of life to exhibit true Christian patience.

The apostle continues, "and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." He who has added to faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; has so far escaped the corruptions of this world that he may understand the principles of true godliness. His idols are slain, therefore he has no other gods before the Lord. He now loves God supremely, and delights to do His commandments.

And he who loves the Lord God with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the mind, will love his brother as himself, and the manifestation of brotherly kindness will be natural and easy. Hence he who adds godliness will also add brotherly kindness. Charity, or the perfect love of God, next comes in as the crowning Christian grace, constituting the highest round in the ladder of Bible sanctification.

The apostle continues in language most pointed as he applies the subject to the hearts and consciences of the people of God. Weigh well his words: "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren (margin: idle) nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be administered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In conclusion we notice the following points:

1. The conditions stated—"if ye do these things," if ye ascend the ladder, step by step, and overcome and gain the specified victories—then these things will be in you and abound.

2. In so doing there is safety—"ye shall never fall." Then let those who are trembling with fear that at some future time they will fall, cast aside such fears, and in confidence ascend the way to life.

3. Those who lack these things are blind and forgetful. They cannot see afar off and have forgotten that they were purged from their old sins.

4. Peter's view of election. He does not teach that all men are elected to salvation or destruction, and that their fate is unalterably fixed before they are born, and leave them in Satan's easy chair; but he exhorts his brethren to diligence to make their calling and election sure.

5. The reward. The apostle in his first epistle (chapter 1:2), says, "Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied." He teaches sanctification by rule of addition, but holds forth spiritual blessings to be enjoyed in this life by the obedient by the rule of multiplication. But in this connection he presents before those who "do these things" their final reward. "An entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:11.
The ministration of an abundant entrance into the city of God means something more than a mere permission to pass in. Those who have honored their lives by well-doing, and have ascended the ladder of Bible sanctification step by step, will be conducted in triumph into the metropolis of the kingdom of God. Jesus overcame, and as He ascended to the Father’s throne, attending angels in triumph shouted, “Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.” And in response to the inquiry, “Who is this King of glory?” they again shouted, “The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.” Psalm 24:7-8. And those who overcome sit upon the throne of the Son, as He overcame and sat down upon the throne of the Father, will be escorted thither with triumph, while the voice of Jesus will be heard saying, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you. Welcome to the tree of life! and the crystal waters! Welcome to all the joys of the kingdom forever! 

Review and Herald, December 3, 1861.

---

**Line Upon Line . . . Line Upon Line . . . Line Upon Line . . .**

“Tempted in All Points”

by Ellen G. White

Jesus . . . withstood the fearful test upon appetite, and upon love of the world and of honor, and pride of display which leads to presumption. Christ endured these three great leading temptations and overcame in behalf of man, working out for Him a righteous character, because He knew man could not do this of himself. He knew that upon these three points Satan was to assail the race. He had overcome Adam, and He designed to carry forward His work till He completed the ruin of man. Christ entered the field in man’s behalf to conquer Satan for him because He saw that man could not overcome on his own account. Christ prepared the way for the ransom of man by His own life of suffering, self-denial, and self-sacrifice, and by His humiliation and final death. He brought help to man that he might, by following Christ’s example, overcome on his own account, as Christ has overcome for him. Testimonies, vol. 3, 372.

In all the temptations of Satan, there is a deeply laid plan, a dark purpose, to compass the ruin of the human soul. But we are to meet the wily foe as Christ met him. He presented to Jesus the three great temptations that overpowered the human race. He was tested on the point of appetite, presumption, and the acquisition of worldly power and honor. Satan sought to turn Him from His integrity by challenging him to prove His relation to God by some act that would call forth a special miracle on the part of God for His protection, and He presented to Him the bribe of the world and its glory, if He would but fall down and worship Him. But in every temptation Christ resisted the tempter in man’s behalf, and provided grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ, that every man in Him may be more than conqueror. Review and Herald, April 24, 1894.

Great tact and cunning were shown in the tactics which Satan followed. Three times did the enemy try to gain the victory over Christ. He assailed Him on the point of appetite. He appealed to His pride. He presented before Him the most captivating scenes of this world. He challenged Him to give evidence that He was the Son of God. Christ gave him none, but righteously maintained His dignity as One to whom God has committed all power. The Upward Look, 39.

In the wilderness of temptation Christ met the great leading temptations that would assail man. There He encountered, singlehanded, the wily, subtle foe, and overcame him. The first great temptation was upon appetite; the second, presumption; the third, love of the world. Satan has overcome his millions by tempting them to the indulgence of appetite. Through the gratification of the taste, the nervous system becomes excited and the brain power enfeebled, making it impossible to think calmly or rationally. The mind is unbalanced. Its higher, nobler faculties are perverted to serve animal lust, and the sacred, eternal interests are not regarded. When this object is gained, Satan can come with his two other leading temptations and find ready access. His manifold temptations grow out of these three great leading points. Testimonies, vol. 4, 44.

The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face toward Him as the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. Are you tempted? He will deliver. Are you weak? He will strengthen. Are you ignorant? He will enlighten. Are you wounded? He will heal. The Lord “testeth the number of the stars,” and yet “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.” Psalm 147:4, 3. “Come unto me” (Matthew 11:28) is His invitation. Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon the Burden Bearer. The rest that Christ offers depends upon conditions, but these conditions are plainly specified. They are those with which all can comply. He tells us just how His rest is to be found. The Desire of Ages, 329. 

April 1997 Our Firm Foundation 7
AND he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.” Zechariah 3:1-3.

Here we find a representation of the people of God of today. As Joshua stood before the Angel, “clothed with filthy garments,” so we stand in the presence of Christ, clothed in garments of unrighteousness. Christ, the Angel before whom Joshua stood, is now intervening for us before His Father, as He is here represented as interceding for Joshua and His people who were in deep affliction; and Satan now, as then, stands by to resist His efforts.

Ever since his fall, it has been the work of Satan to oppose Christ’s efforts to redeem the race. In the Bible he is called an accuser of the brethren. It is said that he accuses them before God day and night. Every time he leads them into temptation, he rejoices; because he well knows that their power of resistance will thus become weakened, and that he can then the more easily lead them to commit other sins. And when they have taken step after step in the wrong direction, he turns and begins to accuse them of the very sins which he has led them to commit. He thus causes them to become discouraged, and to lose confidence in themselves and in the Lord; and after they have separated from God, dishonored His name, and broken His law, he claims them as his captives, and contests the right of Christ to take them from him. Pointing to their sins, as he did to the filthy garments of Joshua, he says: “They profess to be thy children; but they do not obey thee. See the traces of sin upon them. They are my property.”

This is the argument that he employs concerning God’s people in all ages. He pleads their sinfulness as the reason why Christ’s restraining power should not hold him back from exercising his cruelty upon them to its fullest extent. But to the accuser of His people the Saviour says, “The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan. Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Have I not thrust my own hand into the fire to gather this brand from the burning?”

So long as the people of God preserve their fidelity to Him, so long as they cling by living faith to Jesus, they are under the protection of heavenly angels, and Satan will not be permitted to exercise his hellish arts upon them to their destruction. But those who separate themselves from Christ by sin are in great peril. If they continue to disregard the requirements of God, they know not how soon He may give them over to Satan, and permit him to do to them according to his will. There is, therefore, the greatest necessity of keeping the soul free from defilement, and the eye single to the glory of God; of thinking soberly and watching unto prayer continually.

Satan is now more earnestly engaged in playing the game of life for souls than at any previous time; and unless we are constantly on our guard, he will establish in our hearts pride, love of self, love of the world, and many other evil traits. He will also use every possible device to
unsettle our faith in God and in the truths of His Word. If we have not a deep experience in the things of God, if we have not a thorough knowledge of His Word, we shall be beguiled to our ruin by the errors and sophistries of the enemy. False doctrines will sap the foundations of many, because they have not learned to discern truth from error. Our only safeguard against the wiles of Satan is to diligently study the Scriptures; to have an intelligent understanding of the reasons of our faith; and to faithfully perform every known duty. The indulgence of one known sin will cause weakness and darkness, and subject us to fierce temptation.

Joshua is represented as pleading with the Angel. Are we engaged in the same work? Are our supplications ascending to God in living faith? Are we opening the door of the heart to Jesus, and closing every means of entrance to Satan? Are we daily obtaining clearer light and greater strength, that we may stand in Christ’s righteousness? Are we emptying our hearts of all selfishness, and cleansing them, preparatory to receiving the latter rain from Heaven?

Now is the time when we are to confess and forsake our sins that they may go beforehand to judgment and be blotted out. Now is the time to "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1. It is dangerous to delay this work. Satan is even now seeking by disasters upon sea and land to seal the fate of as many as possible. What is the defense of the people of God at this time? It is a living connection with Heaven. If we would dwell in safety from the noisy some pestilence, if we would be preserved from dangers seen and unseen, we must hide in God; we must secure the protecting care of Jesus and holy angels. In these days of peril, the Lord would have us walk before Him in humility. Instead of trying to cover our sins, He would have us confess them, as Joshua confessed the sins of ancient Israel. We profess to be the depositaries of God’s law. We profess to be building up "the old waste places," and to be raising up "the foundations of many generations." Isaiah 58:12. If this great and solemn work has indeed been committed to us, how important that we depart from all iniquity!

We may be followed with testimony after testimony of reproof; but if we do not overcome the disposition in us to do evil, if we do not respond to the light, we shall be in a state of condemnation before God. If, on the other hand, we live up to all the light that shines upon us, that light will continue to increase, and we shall have a clean record in heaven. The third angel’s mes-

“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.”

**Our only safeguard against the wiles of Satan is to diligently study the Scriptures; to have an intelligent understanding of the reasons of our faith; and to faithfully perform every known duty.**

Daniel 12:1. By this we see the importance of having our names written in the book of life. All whose names are registered there will be delivered from Satan’s power, and Christ will command that their filthy garments be removed, and that they be clothed with His righteousness. “And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.” Malachi 3:17.

In the time of trouble, Satan stirs up the wicked, and they encircle the people of God to destroy them. But he does not know that “pardon” has been written opposite their names in the books of heaven. He does not know that the command has been given, “Take away the filthy garments” from them, clothe them with “change of raiment,” and set “a fair mitre” upon their heads.

The promise made to Joshua is made to all the remnant people of God: “If thou wilt walk in my ways [not in your own ways], and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.” Zechariah 3:7. Who are these that stand by? They are the angels of God. Could our eyes be opened, as were those of the servant of Elisha at Dothan, we should see evil angels all around us, urging their presence upon us, and watching for an opportunity to tempt and overthrow us; we should also see holy angels guarding us, and with their light and power pressing back the evil angels.
If we could only see the many dangers from which we are daily preserved by the holy angels, instead of complaining of our trials and misfortunes, we would talk continually of the mercies of God. How precious in the sight of God are His people! If Satan had his way, whenever an effort is made to bring souls into the truth, both the minister and those who come to hear would be made to suffer in body and in mind. But angels of God are commissioned to accompany His servants, and to protect them and their hearers. Satan pleads for the privilege of separating these angels from them, that he may compass their destruction; but Jesus forbids it. If it were not for the constant guardianship of these angels, we would not be able to live on the earth and present the truth.

There have been times since the third angel’s message was first proclaimed, when angels in the form of human beings have appeared to men, and conversed with them as they did with Abraham of old. When the complaints of Satan are entered against the servants of God, angels are often sent down to investigate their course, sometimes conversing with men unknown to them. They sometimes question those in error, until they tell all that is in their hearts, and then these angels bear their report back to heaven, relating things just as they exist.

Jacob, in his vision of the ladder whose base rested upon the earth, and whose topmost round reached to the highest heaven, saw the God of heaven standing above this ladder of glorious brightness, and angels of God constantly ascending and descending upon it. This fits the love and care of God for His children, and the constant communication there is between earth and heaven. It is also intended to impress us with the importance of walking circumspectly before God. Oh that I could say something to impress you with the offensive character of sin in God’s sight!

There are many today who profess to serve God, but who are not doing so in reality. But when Christ comes it will be known who are the chosen of God. “Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him from the light of the cross of Calvary you obtain a view of the great love of God for man, do not build yourselves up in self-esteem; but in meekness of soul stand before God as prisoners of hope. Why not be in earnest in your efforts for eternal life? Why not manifest a perseverance and an intensity of desire proportionate to the value of the object of which you are in pursuit? Instead of doing this, many now engage in the work of God at will, and let it alone at pleasure. They thus invite Satan to come in and take possession of their hearts.

What is it to be a Christian? It is to be Christlike; it is to do the works of Christ. Some fail on one point, some on another. Some are naturally impatient. Satan understands their weakness, and manages to overcome them again and again. But let none be discouraged by this. Whenever little annoyances and trials arise, ask God in silent prayer to give you strength and grace to bear them patiently. There is a power in silence; do not speak a word until you have sent up your petition to the God of heaven. If you will always do this, you will soon overcome your hasty temper, and you will have a little heaven here to go to heaven in.

God wants His people to cleanse their hands and purify their hearts. Will it make them unhappy to do this? Will it bring unhappiness into their families if they are kind and patient, courteous and forbearing? Far from it. The kindness they manifest toward their families will be reflected upon themselves. This is the work that should be carried forward in the home. If the members of a family are not prepared to dwell in peace here, they are not prepared to dwell in the family that shall gather around the great white throne. Sin always brings darkness and bondage; but rightdoing will bring peace and holy joy.

The work of overcoming is a great work. Shall we take hold of it with energy and perseverance? Unless we do, our “filthy garments” will not be taken from us. We need never expect that these will be torn from us violently; we must first show a desire to rid ourselves of them. We must seek to separate sin from us, relying upon the merits of the blood of Christ; and then in the day of affliction, when the enemy presses us, we shall walk among the angels. They will be like a wall of fire about us; and we shall one day walk with them in the city of God.

It is to the humble in heart that Jesus speaks; His everlasting arms encircle them, and He will not leave them to perish by the hands of the wicked.
When tempted to sin, let us remember that Jesus is pleading for us in the heavenly sanctuary. When we put away our sins and come to Him in faith, He takes our names in His lips and presents them to His Father, saying, "I have graven them upon the palms of my hands; I know them by name." Isaiah 49:16. And the command goes forth to the angels to protect them. Then in the day of fierce trial He will say, "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." Isaiah 26:20. What are the chambers in which they are to hide? They are the protection of Christ and holy angels. The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies, and in all parts of the earth; and they will be tried singly, not in groups. Everyone must stand the test for himself.

There has never been a time when the people of God have had greater need to claim His promises than now. Let the hand of faith pass through the darkness, and grasp the arm of infinite power. While we speak of the necessity of separating from sin, remember that Christ came to our world to save sinners, and that "he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him." Hebrews 7:25. It is our privilege to believe that His blood is able to cleanse us from every spot and stain of sin. We must not limit the power of the Holy One of Israel. He wants us to come to Him just as we are, sinful and polluted. His blood is efficacious. I entreat you not to grieve His Spirit by continuing in sin. If you fall under temptation, do not become discouraged. This promise comes ringing down along the line to our time: "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." I John 2:1. I feel that for this one promise a continual song of thanksgiving ought to go forth from the lips of mortals. Let us gather up these precious jewels of promise, and when Satan accuses us of our great sinfulness, and tempts us to doubt the power of God to save, let us repeat the words of Christ, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37.

Historical Sketches, 154-158; Original title: "Satan An Accuser of the Brethren." (Compare Review and Herald, November 19, 1908.)
WHILE millions flock to view an apparition of Mary, thousands believe that unification between the Catholic Church and the rest of the world will come through "Mary." She is known throughout devoted circles as the Queen of Heaven, the Lady of Fatima, the Mother of God, the Co-mediatrix, the Lady of the Good Death, and so on. However, is there any basis for this worldwide adoration of "Mary"? Can "Mary" bring the world into unification with the Catholic Church?

Perhaps the first question that must be asked is, Who is Mary? According to Scripture, we find that Mary was "a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David," and that she lived in a "city of Galilee, named Nazareth." Luke 1:27. While she was engaged to Joseph she became pregnant with Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. See Matthew 1:20. Then for three months Mary lived with her cousin Elizabeth, who, with her husband Zacharias, was expecting the birth of their son John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. See Luke 1:13-15.

Mary gave birth to Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. That same night of the Saviour's birth, shepherds came to glorify and honor the Child. Later, there came wise men from the east to worship the newborn babe. Then Joseph was warned in a dream to escape from Bethlehem and to go to Egypt because King Herod sought to destroy Jesus. After Herod's death, Joseph and Mary returned to Palestine to the city of Nazareth. It was there that Jesus grew up and lived until He entered upon His ministry. See Matthew 2:1-23; Luke 2:1-20.

When Mary understood that God had chosen her from among all women to give birth to the Saviour, she rejoiced and said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation." Luke 1:46-50. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

In these few words spoken by Mary we find (1) that she magnified God and God alone, (2) that she too was in need of a Saviour, and (3) that she considered herself blessed that God had chosen her to bear the Christchild.

Thus far, Mary is described as a dedicated Jewish woman who is engaged to a man named Joseph. Before they had any marital relations, Mary became pregnant with the world's Redeemer by the power of the Holy Spirit. She rejoiced, not simply that she was chosen of God to give birth to the Messiah, but also that she indeed had a Saviour for her own sins.

The Scriptures are silent concerning Mary during Christ's childhood, except that she still did not quite understand His mission. When Joseph and Mary lost sight of the twelve-year-old Jesus at the Passover service, they finally found Him after a diligent search. Upon finding Him, Mary
said, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." Jesus answered, "How is it that ye have sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:48-49. Luke informs us that neither Joseph nor Mary understood those profound words of Jesus. However, Mary kept His words in her heart. See Luke 2:50-51.

While Mary was indeed a very spiritual Jewish woman, she did not fully understand the ministry of Jesus. One example of this was the wedding in Cana. See John 2:1-11. At this wedding the wine had run out. Then Mary requested that Jesus do something about it, saying, "They have no wine." Jesus answered her, "Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come."

Mary had made the request that Jesus perform a miracle. However, Jesus did not immediately perform the miracle of turning the water into wine. He first implied to Mary that she was not to interfere with His ministry.

The Spirit of Prophecy comments on it, saying, "This answer, abrupt as it seems to us, expressed no coldness or discourtesy. The Saviour's form of address to His mother was in accordance with Oriental custom. It was used toward persons to whom it was desired to show respect. Every act of Christ's earthly life was in harmony with the precept He Himself had given, 'Honour thy father and thy mother.' Exodus 20:12. On the cross, in His last act of tenderness toward His mother, Jesus again addressed her in the same way, as He committed her to the care of His beloved disciple. Both at the marriage feast and upon the cross, the love expressed in tone and look and manner interpreted His words."

"At His visit to the temple in His boyhood, as the mystery of His lifework opened before Him, Christ had said to Mary, 'Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?' These words struck the keynote of His whole life and ministry. Everything was held in abeyance to His work, the great work of redemption which He had come into the world to accomplish. Now He repeated the lesson. There was danger that Mary would regard her relationship to Jesus as giving her a special claim upon Him, and the right, in some degree, to direct Him in His mission. For thirty years He had been to her a loving and obedient son, and His love was unchangeable; but He must now go about His Father's work. As Son of the Most High, and Saviour of the world, no earthly ties must hold Him from His mission, or influence His conduct. He must stand free to do the will of God. This lesson is also for us. The claims of God are paramount even to the ties of human relationship. No earthly attraction should turn our feet from the path in which He bids us walk."

The Desire of Ages, 146-147.

There was danger that Mary would regard her relationship to Jesus as giving her a special claim upon Him, and the right, in some degree, to direct Him in His mission.

When Mary and Jesus' brothers tried to interrupt His preaching so that they could speak with Him, someone said to Jesus, "Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee." But Jesus answered, saying, "Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? . . . For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Matthew 12:46-50. In the eyes of Heaven, Christ's mother, brother, and sister have no special consideration because of any physical relationship, but only because they do the will of God.

When a certain woman said to Jesus, "Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked," Jesus answered, saying, "Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." Luke 11:27-28. In the eyes of Jesus, those who hear the Word of God and obey it, are the most blessed.

After the death of Jesus, information concerning Mary is very scarce. There are no accounts of Mary being present at the numerous appearances of Jesus before His ascension into heaven. The implication is that Mary did not figure prominently in the early church mission. After Acts 1:14, we completely lose sight of Mary in the Scriptures.

Nearly all traditional sources agree that Mary was buried in a new grave in Cedron, in a garden called Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. In other words, Mary was not translated into heaven, but was buried. The Bible says, "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." 1 Corinthians 15:23. Those who obey God's Word will be raised to life at His Second Coming.

Festivals celebrating the false doctrine of the Assumption of Mary—that Mary was taken body and soul to heaven without seeing death—did not begin until the sixth century. It was not until November 1, 1950, that Pope Pius XII defined it as a dogma.

However, the Catholic world, without any Scriptural support or any example in the early church, celebrates the Assumption of Mary into heaven every year on August 15.

Unfortunately, this adoration of Mary as the Mother of God has even developed into referring to Mary as the Mother of the human race. In other words, she is called the second Eve. To find some Biblical basis for such a teaching, some turn to John 19:26-27. In this passage, Jesus is hanging on the cross. He sees His mother and one of His disciples, namely, John. He said to Mary, "Woman, behold thy son!" Then He said to John, "Behold thy mother!" Thus Jesus chose to leave the care of His mother in the hands of John, and from that time on Mary lived in his home.

Catholic theologian L. Ott commented on this passage which some say concerns Mary being the mother of all believers, "Specific scriptural proof does not exist. Theologians look for Biblical support for Christ's words in John 19:26: 'Woman, behold thy son!' but according to its literal meaning, these words only refer to those to whom they were directed: Mary and John." Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma, Cork, 1966, p. 214.

The concept that Mary is the universal mother of all believers did not appear until the 11th century. Yet this completely unscriptural teaching is finding acceptance throughout the world.

Worship of Mary

What is most alarming about the Marian movement is the adoration, the
There is a spiritual Father, but there is no spiritual mother in the Scriptures. So what did Mary pass on? She passed on the only thing she could pass on—namely, fallen human nature—not divinity.

provokes me to anger.” Jeremiah 7:18. We are to worship God alone. There is a spiritual Father, but there is no spiritual mother in the Scriptures.

So what did Mary pass on? She passed on the only thing she could pass on—namely, fallen human nature—not divinity. Yet, at the Vatican II Council they recorded that: “The Virgin Mary . . . is recognized and honored as the true Mother of God and the Redeemer.” Cesar Vidal, The Myth of Mary, 92.

In the 19th chapter of Acts there is a description of Paul’s visit to Ephesus. As a result of Paul’s evangelistic work, many ceased their worship of idols and accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. However, there was a tremendous complaint against Paul’s work. A silversmith named Demetrius said, “Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands; so that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshipeth.” Acts 19:25-27. Truth leads people away from the worship of idols and images. It matters not who the image is patterned after, for only the true and living God is worthy of our worship.

What is often included in the worship of, and the praying to Mary, is the use of the rosary. October 7 is the day dedicated by the Catholic Church to honor the rosary. The rosary consists of a series of fixed beads on a string that helps the individual to keep in mind a sequence of Hail Marys, interspersed with the Lord’s Prayer, and the Gloria.

This practice within the Catholic Church did not begin to appear until the Middle Ages. However, the rosary was used centuries before in eastern religions, priest J.M. Carda has noted, “The Holy Scriptures do not mention the historical origin of Mary nor do they expressly allude to any privilege to her conception.” J.M. Carda Pitarch, Oc, 55.

Although we, of course, do not believe in the Catholic doctrine of original sin, it is interesting to note that the thirteenth century Catholic scholar Thomas Aquinas wrote, “Certainly (Mary) was conceived with original sin, as is natural. . . . If she would not have been born with original sin, she would not have needed to be redeemed by Christ, and, this being so, Christ would not be the universal Redeemer of men, which would abolish the dignity of Christ.” Chapter CCXXXII bis. Thomas Aquinas, Compendio de Teologia, Barcelona, 1985.

Augustine himself had commented that if Mary had been free from the power of sin, it was not because of her birth, but because of her rebirth by God’s grace. Yet, in A.D. 1439, a council meeting in Basel, Switzerland, established the immaculate conception of Mary as a dogma.

At the Council of Trent, in 1546, the new dogma was affirmed with these words, “We do not wish to enclose in the decree in which original sin is dealt with, the blessed and immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God.” Cesar Vidal, The Myth of Mary, 138.

Then on December 8, 1854, the dogma of the immaculate conception was formulated in the following way: “The doctrine that sustains that the most blessed virgin Mary was preserved immune from any stain of original sin in the first moment of her conception, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, in foresight of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, this doctrine revealed by God should be, therefore, firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful.” Ibid., 145.

Finally, at the Vatican II Council it was declared that Mary was “preserved immune from every stain of original sin.” Ibid., 149.

The Bible, speaking of the Jews and Gentiles, says they “are all under sin. As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.” Romans 3:9-10. Jesus is the only exception. He was “without sin.” See Hebrews 4:15. The teaching that Mary committed no sin is as foreign to the New Testament church and the Scriptures as is the teaching that Mary plays any part in the salvation of men.

Yet, some teach that there are two pathways to heaven. In his book, The Glories of Mary, Alfonso Liguori wrote,
"If my redeemer should reject me, I will throw myself at Mary's feet." Ibid., 143.

Such statements are not only a misrepresentation of God's mercy but also of His justice. For example, in the book, *Miracles of Our Lady*, 13th century Spanish monk Gonzalo de Berceo wrote about a greedy man who loved the land more than he loved the Creator. However, it was said that he had one virtue, namely, "He loved, though he was evil—very much Holy Mary. He would hear of her miracles—and all did he believe." According to Berceo, this man's belief in Mary had merit. When the man died, the demons wanted to capture his soul, but because he had called upon Mary the angels took him to heaven.

This story teaches that one might be an unrepentant sinner and still receive eternal life because of his devotion to Mary. Such a teaching is dangerous. It is bad enough that one is encouraged to call upon the name of Mary and consequently bypass Jesus as the "way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), but it is sacrilegious to teach that covetousness, fornication, and the many other practices condemned by Scripture are not obstacles to heaven. Paul said, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

The only name whereby man may be saved is Jesus Christ, "neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:11-12. We do have an Advocate in heaven to plead our sinful case. John said, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:1-2.

Tragically, to the misleading of millions, some teach that Mary is our advocate. Pope Pius X, in his *Encyclical Ad Diem Illum*, wrote that Mary is "the principal party in the distribution of graces." Ibid., 144.

Pope Benedict XV affirmed that "Mary... is the mediator with God of all the graces... Not without divine design, she was present, suffered and all-might die with her Son who was suffering and dying, she abdicated her maternal rights over the Son for the salvation of men and, as far as she could, imitated Him to satisfy the justice of God; therefore, it can be said with good reason that she redeemed, with Christ, the human race." Ibid., 144, 146.

Pope Leo XIII wrote that when Mary "offered herself to God as a servant for the office of Mother, and when she made a complete surrender of herself with the Son in the temple, she became associated already with Him in the painful expiation on behalf of the human race." Ibid., 146.

At Vatican II it was said that "Mary, the Mother of God... is united with in-dissoluble bonds to the saving work of her Son," and that Mary "suffered intensely with her only begotten Son and, giving her loving consent to the immolation of the victim to whom she had given birth, she connected with a mother's heart to His sacrifice... Because after her assumption into heaven she has not set aside this saving function, but continues to obtain for us, with her multiple intercession, the gifts relative to eternal salvation. With her maternal love, she cares for the brothers of her Son that still journey and move among dangers and distresses until they reach the happy homeland." Because of this, Mary is "called on in the Church with the titles of Advocate, Assistant, Helper, Mediator." Ibid., 150.

The Bible is clear that Enoch and Elijah were translated to heaven and that Moses received a special resurrection. But nowhere do the Scriptures support the idea that Mary was taken to heaven. She is resting in the grave awaiting the Resurrection.

Of course, such an erroneous slant on the role of Mary has increased the worship and devotion to Mary. According to Vatican II, the church "asks all the sons of the Church to enthusiastically promote the worship of the blessed Virgin, especially in liturgical worship; that they should hold the practice in great esteem and exercise devotion to her, recommended by teaching throughout the centuries, and that they fulfill religiously what was established in times past regarding the worship of images." Ibid., 151.

In the most recent *Catholic Encyclopaedia* of 1992, under the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, it is promoted that Mary was united to the Son "in the work of salvation... from the moment of the virginal conception of Christ until his death." Then when she was taken to heaven she was "elevated to the throne by the Lord as Queen of the Universe." Consequently, the worship of Mary "is an intrinsic element of Christian worship" and that "the most holy Virgin is honored with reason by the Church with a special worship." Ibid., 152.

There is no Biblical basis for this adoration of Mary, even if she had been raised in a special resurrection. The Bible is clear that Enoch and Elijah were translated to heaven and that Moses received a special resurrection. But nowhere do the Scriptures support the idea that Mary was taken to heaven. She is resting in the grave awaiting the Resurrection like all the other saints who died believing in His saving grace.

As far as answering the question, "Can Mary unify the world with the Catholic Church?" The answer is, "No. She is not even alive to do so." However, demons impersonating Mary can speak to the living, and their intent is to unify the whole world with the Catholic Church.

Already millions around the world are flocking to see the apparitions of Mary. Her devotees number at least into the tens of millions, making the Marian movement the fastest growing element within Christianity.

How tragic that her devotees know so little about the Mary of Scripture, the resurrection of the dead, and the Word of God!

What can we do? We must spread the three angels' messages far and wide before it is too late. Let us choose to be used of God every day to reach out to these precious souls.
A Strike Against the Authority of God

T HIS article deals with a very dangerous trend in the theology of our church regarding the issue of salvation. Some examples will be given from our publications as evidence of that trend. There is no malicious intent toward any of the authors cited, as this evidence is given from their own writings. However, we are watchmen on the walls of Zion. We are responsible for giving the warning that could keep souls from being deceived and lost.

Recently, a very dear relative phoned us, and as our conversation progressed, she asked me, “What is going on in the church?” She was aware that major changes on the salvation issue had come into our church in the last few decades. Naturally, we came around to the matter of obedience in relation to salvation. She had read a magazine and heard sermons on this subject. She asked, “What difference does it make whether obedience to the law is only a result of what Christ has done for us as our Sacrifice, or whether it is a condition of our salvation?”

On the surface this question seems so reasonable because nothing could be more true than that obedience is the result of what Christ’s sacrifice has done for us. Many think that it has to be one way or the other, not realizing that obedience is both the result and the condition of our salvation. The position that obedience is only the result of what Christ has done for us is probably accepted by the great majority of our people.

In the everlasting gospel of the third angel’s message, as we shall see, obedience is both the result and the condition of our salvation. Of course, the obligation to obey the law of God makes it a condition of our salvation. There is no error that Christ rebuked so severely as the error that it was not necessary to overcome sin in one’s life. It was this belief that was referred to when Christ commended the church of Ephesus for hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans which He also hated. See Revelation 2:6. He said of the church of Pergamos, you have them that “hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.” Revelation 2:15. Adventist scholars comment in The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 745, that the Nicolaitans apparently “taught that deeds of the flesh do not affect the purity of the soul, and consequently have no bearing on salvation.”

Since Jesus hated that doctrine in the early church, what must He think of us in the remnant church? We are on the brink of the final crisis when obedience to the law of God will be the test for all humanity. Much of our witness through our publications and the spoken word on this subject of obedience is sending out a false signal to our people and growing worse by the year. We are without excuse, for both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are crystal clear on the conditions of salvation.

This division of doctrine could be healed if all would only believe Jesus’ answer to the young ruler’s question when he said, “If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” Matthew 19:17. If all would only believe what Jesus told Nicodemus, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3), the division would disappear. There is only one depth of love that God accepts, and that is the love that keeps His commandments. That comes to us only when we are born of the Spirit. Actually, love is the bottom line on the condition of salvation, and obedience to the law is the expression of that love. The law is “an embodiment of the great principle of love.” Steps to Christ, 60.

If we had no other, that one statement alone which Jesus made to Nicodemus would be sufficient to place sanctification through the Spirit as an essential aspect of the gospel. “God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.” 2 Thessalonians 2:13. “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” Acts 20:32. “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus,
and by the Spirit of our God,” I Corinthians 6:11. These texts make it clear that sanctification is essential to our salvation, and, as such, it is an integral part of the everlasting gospel of the third angel’s message.

We will take a small sampling from some of our recent publications regarding the new gospel in Adventism that says obedience to God’s law is only a response to what Christ has done for us, and thus it is not a condition of our salvation. There is a very, very wide chasm between the two positions as we will see. The following examples all involve the same error, and all are answered by Jesus Himself in two verses which are used repeatedly in this article:

“If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Example #1

A very interesting book has been released recently entitled Even At The Door, published by Review and Herald Graphics, 1994. Having excellent documentation on a subject in which we all have a deep interest, it could be a blessing to all, except for a few words on the author’s concept of salvation.

Speaking of the Day of Atonement in the earthly type, he says, “The saints were clean because of the blood shed for them, not because of the work of sanctification done in their lives. Because of what God had done for them, they stood perfect.” Even At The Door, 180.

It is true that the saints stood perfect because of what God had done for them; but that is only a half truth. Christ pardons our sins—justifies us—only when we are willing to be cleansed of our participation in sin—sanctification. The only sanctification that we can have is through being born and led by the Spirit. Paul says, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Romans 8:14. Christ would not have stood in their place for their perfection unless true sanctification was in progress in their lives.

The author further states: “To pass the test of the judgment they were not asked to present fruit that they had raised with God’s cooperation, nor were they supposed to wave palm branches of personal victory through the Spirit’s power in their lives. The only thing that counted was the blood! Judgment was based exclusively on their willingness to lay aside everything else and trust in the atonement for them.” Ibid., 181.

As we can see, the author is saying that the sanctification of the Spirit does not count, because all that counts is the blood. This excludes sanctification by the Spirit as a part of the gospel. If we salvation comes by resting in the perfect finished work of Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross. . . If we consider Sabbathkeeping a requirement for salvation, we have turned the commandment on its head. We are not entering into God’s rest at all. Rather, we are depending on ourselves and our works.” We Still Believe, 63-64. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

The author states that when we have the law written in our hearts, “Obedience will become a pleasure, the automatic response of our hearts to a God of love.” Ibid., 80.

As you probably noticed, the author’s position seems to be that man’s salvation was all completed on the cross. Thus he concludes that obedience to the commandments is not a requirement of salvation, but merely an automatic response to it.

This is consistent with the idea that salvation precedes obedience and is not even dependent upon it. Thus it is erroneously believed that we can be in a saved condition even without fully confessing and forsaking our known sins. The author states that very error on page 45 of the same book: “We don’t have to worry whether our name has come up yet in the heavenly courtroom. We don’t have to be anxious about the judgment closing before we have had a chance to confess all our sins.”

Example #3

We now come to the book entitled Beyond Belief by Jack Sequeira. The following statement causes many to wonder how such a statement would ever be published by an Adventist press: “All three of these aspects of our salvation—justification, sanctification, and glorification—have already been accomplished in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Beyond Belief, 30.

It is true that the saints stood perfect because of what God had done for them; but that is only a half truth. Christ pardons our sins—justifies us—only when we are willing to be cleansed of our participation in sin—sanctification.
All parties agree that Christ is our perfect Substitute, but these authors are denying the truth that sanctification—our fitness for heaven—is also a requirement or condition of salvation.

imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven.” Thus we see that God has two criteria for our salvation—justification, our title, and sanctification, our fitness.

The author of “No Condemnation” says further, “We must not confuse the means of salvation (Christ as our Substitute) with the results (Christ in us).” Notice the writer says that Christ in us is the result of salvation. However, if Christ is in us through the Holy Spirit, and we just read the words of our Creator in John 3:5 that we could not go to heaven without Christ in us, then it has to be a means of our salvation. All of God’s intelligent beings in the universe are indwelt by the Spirit.

mandments,” which is a condition of salvation. He could also tell Nicodemus, “You must be born again to enter the kingdom,” which makes obedience possible, and thus is also a condition of salvation.

Evidently, Sister White knew that what has been discussed in this article would come into our church, for she used some of the strongest language I have ever read in her writings about the binding claims of God’s law in The Great Controversy. Before we look at her statements, we should know what she means when she writes of the binding claims of God’s law:

“Christ does not lessen the claims of the law. In unmistakable language He presents obedience to it as the condition of eternal life—the same condition that was required of Adam before his Fall.” Christ’s Object Lessons, 391.

“The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been—just what it was in Paradise before the Fall of our first parents—perfect obedience to the law of God.” Steps to Christ, 62.

“The conditions of salvation are ever the same. Life, eternal life, is for all who will obey God’s law.” The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 931.

“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., 972.

Now we are ready for the statement from The Great Controversy in which she says, “No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God’s law is no longer binding upon men.” The Great Controversy, 584. God’s authority is expressed in His law. The Papacy took upon itself to think to change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Paul wrote about the man of sin “who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God; ... so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

Ellen White spoke of the little horn and said, “Paul styled the same power the ‘man of sin,’ who was to exalt himself above God. ... Only by changing God’s law could the Papacy exalt itself above God. ... Here the papal power openly sets itself above God.” The Great Controversy, 446.

God gave the seventh-day Sabbath as a memorial of His Creation. That was God’s intent. The Papacy attempted to change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. That was a great error against the authority of Heaven—God’s law. God gave His law of love to the universe. His intent was for it to be obeyed. All of these teachings: that obedience contributes nothing to our salvation; that we can be saved with unconfessed disobedience; and that sanctification producing our obedience is not our fitness for heaven, are subtle ways of saying that God’s law is not binding upon us.

This present error, that obedience is not a condition of salvation, is as great a strike against the authority of God—His
law—as was the Papacy’s in “changing” the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

This doctrine exalts itself above God’s Word. Furthermore, we read in the same paragraph in *The Great Controversy*, 584, “No error . . . is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason than . . . that God’s law is no longer binding upon men.” Of course, there is no reason whatsoever in God’s having a law of love to govern the universe, and then not requiring obedience to that law. In other words, reason dictates that God’s law is binding upon all men.

The 1888 Message confirmed the binding claims of God’s law by presenting Christ’s imparted righteousness to enable the keeping of the law. See the book *Christ and His Righteousness* by E. J. Waggoner, 55–67. In *Testimonies to Ministers*, 468, Ellen White referred to this imparted righteousness of the Son of God as “the active principle of love imparted by the Holy Spirit.” It is simply the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. Ellen White describes this message in one paragraph in *Testimonies to Ministers*, 92. She said, “It is the third angel’s message.” God commanded that it be given to the world and said that it would be attended by the outpouring of God’s love in the latter rain.

We have only seen the tip of the iceberg in this little sampling of the trend in our church to reject the binding claims of God’s law. Even though some of these examples may not claim an entirely finished work at the cross for salvation, the very nature of their position supports it. By rejecting the binding claims of God’s law, they have chosen the Nicolaitan doctrine which says that they are not under any obligation to keep God’s law, and that obedience is only a result of Christ’s sacrifice for them.

Many believe that this present opposition to required sanctified obedience could be the Omega of Apostasy because it rejects God’s law as binding, and it teaches that the gospel is completed outside of man.

With the inspired data above on the binding claims of God’s law, we now understand why Christ said that He hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans. It makes no difference how much a speaker, author, or anyone else embellishes his or her belief in obedience to God’s law if they claim it is only a result of salvation, and downplay or deny its necessity for our salvation.

This position leads people to transgress God’s law just the same as if they were in rebellion against it. See *The Great Controversy*, 586.

This shaking will no doubt awaken many, and through study and prayer they will settle “into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved.” Then God’s people will be sealed, and will all be speaking the same thing. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1161; see also *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 251. May the Lord hasten that day is our prayer. □

---

**Three Strikes Against False Theology**

**Adventism’s New View**

by Jeff Pippenger

This book highlights the original message of 1888 and shows how it is still being resisted and disguised in the most deceptive form to date. Understand the theological positions of Jack Sequeira and the 1888 Message Study Committee. PB, 5½ x 8½ inch size, 84 pages. EB12301.

Only $5.00

**Those Who Do Not Remember the Past**

by Kevin Paulson

This book is must reading for those who have been exposed to the messages of Jack Sequeira. Other contributors to this volume are G. Irving Logan, Ralph Larson, Colin Standish, and Ron Spear. Discrepancies between Sequeira’s messages and Inspiration become quite obvious. PB, 5½ x 8½ inch size, 160 pages. EB05602.

Only $6.00

**Beyond Belief Reviewed**

by Kevin Paulson

Revised and Enlarged Edition

The author takes a deeper look at the gospel portrayed in Jack Sequeira’s book, *Beyond Belief*. Cross referenced with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, this reference work is a tool for the serious seeker for truth. PB, 5½ x 8½ inch size, 108 pages. EB05601.

Only $6.00

See Page 3 for shipping and sales tax information.
MAD Cow Disease, known scientifically as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle, is an incurable spongy degeneration of the brain and central nervous system. A similar complex disease in humans, known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), acts like an accelerated form of Alzheimer's, and is characterized by an irreversible degeneration of brain tissue—holes formed in the brain, disabling and finally killing the victim. The fear of this unusually cruel and fatal neurological disease has sent shock waves throughout Europe and around the globe, creating one of the biggest consumer panics ever experienced in the industrialized world.

Q. How do cattle and humans contract this disease?

A. For decades British and North American farmers have been feeding their beef and dairy cattle, which are of course herbivores, cheap protein supplements made from things which include sheep brains, spinal cords, and other animal parts. Sheep, as any farmer will testify, have for centuries carried scrapie—a fatal, degenerative brain disease, which is remarkably similar to Mad Cow Disease and CJD. It is feared that this disease can be transmitted to humans who eat meat from infected cattle.

Since 1989 Britain has banned sheep offal (the ground remains of the dead animal) from cattle feed. Indeed, all mammal tissue has been banned from all agricultural feed in that country, and, furthermore, the World Health Organization is now endorsing a ban for all countries. However, in the United States this practice continues up to the present time as a routine process, designed to boost milk and meat production. Indeed, offal from sheep, cattle and other animals, as well as animal feces, is routinely fed to American food animals (cattle, pigs, poultry and fish) in the form of rendered pellets, powder or meal. In addition, massive quantities of blood meal, bone meal and other animal byproducts find their way into food animal's feed. It is grossly unnatural and dangerous to feed blood and other animal parts to cattle, which are natural vegetarians. Animal diseases may very well be passed on in the process.

Various diseases may also be transmitted to human beings who eat infected animals. Indeed, from feed, to cow, to the human brain, appears to be the progression of Mad Cow Disease, which has leaped across the species barrier to become a variant of CJD.

Cattle with the disease show symptoms of staggering, drooling, aggression, and confused behavior, appearing to have gone "mad." Afflicted humans show symptoms similar to Alzheimer's disease—dementia, confusion, convulsions, loss of speech, sight, and hearing, and ending with a coma and death. This disease, one of the most mysterious known to human beings, is always fatal and there is no treatment for it. The incubation period seems to be four to thirty years.

The causative agent appears to be a deformed molecule called a "prion," (pro-
nounced PREE-on), a mysterious and abnormal infectious protein. This strangeacting, never-before-seen infectious agent, which is neither a bacteria nor a virus, is distinct from anything encountered before—an infectious agent that defies the accepted rules of nature. Smaller than the tiniest virus, they do not contain nucleic acid which makes up the RNA and DNA that carry the genetic codes of normal viruses, bacteria, plants, cows, humans and virtually all other living things. Yet they are able to replicate and spread, but do not activate an immune response. Unfortunately, they are highly resistant to heat, UV light, radiation and most common chemical disinfectants.

Q. Surely the proper authorities in this country are taking actions to prevent this disease from gaining a foothold here. Is not this the case?

A. Tragically, this is not so. The very practice that apparently caused and fostered Mad Cow Disease in England—feeding cattle processed remains of other animals—is commonplace in America. The image of contented cows grazing on sweet grass and hay should forever be dispelled. No “Green Acres” here! Ground up carcasses of sheep, cows and other animals, including their tonsils, intestines, spinal cords, brains, spleens, and so on, are a regular part of the daily bill of fare of food animals, which are mass produced by intensive, risky, production-driven, farming methods. The poor animals are crowded and confined by the thousands on factory-style farms. These, and other horrors of modern animal food production, give rise to various chronic, insidious, and complex groups of diseases.

Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) considered a ban on feeding cows to cows. However, according to an internal USDA document, the agency dismissed the ban because “the cost to the livestock and rendering industries would be substantial.” Clearly, this governmental agency has placed the financial interests of the influential, multibillion-dollar livestock industry ahead of public health.

However, a ban on this procedure may not be the answer to the problem. Even in Great Britain, where a mandatory ban has been in effect since 1989, some farmers have illicitly been feeding their cattle rendered animal parts. This disturbing reality has always been the case. Any ban is totally dependent on individual and industrial compliance.

Q. Many are simply shifting from beef to other meats such as pork, poultry, lamb, and so forth. Is not this the safe, sane thing to do?

A. No. Like cows, all of these animals are regularly fed rendered animal byproducts, as well as vast quantities of antibiotics, hormones, anabolic steroids (the same as used by athletes and body builders), and various other legal and illegal medications. Some medical scientists are warning that a full-blown epidemic of Mad Cow Disease, E coli infections, or some other type of meat-borne disease, is “waiting in the wings” in this country. It is just a matter of time!

Indeed, the ill effects of a meat-centered diet are already epidemic. Even if these animals are healthy, eating them is not. Study after study clearly demonstrates that beef, pork, poultry and lamb, even when untainted by disease, contain massive amounts of saturated fats and cholesterol, thus helping to clog arteries, hospitals and cemeteries worldwide. Mounting evidence likewise links meat consumption with stroke, cancer, diabetes, gout, osteoporosis and a host of other infectious and inflammatory diseases.

Speaking of poultry, Alex Hershart, Ph.D., writing in Vegetarian Voice, Vol. 21, No. 4. (1996), warns: “Chickens are fed more infected animal protein than cows—and are likely carriers of the disease (BSE)—they just don’t live long enough to exhibit symptoms. We must consume products that are not a ‘health food,’ but a reliable source of saturated fat, cholesterol, salmonella—and perhaps ‘Mad Chicken Disease.’ ”

A further warning comes from Neal Barnard, M.D., writing in Good Medicine, (Spring 1996): “Research has shown beyond any reasonable doubt that meat is to your digestive tract and arteries what tobacco is to your lungs. Meat contributes to colon cancer, heart attacks and other risks that run neck in

neck with the toll brought on by tobacco.”

Q. The symptoms of CJD closely resemble those of Alzheimer’s Disease. Could there be a connection?

A. CJD usually strikes the middle-aged and elderly (like Alzheimer’s); however, recent victims in England averaged 26 years of age, including some in their teens. The brain tissue of these young people looked like Alzheimer’s. Is there a connection between the two maladies? Four million Americans suffer from Alzheimer’s. Could this horrible affliction be caused by a variant of the CJD agent? Some medical authorities raise the distinct possibility that CJD can be easily misdiagnosed as Alzheimer’s. Clearly, there are more questions than answers.

Q. Surely some type of “early warning system” should have been in place. Right?

A. Absolutely! Almost 100 years ago, our own Ellen G. White wrote: “Disease in cattle is making meat eating a dangerous matter. The Lord’s curse is upon the earth, upon man, upon beasts, upon the fish in the sea; and as transgression becomes almost universal, the curse will be permitted to become as broad and as deep as the transgression. Disease is contracted by the use of meat. The diseased flesh of these dead carcasses is sold in the market places, and disease among men is the sure result.

The Lord’s curse is upon the earth, upon man, upon beasts, upon the fish in the sea; and as transgression becomes almost universal, the curse will be permitted to become as broad and as deep as the transgression.

“There is no safety in the eating of the flesh of dead animals, and in a short time the milk of cows will also be excluded from the diet of God’s commandment-keeping people. In a short time it will not be safe to use anything that comes from the animal creation. . . . “The disease upon animals is becoming more and more common, and our only safety now is leaving meat entirely alone. . . . Because of meat eating, many die, and they do not understand the cause. . . . In eating meat we would be eating planted disease, disease that has been planted in the very flesh of the animal.”

April 1997 Our Firm Foundation 21
partake of diseased dead flesh, and this sows its seeds of corruption in the human organism.” Counsels on Diet and Foods, 411–414.

“People are continually eating flesh that is filled with tuberculosis and cancerous germs. Tuberculosis, cancer, and other fatal diseases are thus communicated.” Ibid., 388.

“We do not mark out any precise line to be followed in diet; but we do say that in countries where there are fruits, grains, and nuts in abundance, flesh food is not the right food for God’s people. I have been instructed that flesh food has a tendency to animalize the nature, to rob men and women of that love and sympathy which they should feel for everyone, and to give the lower passions control over the higher powers of the being. If meat eating was ever healthful, it is not safe now. Cancers, tumors, and pulmonary diseases are largely caused by meat eating.

“We are not to make the use of flesh food a test of fellowship, but we should consider the influence that professed believers who use flesh foods have over others. As God’s messengers, shall we not say to the people: ‘Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God?’ 1 Corinthians 10:31.’ Testimonies, vol. 9, 159.

Sister White gives a wealth of counsel on this and many, many other subjects. Overall, our “early warning system” has become a daily guide and is as new as tomorrow’s newspaper, offering a look into the future. Thank you, Jesus!

Facts You Should Know About Mad Cow Disease (BSE):

■ A recent British study concluded that as little as one teaspoon of BSE-infected feed can transfer the infection to cattle. The infectious agent may be able to survive for ten years or more.2

■ All U.S. animal feeds contain beef and sheep slaughter byproducts—the most likely source of BSE, according to the National Renderers Association, in Alexandria, Virginia.

■ Scrapie, the brain disease, is present in the United States sheep population. According to the USDA, 7,500 American sheep have the disease.3

■ Cases of BSE have been reported in France, Switzerland, Canada, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Portugal, Oman and the Falkland Islands.

■ The dangers posed by BSE in the United States could surpass those cur-

The simple and safest answer is to stop eating animals.” With this we wholeheartedly agree—to continue to partake of this very questionable article of food is indeed madness!

3 Ibid.

Selected Health Publications

The Animal Connection

by Agatha and Calvin Thrash, MD

This book addresses the effects of animals and their diseases, as well as animal products such as meat, milk, eggs and cheese, upon the health of humans. Contains 248 references to scientific literature. 163 pages. $4.95 each.

The Country Life Vegetarian Cookbook

by Country Life Vegetarian Restaurants

In many cities around the world, Country Life Restaurants have one thing in common—remarkably delicious food that is healthful and nutritious. Now you can enjoy these same meals in your own home. Comb bound: 270 pages. $9.95 each.
Disease and Its Causes

Part 7

by Ellen G. White

The first important lesson for children to learn is the proper denial of appetite. It is the duty of mothers to attend to the wants of their children, by soothing and diverting their minds, instead of giving them food, and thus teaching them that eating is the remedy for life's ills.

If parents had lived healthfully, being satisfied with a simple diet, much expense would have been saved. The father would not have been obliged to labor beyond his strength, in order to supply the needs of his family. A simple, nourishing diet would not have had an influence unduly to excite the nervous system and the animal passions, producing moroseness and irritability. If he had partaken only of plain food, his head would have been clear, his nerves steady, his stomach in a healthy condition; and with a pure system, he would have had no loss of appetite, and the present generation would be in a much better condition than it now is. But even now, in this late period, something can be done to improve our condition. Temperance in all things is necessary. A temperate father will not complain if he has no great variety on his table. A healthful manner of living will improve the condition of the family in every sense, and will allow the wife and mother time to devote to her children. The great study with parents will be in what manner they can best train their children for usefulness in this world, and for heaven hereafter. They will be content to see their children with neat, plain, comfortable garments, free from embroidery and adornment; and will earnestly labor to see them in possession of the inward adorning, the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Before the Christian father leaves his home, to go to his labor, he will gather his family around him, and bowing before God, will commit them to the care of the Chief Shepherd. He will then go forth to his labor with the love and blessing of his wife, and the love of his children, to make his heart cheerful through his laboring hours. And that mother who is aroused to her duty realizes the obligations resting upon her to her children in the absence of the father. She will feel that she lives for her husband and children. By training her children right, teaching them habits of temperance and self-control, and teaching them their duty to God, she is qualifying them to become useful in the world, to elevate the standard of morals in society, and to reverence and obey the law of God. Patiently and perseveringly will the godly mother instruct her children, giving them line upon line, and precept upon precept, not in a harsh, compelling manner, but in love; and in tenderness will she win them. They will consider her lessons of love, and will happily listen to her words of instruction.

Instead of sending them from her presence, that she may not be troubled with their noise, nor be annoyed with the numerous attentions they would desire, she will feel that her time cannot be better employed than in soothing and diverting their restless, active minds with some amusement, or light, happy employment. The mother will be amply repaid for her efforts in taking time to invent amusement for her children.

Young children love society. They cannot, as a general thing, enjoy themselves alone; and the mother should feel that in most cases the place for her children, when they are in the house, is in the room she occupies. She can then have a general oversight of them, and be prepared to set little differences right, when appealed to by them, and correct wrong habits, or the manifestation of selfishness or passion, and can thus give their minds a turn in the right direction. That which children enjoy they think mother will be pleased with, and it is perfectly natural for them to consult her in little matters of perplexity. And the mother should not wound the heart of her sensitive child by treating the matter with indifference, or by refusing to be troubled with such small matters. That which may be small to the mother is large to her children. A word of direction, or caution, at the right time will often prove of great value. An approving glance, a word of encouragement or praise, from the mother, will often cast a sunbeam into their young hearts for a whole day.

The first education children should receive from the mother in infancy, should be in regard to their physical health. They should be allowed only plain food, of that quality that will preserve to them the best condition of health; and that should be partaken of only at regular periods, not oftener than three times a day, and two meals would be better than three. If children are disciplined aright, they will soon learn that they can receive nothing by crying or fretting. In training her children, a judicious mother will act not merely in regard to her own present comfort, but for their future good. And to this end, she will teach them the important lesson of controlling the appetite, and of self-denial, that they should eat, drink, and dress with reference to health.

A well-disciplined family, who love and obey God, will be cheerful and happy. The father when he returns from his daily labor, will not bring his perplexities to his home. He will feel that home, and the family circle, are too sacred to be marred with unhappy perplexities. When he left his home, he did not leave his Saviour and his religion behind. Both were his com-

Continued on 27
The early and latter rains have been important landmarks in the teachings of Adventism from its very beginning. The inspired writings of our prophet, Ellen White, have elaborated on the important subject of the Holy Spirit. As the early rains sprouted the seed, the latter rains produced the harvest. The long-looked-for Pentecost will come as the fruition of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Let us now read what Ellen White says concerning the qualifications we must have if we are to receive such a wonderful gift:

"The third angel’s message is swelling into a loud cry, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty, and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place. Today you are to give yourselves to God, that He may make of you vessels unto honor, and meet for His service. Today you are to give yourself to God, that you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil surmising, strife, everything that shall be dishonoring to God. Today you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit." Selected Messages, book 1, 190-191.

"The latter rain, ripening earth’s harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.

"There is to be ‘first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.’ There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour." Testimonies to Ministers, 506.

The promise of the latter rain is absolutely sure:

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaidens in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." Joel 2:28-31.

The apostle recognized that verse 28 was fulfilled first at Pentecost, but the second application of this important promise is soon to take place. It has long been delayed because the church has not comprehended or experienced the three angels’ messages of full surrender to all of God’s will. While praying for the latter rain ministry of the Holy Spirit, we have refused to surrender our lives and
work to His early rain ministry as found in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

These angels are only symbols for an obedient, truth-seeking people, who have experienced the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They have gained the victory over the lust of the flesh, their dispositions, and their tempers, and are able by the Spirit to respond to life’s situations as Jesus did. Ellen White had that experience herself:

“During the past fifty years of my life, I have had precious opportunities to obtain an experience. I have had an experience in the first, second, and third angels’ messages. The angels are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming to the world a message of warning, and having a direct bearing upon the people living in the last days of this earth’s history. No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of Heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order.” Selected Messages, book 2, 387. See Testimonies, vol. 6, 17-18.

“The opposition of the enemies of truth will be restrained that the third angel’s message may do its work....

“The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel’s message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of worldwide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. ....

“The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the ‘former rain’ was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upsprinkling of the precious seed, so the ‘latter rain’ will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest. ‘Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.’ Hosea 6:3. ‘Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.’ Joel 2:23. ‘In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh. .... And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ Acts 2:17, 21.” The Great Controversy, 611.

The purpose of the latter rain is to swell the third angel’s message into the loud cry as the fourth angel of Revelation 18 joins the third angel’s message. The experience of this message is to bring the power, which has been lacking for more than 100 years, into the patiently waiting saints. See Acts 1:8. They now witness to the church, and to the world, that God has enough power to keep those from sinning who are willing to keep the Ten Commandments, expanded in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy—without compromise. They become fearless. They are now able to demonstrate to the world the love of God. They humbly love the truth, and speak it with convincing power while persecution rages against the truth:

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12.

At this time the Sabbath will be proclaimed more fully—both to the world and to God’s people. This enforces Satan and his followers. Tragically, today many Seventh-day Adventists understand the true sacredness of the Sabbath, but they fail to keep it according to Isaiah 58:13-14: “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.” No doubt we could all benefit by reviewing the counsel regarding Sabbath observance found in Testimonies, vol. 6, 349-368.

The preaching of true Sabbath-keeping will grow into the loud cry just prior to the close of our probation:

“...The commencement of that time of trouble, here mentioned, 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.

While praying for the latter rain ministry of the Holy Spirit, we have refused to surrender our lives and work to His early rain ministry as found in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.
will be shaken, that those things that cannot be shaken may remain." Testimo-
ries, vol. 9, 15-16.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city
that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5:14.

Seventh-day Adventist leaders, pas-
tors, and laity have been set as watch-
men—lightbearers to the world. Tragi-
cally, many are keeping the Sabbath in
the same manner that the Sundaykeepers
carelessly "keep" Sunday. Unfortunately,
our worldliness has robbed us of an
understanding of the eternal purpose of
the solemn truths with which God has
entrusted us. Again, God speaks to us
now in these final hours of our proba-
tion:

"In a special sense Seventh-day
Adventists have been set in the world as
watchmen and lightbearers. To them has
been entrusted the last warning for a
perishing world. On them is shining won-
derful light from the Word of God. They
have been given a work of the most
solemness important—the proclamation of
the first, second, and third angels' messages.
There is no other work so of great
importance. They are to allow nothing else
to absorb their attention.

"The most solemn truths ever
entrusted to mortals have been given us to
proclaim to the world. The proclamation
of these truths is to be our work. The
all is well. However, we are told that each
year 46% of our new converts leave the
church. Most of them will never return.
Of the approximately nine million Se-
venth-day Adventists members worldwide,
not many are participating in soul win-
ing. In some parts of the world many
of our churches are only half full on Sab-
bath morning. Inspiration tells us that
there is a retreating to Egypt—to the
world:

"I am filled with sadness when I think
of our condition as a people. The Lord
has not closed heaven to us, but our
own course of continual backsliding has
separated us from God. Pride, covetous-
ness, and love of the world have lived in
the heart without fear of banishment or
condemnation. Grievous and presumptu-
ous sins have dwelt among us. And yet
the general opinion is that the church is
flourishing and that peace and spiritual
prosperity are in all her borders.

"The church has turned back from
following Christ her Leader and is
steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet
few are alarmed or astonished at their
want of spiritual power. Doubt, and
even disbelief of the Testimonies of
the Spirit of God, is leavening our
churches everywhere. Satan would have
it thus. Ministers who preach self in-
stead of Christ would have it thus. The
Testimonies are unread and unappreci-
ated. God has spoken to you. Light has
been shining from His Word and from
the Testimonies, and both have been
slighted and disregarded. The result is
apparent in the lack of purity and de-
votion and earnest faith among us." Testi-
monies, vol. 5, 217.

The seal of the living God is soon to
be given in the latter rain experience.
Tragically, only a few will receive the
power that Heaven has been waiting to
pour out upon Christ's beloved church:
"For many are called, but few are cho-
"Soon God's people will be tested by
fiery trials, and the great proportion of
those who now appear to be genuine
and true will prove to be base metal.
Instead of being strengthened and con-
ferred by opposition, threats, and abuse,
they will cowardly take the side of the

Why? Because the words of Inspiration
are "unread and unappreciated." Only a few are alarmed. "Ministers . . .
preach self instead of Christ." Satan ex-
ults over his victory in delaying the prom-
ised blessing of the latter rain.

Let us never forget that God has
spoken to all of us through Inspiration.
Our disregard for this wonderful gift is to
reject the Testimonies. Again God speaks
to us in 1997:

"It is a solemn and terrible truth
that many who have been zealous in
proclaiming the third angel's message
are now becoming listless and indifferent!
The line of demarcation between
worldlings and many professed Chris-
tians is almost indistinguishable. Many
who once were earnest Adventists are
conforming to the world—to its prac-
tices, its customs, its selfishness.
Instead of leading the world to render
obedience to God's law, the church is
uniting more and more closely with the
world in transgression. Daily the
church is becoming converted to the
world. How many professing Christians
are slaves of mammon! Their indul-
gence of appetite, their extravagant ex-
penditure of money for selfish gratifi-
cation, greatly dishonors God.

"And through lack of zeal for the
propagation of the third angel's mes-
sage, many others, while not apparently
living in transgression, are nevertheless
as verily lending their influence on the
side of Satan as are those who openly
sin against God. Multitudes are perish-
ing; but how few are burdened for these
souls! There is a stupor, a paralysis,
upon many of the people of God, which
prevents them from understanding the
duty of the hour.

"When the Israelites entered Canaan,
they did not fulfill God's purpose by
taking possession of the whole land.
After making a partial conquest, they
settled down to enjoy the fruit of their
victories. In their unbelief and love of
case they congregated in the portions
already conquered, instead of pushing
forward to occupy new territory. Thus
they began to depart from God. By their
failure to carry out His purpose they

D

Doubt, and even disbelief of the Testimonies of
the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches
everywhere. Satan would have it thus.

Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have
it thus. The Testimonies are unread and unappreciated.
God is more willing to bless us with the Holy Spirit than we are to bless our children. Shall we respond to His loving invitation?

before them in need of the gospel, professed Christians congregate where they themselves can enjoy gospel privileges. They do not feel the necessity of occupying new territory, carrying the message of salvation into regions beyond. They refuse to fulfill Christ's commission: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' Mark 16:15. Are they less guilty than was the Jewish church?" Testimonies, vol. 8, 118-119.

Disease and Its Causes
Continued from 23

Parents. The sweet influence of his home, the blessing of his wife, and the love of his children, make his burdens light; and he returns with peace in his heart, and cheerful, encouraging words for his wife and children, who are waiting joyfully to welcome his coming. As he bows with his family at the altar of prayer to offer up His grateful thanks to God for His preserving care of himself and loved ones through the day, angels of God hover in the room, and bear the fervent prayers of God-fearing parents to heaven, as sweet incense, which are answered by returning blessings.

Parents should impress upon their children that it is sin to consult the taste, to the injury of the stomach. They should impress upon their minds that by violating the laws of their being they sin against their Maker. Children thus educated will not be difficult of restraint. They will not be subject to irritable, changeable tempers, and will be in a far better condition for enjoying life. Such children will the more readily and clearly understand their moral obligations. Children who have been taught to yield their will and wishes to their parents will the more easily and readily yield their wills to God, and will submit to be controlled by the Spirit of Christ.

Why so many who claim to be Christians have numerous trials, which keep the church burdened, is because they have not been correctly trained in their childhood, and were left in a great measure to form their own character. Their wrong habits, and peculiar, unhappy dispositions were not corrected. They were not taught to yield their will to their parents. Their whole religious experience is affected by their training in childhood. They were not then controlled. They grew up undisciplined, and now, in their religious experience, it is difficult for them to yield to that pure discipline taught in the Word of God. Parents should realize the responsibility resting upon them to educate their children in reference to their religious experience.

Those who regard the marriage relation as one of God's sacred ordinances, guarded by His holy precept, will be controlled by the dictates of reason. They will consider carefully the result of every privilege the marriage relation grants. Such will feel that their children are precious jewels committed to their keeping by God, to remove from their natures the rough surface by discipline, that their luster may appear. They will feel under most solemn obligations so to form their characters that they may do good in their life, bless others with their light, and the world be better for their having lived in it, and they be finally fitted for the higher life, the better world, to shine in the presence of God and the Lamb forever.

Review and Herald, August 8, 1899.
YOU to whom are committed the sacred, testing truths for this time, are you faithful to your God-given trust? Everyone wields an influence over the destiny of other souls. "Ye are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14. A faithful discharge of duty on your part will have a telling influence on the impenitent; but if you neglect the work which God has given to you, some soul will be lost. Consider this matter, I pray you, in the light of God's Word; and may your souls feel the burden of your intrusted responsibility. Oh that there might be a turning to the Lord by every member of the church, that the earnest, fervent piety of each might be a message of warning to the sinner! "Be zealous and repent," is the word of God to his professed people. "I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Revelation 2:5.

Many of our people are backsliding from God. We need to arouse. Let every soul that has named the name of Christ depart from iniquity. We want a pure Christianitly. Great dangers are lurking for us on every side. When they most need the presence of God, many have it least. They are in danger of becoming like the Jewish nation, who knew not the Scriptures nor the power of God. Like the teachers of Israel, you may explain Bible truth to others, and yet not practice it in your daily life. If the Jews had possessed an experimental knowledge of the Scriptures, they would not have been ignorant of the power of God. Like them, we have great light and privileges; but many do not respond to these, and herein lies their peril. When Jesus wept over Jerusalem, His tears were for all who abuse present privileges. He wept that so many who profess His name fail to become what God designed them to be; that they continue in sin and weakness, while He is willing and able to save them if they will but come to Him. The Saviour says, "What more could I have done that I have not done in it?" He has dealt with His people as a loving father with a wayward and rebellious child. But He sees grace resisted, privileges abused, opportunities slighted. Where He had a right to expect earnest, vital piety, He sees insincerity, hollow formalism, and Pharisaic pride. Neglect of light is chargeable on those whom God has intrusted with great and solemn truths. Ingratitude for God's mercies, abuse of blood-bought privileges, stand registered against many in the books of heaven, and are treasuring up for them wrath against the day of wrath. Vengeance will surely be visited on those who have had so great light, yet are so cold and unimpressible that no light shines from them to the world.

God has loaded us with His benefits. Immortal blessings have been poured upon us in great measure. Messengers have been sent with warnings, reproofs, and entreaties. God's servants have wept and prayed over the lukewarm state of the church. Some may arouse, but only to fall back into unconsciousness of their sin and peril. Passion, worldliness, malice, envy, pride, strife for supremacy make our churches weak and powerless. Some of Christ's ambassadors are carrying a heavy burden on their souls, because
their message is treated by so many as an idle tale. The eye of Jesus, looking down the ages, was fixed upon our time when He said, “If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace!” Luke 19:42 (first part). It is still thy day, O church of God, whom He has made the depository of His law. But this day of trust and probation is fast drawing to a close. The sun is fast westering. Can it be that it will set, and thou not know the things that belong unto thy peace? Must the irrevocable sentence be passed, “But now they are hid from thine eyes”? Luke 19:42 (last part). I tell you there is need to be alarmed. It is time to seek God earnestly, saying with Jacob, “I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.” Genesis 32:26. It will be of no avail to make a spasmodic effort, only to fall back into spiritual lethargy and lukewarmness. The past, with the slighted mercies, the admonitions unheeded, the earthly passions uncorrected, the privileges unimproved, the soul temple filled with desecrated shrines—all are recorded in the books of heaven. But most solemn moments are still before you. Because of past neglect, the efforts you make must be the more earnest.

The Saviour speaks to His people, “Be zealous therefore... and repent.” Revelation 3:19. It is not ministers whom you have slighted; it is not the warnings of men that you have rejected; it is not my delegated prophets that you have refused to hear, but your Redeemer, your only hope. If ye are destroyed, it is yourselves alone that are responsible. Ye will not come to me that ye might have life. “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!” Luke 13:34.

I desired to save you, but ye would not doers of my Word. The arm strong to save, is also strong to punish. Jesus is now looking from heaven above with yearning pity upon thee, even thee in this thy day, O thoughtless, careless soul. But unless there is in our churches a general arousing, unless there is an individual work of confessing and putting away sin, unless all shall give earnest heed to the things that belong to their peace, the words of Christ may at any moment be applicable to them: “Now they are hid from thine eyes.” I intrusted thee with a solemn, sacred message of truth to be made known to others, but thou hast been unfaithful to thy holy trust. Souls have not been enlightened, warned, and urged to repentance. Their blood will I require at thy hand.

Will our churches humble themselves before the Lord in this day of atonement? Will they put away the sins which defile their garments of character, and separate them from God? The present is our day of visitation. Look not to a future, more convenient season, when the cross to be lifted will be less heavy, when the inclinations of the carnal heart will be subdued with less effort. “Today” saith the Spirit of God, “if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” Hebrews 4:7. Today go about the work, else you may be one day too late. The impression that you now may not be as strong tomorrow. Satan’s snare may close about you. The candlestick may be moved out of its place, and you left in darkness. “See that you refuse not him that speaketh.” Hebrews 12:25. Says the true Witness, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.” Revelation 3:20. Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the Word of God, or through His delegated messengers, is a knock at the door of the heart; it is the voice of Jesus, asking for entrance. With every knock unheeded, your determination to open becomes weaker and weaker. If the voice of Jesus is not heeded at once, it becomes confused in the mind with a multitude of other voices, the world’s care and business engross the attention, and conviction dies away. The heart becomes less impressionable, and lapses into a perilous unconsciousness of the shortness of time, and of the great eternity beyond. The heavenly Guest is standing at your door, while you are piling up obstructions to bar His entrance. Jesus is alone? The Sun of righteousness may set this very day for those who have had great light and privileges, and have not improved them. You have no time to loiter, no time to consult your convenience. It is now, even now, that you are to be zealous and repent. Oh, it is peace that you need—Heaven’s forgiveness, peace, and love in the soul! Money cannot buy it, intellect cannot procure it, wisdom cannot attain to it; but Jesus offers it as a gift.
hearted service. Their souls cry out after the living God. We are so weak, so helpless, yet so desirous for a better state of things, that we turn away from a religion that has no divine manifestation. We cannot be satisfied with a form of godliness. We must have the deep moving of the Spirit of God in the soul.

Let the minister of God in his labors lean upon the arm of infinite power. Let him lay bare his soul in the secret place alone before God. Let him with loathing put away soul defilement. Let the weary, discouraged soul cry as did Jacob, for the Comforter. Never trust in what you yourself can do. Your wisdom is but foolishness. Ever keep in heart the knowledge that we are laborers for God. The Lord is leading His church in these last days as He led ancient Israel. While He gives them warnings, reproves, and encouragement through His delegated servant, Christ, the angel of the covenant, who in the pillar of cloud and of fire went before the Hebrew host, is the Leader of His people today. Provoke Him not with your murmurings, by your selfish withholding from His cause, by cherishing iniquity; for in the face of great light He will not pardon your continual transgressions. The warning to the Sardis church is applicable at this time: "I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and held fast, and repented. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Revelation 3:1-3. And to us also the promise is extended. "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 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." Revelation 3:4-5.

Review and Herald, November 2, 1886.

Receiving the Word by Samuel Koranteng-Pipim

The current debates over the ordination of women, church standards, and other matters of theology leave us asking, What is the cause? Many Bible students and scholars have concluded that a major cause of disunity centers around our views concerning the inspiration of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

We believe you will agree with one reviewer who stated, "Receiving the Word will prove to be a major contribution in the history of Adventist theology and hermeneutics which cannot be ignored. The author's courage and fidelity to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy deserves our deepest gratitude."

Obtain your copy today for just $10.95.

Laodicea, Her Authority, Organization and Destiny by Vernon Sparks

The present shaking of Adventism has great importance for every member. This book discusses what God says about His remnant church, its structure and purpose, self-supporting ministries, the results of Laodicea shaking, how a church becomes Babylon, and other timely topics.

Perfect bound, 5½ x 8½ inch size, 380 pages.
Order your copy today for just $10.75

Waymarks of Adventism by Ron Spear

"Having spent years observing the deep satisfaction of many converts with the logical consistency and firm scriptural foundation of every point of the Adventist faith, Ron Spear has developed an abiding assurance that the Adventist message will stand against all opposition and will successfully meet every test... I believe this book can be read with profit by every member of the great Advent movement." — Ralph Larson

Perfect bound, 5½ x 8½ inch size, 92 pages.
Order your copy today for just $2.75

Keepers of the Faith, by Colin D. Standish & Russell R. Standish

This book, especially directed to ministers and lay leaders, reflects the grave duty of every chosen leader to uphold "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Among the subjects here discussed are: Evangelicalism, Ecumenism, Pluralism, Humanism, Relativism, Materialism, Futurism, and many more topics.

Perfect bound, 5½ x 8½ inch size, 288 pages.
Order your copy today for just $7.95

See page 3 for shipping and sales tax information.
Letters to the Editor

Thank you for the good news gospel that is shared in Our Firm Foundation—very timely for Wisconsin, Packer territory. I much appreciated the articles on sports and competition. AB, Wisconsin

I am a 32 year-old Seventh-day Adventist living in Zambia, Central Africa. I have seen and read one of your Our Firm Foundation magazines. One of the most touching articles I read was: “Minneapolis—the History” where Alonzo T. Jones and Elliot J. Waggoner were chosen by the Lord to be the leading speakers. Though rejected, it is, indeed, the third angel’s message. The message is very clear in the magazine testifying to its divine origin. . . . Please help me with spiritual books which you think may be of help for me—any books, for I am starving. Your magazine Our Firm Foundation is very educational with a very clear message with few of man’s own words.

MC, Zambia

I am a new member of the church and have read different magazines the church puts out. Your magazine Our Firm Foundation is the only one I believe is firm and to the point, and will help me grow spiritually. At this time I cannot afford the small subscription price, but would truly love to receive your magazine. Thank you.

SK, Maryland

I have been a Seventh-day Adventist for seventy years, and I am eighty-two years old. I have received and read the February issue of Our Firm Foundation. I appreciate your labor of love and the timely messages of your magazine. God bless your staff! There are not too many years left until the end, but Oh! The coming years will be very trying for those who must stand firmly for Jesus! You are in our prayers.

I thank you very much for the wonderful books and magazines you sent me. In fact they are helping me a lot spiritually. Once again I say Thank you very much. I know your organization is sent by God because you touch the nerve center of the great Adventist movement. In fact the last issue of Our Firm Foundation magazine you sent me with the title: “What Happened to the World Wide Church of God?” is a thought provoking one, taking into account some developments that are fast becoming part of the Adventist Church, especially in the ordination of women, celebration services, etc, etc.

In fact the celebration service is now noticed to be creeping into the Church in Ghana. Recently we attended a camp meeting and some of our pastors started introducing Pentecostal songs into our worship. I vehemently protested and it became the topic of discussion . . . I want to tell you to never quit on your oars till the Church is rid of all foreign doctrines.

EA, Ghana

I am very impressed with Our Firm Foundation. Its content is very inspiring and comforting. I give thanks to God for your work and I wish that the Holy Spirit may continue inspiring you and blessing you in your precious labor to awaken the remnant.

SO, Spain

Thank you very much for allowing Rob McClintock to schedule a Medical Missionary Training Seminar at Angwin, California. It has been a real blessing in understanding close to home how and when to use the therapies taught. Many of us are not able to travel to an area out of the state.

The information provided brought all this training together for me, so that now I feel more prepared to be used of God wherever He directs and whomever He sends to me.

Also, please shorten the length of the wonderful articles you put into Our Firm Foundation. Time is at a premium these days, and a lot of people do not have the “time” to read that much material.

XYZ, California

I am interested to know more about your ministry and your biblical materials. At the beginning of this year I had in my hands one of your magazines with many interesting subjects. I am interested in your educational material and Bible courses which I believe will be of great spiritual profit to edify my life. God bless you.

OJ, Guatemala

I am thankful to the Lord for His goodness to me when at one time I was walking by the highway when my eyes caught a piece of paper on its side. I picked it up to know what it was all about. Suddenly, when I saw the logo of three angels flying at the top of the magazine, I thought that this is a work of a brethren in another country, a Seventh-day Adventist believer. . . . How I felt sorrowful when I learn that I have only the front and last page of this magazine! Oh, how I wish to have copies of this article so that I could give also to my friends and relatives that they might also be warned of what is coming! However, as I turn to page 15, I saw your address; then a thought came to me to send a letter to you requesting some copies of “Earth’s Final Warning”—as many as your heart prepared to give, for I have no money to cover the cost. But one thing I know is that “the Lord will repay.”

In view of what is transpiring in the last history of our world, I pray that you may enjoy more freedom in the proclamation of the last message of truth. With these, I would like to share with you this text: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58.

MG, Philippines

I am an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister. I have been reading Our Firm Foundation magazine for over ten years. I have used many articles for sermon preparation. Most of the congregations I have pastored do not appreciate “straight truth.”

I believe the Lord raised up Hope and Harland because of the backslidden condition of our churches in North America, Canada and Europe. We need something to really shake up the churches! TV, sports and the love of this world are paralyzing our churches.

Sincerely,
A pastor who is very concerned!, USA
Earth's Final Warning

A special printing of 600,000 of this excellent witnessing tool enables us to provide it at an exceptionally low price.

New, convenient 8½ by 11-inch format.

This 16-page tabloid is designed to sound the three angels' messages, alerting the reader to Satan's last-day deceptions. Plant the seeds of truth now that will protect the sincere in heart from the deceptions of the New World Order. Help your friends and neighbors to understand the issues of the attempt to change God's law, the soon enforcement of Sunday laws and the impersonation of Christ by Satan. Fourteen of its pages contain selected material from The Great Controversy.

Now also available in Spanish, French, and Portuguese versions.

Reach out while there is still time.

ARE you looking for an easy and economical way to share your faith with your neighbors? with your city? with your county or state? Bulk mailing of one or both of these excellent witnessing publications to every address in one or more ZIP codes is the answer. Each of these publications is designed to awaken interest and to place spiritually hungry people in contact with this and other truth-filled literature, including Bible studies. Add up the worth of the souls in your area and invest now in their eternal salvation. Request your Bulk Mailing Information packet from the Circulation Dept., Hope International, P.O. Box 940, Eatonville, WA 98328

Request a free sample of any of the witnessing publications that you are not acquainted with.

The Lord's Day and A National Sunday Law

by Jacob Teske

Here is a witnessing tool that you will not want to be without. The Lord's Day and A National Sunday Law is one of the most powerful presentations on the Sabbath/Sunday issue to date. It has a full-color cover and is designed so it can be bulk mailed. The book's 24 chapters are easy reading for members of any denomination, and they beautifully cover the broad spectrum of the Sabbath issues.

The last chapter is followed by an appendix entitled Rome's Challenge—originally published in September 1893 as four separate articles in the Catholic Mirror, the official organ of the late Cardinal Gibbons and the Papacy in the United States. Rome's Challenge supports the premises brought forth by Teske as it challenges Protestants to either uphold the Bible Sabbath or else admit their compromise of Bible authority, acknowledging that their "mother church" exercised power to change the law of God.