Our Firm Foundation

God’s Prophecy, the Feast Days

Volume 18, Number 11

The Seventh-day Sabbath  Christ Our Righteousness  The Immutable Law of God
The Non-Immortality of the Soul  The Three Angels’ Messages  The Sanctuary

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A Church in Crisis

The Laodicean condition only partially describes our beloved church in its present sad dilemma. A church whose leadership admits that there is apostasy in the church and appears to do nothing to correct it is leading a church that is in apostasy.

A church leadership that stubbornly defends its obvious departure from well-established truths and standards and that threatens with disfellowship those faithful Seventh-day Adventists who boldly speak out in defense of our historic tenets is a leadership who, themselves, have manifestly elected to change leaders. See Review and Herald, December 16, 1890; Testimonies, vol. 5, 294.

This is the remnant church with truths given to us by God Himself. Rebellious departure from these God-given truths comes only from the other leader, the arch-enemy of God. What other possible explanation is there?—None.

The truth cuts deeply sometimes. Particularly when it lays bare to one’s astonishment blatant apostasy against God and His truth.

What is the source of truth for our church?—Every true Seventh-day Adventist would quickly affirm our only two reliable sources—the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

The basic, foundational truths of Adventism are those which God gave us early in our history. When our pioneers reached a point in their study where they could not discern further light, our prophet—Ellen White—would be taken into vision, and the great truths that made us what we are were shown to her by God. This is God’s remnant church. He is the Author of our faith!

God’s faithful people deeply love these God-given, timeless truths. They sigh and cry for the abominations that apostate leaders and laymen have allowed and continue to allow—even promote—in our churches. Their souls are vexed day and night by what they see happening. The only sure thing they can do in such an awful emergency is pray, cry aloud, and lift up their voices like a trumpet, which is what Our Firm Foundation has sought to do for nearly 20 years.

In the coming months, more straight talk will be seen in the pages of this magazine than ever before. It is high time that concerned voices everywhere are raised that call sin, heresy, and treachery by their right names before the unavoidable shaking that will purify the church, sadly, identifies the unrighteous.

Few of the leaders, we are told, will be involved in the last solemn work. See Testimonies, vol. 5, 80. That statement should deeply sadden every faithful Seventh-day Adventist.

Most of our churches are asleep. Members comfort themselves with the fact that they have “the truth,” attend church on the seventh day, pay their tithe, and fellowship at the Sabbath luncheon. Then for the intervening six days they keep their Bibles closed to study and their hearts closed to the spiritual and physical needs of others.

We have lost many opportunities to quickly fulfill our God-given mission. Our prophet has given us inspired words from Jesus Himself that confirm this sad condition and its result: “And through lack of zeal for the promulgation of the third angel’s message, 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.” Testimonies, vol. 8, 119.

The Spirit of Prophecy speaks volumes that foretell the present condition of our church. It confirms the indescribably sad truth that only a small remnant will be saved. Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1, speaking for our day, warned that “some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” So, alert Seventh-day Adventists should be fully aware of our deplorable condition, both individually and corporately, and our desperate need for deep confession, revival, and reformation.

“God’s people will not endure the test unless there is a revival and a reformation. The Lord will not admit into the mansions He is preparing for the righteous, one soul who is self-sufficient.” Testimonies, vol. 7, 284.

The work will be finished, with or without your help or mine, without the help of the many nominal Adventists who will be lost. How it pains me to say that! God has promised that angels in human form will join with His faithful, consecrated saints to finish the work with glorious triumph. Do we not want to be involved in this fantastic end-time union with our Saviour?

You will see on page 3 a statement by Hope International to which every sincere Seventh-day Adventist can enthusiastically subscribe. Please join us in our efforts to proclaim our historic truths and warn the world of its impending doom.

May God bless our Seventh-day Adventist Church, the “only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard.” Testimonies to Ministers, 15. §

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God’s Prophecy, the Feast Days

Clark Floyd

The greatest love that was ever known is the love that God has for each of us. The Godhead knew that the fall of man would take place before it ever happened, but instead of destroying man and sin, plans were laid in the councils of Heaven to save those who would choose to be saved. That salvation would come through a total commitment to God, which would be possible only through the power of God.

The Godhead knew that Satan would greatly muddy the waters and confuse the senses. In Their omniscience They knew exactly the route Satan’s deceptions would take and exactly the part man would play in aiding Satan’s plans. God determined to lay these plans bare and to show the way of salvation not only through the direct testimony of His spokesmen the prophets, but also through living parables that would show and tell all before it happened. They knew that if man faithfully studied the Word to be provided and the systems to be furnished, he would come to an understanding of the requirements for salvation, especially through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Man would learn what was to happen beforehand. Jesus says in John 14:29, “Now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.”

God also knew that Satan would seek to misuse, abuse, and confuse God’s testimony and that man would aid in this evil work.

God began to tell of a coming Redeemer as soon as the fall of man had taken place: “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” Genesis 3:15. He demonstrated salvation through a sacrificial system that later enlarged into the sanctuary system. Animal skins hint at the first sacrifice, and the story of Cain and Abel make it more definite. First the altar sacrifices, then the wilderness sanctuary, and finally Solomon’s temple in the Old Testament provided man with a blueprint of things to come.

There was the direct testimony of God’s prophets such as Isaiah, chapter 53; Psalm 22; Daniel, chapter 9; and other places in the Scriptures that spoke of a coming Messiah. However, at the same time Satan was not silent. Working also through man, he has continually sought to confuse and corrupt God’s forewarnings. Satan moved upon the Jews to put a curse on those who studied Daniel, chapter 9, and he inspired others to develop the secret rapture theory to destroy its significance.

Instead of appreciating the sanctuary system and the wonderful prophecies and acted parables in regard to the plan of salvation contained therein, the Jews literalized and lost the symbol of the whole economy. They no longer realized that “all the ceremonies of the Jewish law were prophetic, typical of mysteries in the plan of redemption.” Signs of the Times, July 29, 1886. They began to think that the more animals they sacrificed, the better would be their relationship with God. See Isaiah, chapter 1. Then, when the true Messiah came, “they rejected the Antitype, and clung to their types and useless ceremonies.” Ibid., November 3, 1898.

Man often seems to lose the significance of God’s provision.
and symbols of salvation. Another important provision of an acted-out parable and prophecy is found in the feast days.

Have you ever wondered why God chose to bring the children of Israel out of their bondage when He did?

In Exodus 12:41, the Bible says, “It came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.” Why not a month earlier or two months later? Why not a day earlier or a week later? Why that “selfsame” day? — Because God knew the future, and He wanted to show it to man. God wanted man to recognize the plan of salvation and the Saviour at the center of that plan. God was giving a timetable of the future, and He was doing it through the feast days. The order in that timetable was so important that God gave a whole new calendar to the Jews to preserve that order.

Verses 1–2 say, “The Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.”

Up to this time, the Jewish civil year had begun in the fall with the month of Tishri; why not start the Exodus from Egypt then, if God wanted it to happen in the first month? — God was giving a chronological parable through the feast days, and everything needed to happen in the correct order to clearly identify the Messiah when He came and to clearly show the plan of salvation. There would be no mistaking the Messiah if the feast days were continued as given by God. They were a chronological type that would be repeated each year until the Antitype came.

However, Satan — the spoiler — worked successfully at destroying their purpose and meaning. The prophets gave warning. See Lamentations 1:4–6; Hosea 2:11; Amos 5:21. But the people closed their ears to the prophets, and they continued to miss the significance of the feast days.

Today our prophet warns; yet, we still have those who are in a way destroying the significance of the feast days and their chronological order. By pushing the literal and returning to keeping the feast days, they take us back in time. They miss the spiritual significance and mislead others. They are like some of the first Jewish converts to Jesus:

“The Jews had always prided themselves upon their divinely appointed services, and many of those who had been converted to the faith of Christ still felt that since God had once clearly outlined the Hebrew manner of worship, it was improbable that He would ever authorize a change in any of its specifications. They insisted that the Jewish laws and ceremonies should be incorporated into the rites of the Christian religion. They were slow to discern that all the sacrificial offerings had but prefigured the death of the Son of God, in which type met antitype, and after which the rites and ceremonies of the Mosaic dispensation were no longer binding.” The Acts of the Apostles, 189.

Ellen White further states, “It is when the vital principles of the Kingdom of God are lost that ceremonies become multitudinous and extravagant.” Christ’s Object Lessons, 297.

In another place she observes, “The apostle showed that religion does not consist in rites and ceremonies, creeds and theories. If it did, the natural man could understand it by investigation, as he understands worldly things. Paul taught that religion is a practical, saving energy, a principle wholly from God, a personal experience of God’s renewing power upon the soul.” The Acts of the Apostles, 451.

Footwashing and the Lord’s Supper were clearly instituted in place of the Passover to help us look back to the cross in remembrance, as the Passover had helped the Jews to look forward to the cross. The ceremonies were not the important items except in the way they turn our hearts and thoughts to Jesus, our Lord and Redeemer.

“This ordinance does not speak so largely to man’s intellectual capacity as to his heart. His moral and spiritual nature needs it. If
5, 1139–1140. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Only one feast day can take place at a time; God’s calendar must be observed. We are in the day of atonement, not the Passover, not the firstfruits, not any other day. The Passover antitype has taken place in its time with the crucifixion of Jesus.

“While the institution of the Passover was pointing backward to the miraculous deliverance of the Hebrews, it likewise pointed forward, showing the death of the Son of God before it transpired. In the last Passover our Lord observed with His disciples, He instituted the Lord’s Supper in place of the Passover, to be observed in memory of His death. No longer had they need of the Passover, for He, the great antitypical Lamb, was ready to be sacrificed for the sins of the world. Type met antitype in the death of Christ.” The Youth’s Instructor, May 1, 1873.

“On the fourteenth day of the month, at even, the Passover was celebrated, its solemn, impressive ceremonies commemorating the deliverance from bondage in Egypt, and pointing forward to the sacrifice that should deliver from the bondage of sin. When the Saviour yielded up His life on Calvary, the significance of the Passover ceased, and the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper was instituted as a memorial of the same event of which the Passover had been a type.” Patriarchs and Prophets, 539.

The first feast day occurring on God’s chronological calendar established at the Exodus from Egypt was, of course, the Passover. True to its order, the antitype of the Passover, the crucifixion, was the first event in salvation history. Unleavened bread followed pointing forward to communion Sabbath, and then the wave sheaf as an antitype for resurrection Sunday. Fifty days later came Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, again, all in its important chronological order. Note that these feasts had to fit into the exact time of year because of the harvest of firstfruits. They also had to remain in their order to demonstrate the crucifixion on through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. These were the spring feasts.

Note that in the typical feasts there was a long, four-month time period between Pentecost, the last of the spring feasts, and the feast of trumpets, the first of the autumn feasts. This was significant. From the antitypical Pentecost to the beginning of the first angel’s message October 22, 1844. It continues even today.

The day of atonement was ushered in by the change of Jesus’ ministry from the holy place in the heavenly sanctuary to the Most Holy Place as depicted in Daniel, chapter 7, and Revelation, chapter 11.

In Early Writings, 54–56, Ellen White describes a vision in which she sees the Father followed by the Son proceed from the holy place in the heavenly sanctuary to the Most Holy Place as the day of atonement ministry began. Some of the followers of Jesus kept their eyes upon Him and followed Him by prayer into the Most Holy Place; others, however, remained with the throne in the holy place. They had not followed the transfer of ministry, and Satan stepped into the gap. “I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, ‘Father, give us Thy Spirit.’ Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan’s object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God’s children.”

By clinging to the types and thereby refusing to fully move into the antitype, could current feast-day-keepers be among this latter group?

Satan is elated when God’s professed people cling to Old Testament types, and fail to fully accept the New Testament antitypes. It makes our Sabbath outreach under the three angels’ messages that much more difficult because Sunday-keepers connect the Sabbath with those Old Testament types that were shadows of things to come.

God has given us a prophetic chronological calendar in the feast days. We have moved along the prophetic line to the day of atonement, a time of judgment.

God wants us to encourage one another in giving praise and
### The Feast Days—Type and Antitype

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Type</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Passover</strong></td>
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<td>Exodus 12:6—The Passover lamb was slain on the fourteenth day of Abib, or Nisan.</td>
<td>John 18:28; 19:14, 31; Luke 23:54–56—Jesus was crucified on the day the Jews were preparing to eat the Passover; the fourteenth day of the month Abib, or Nisan.</td>
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<td>Exodus 12:46—Not a bone of the lamb was broken.</td>
<td>John 19:33–36—Not a bone of the Savior was broken.</td>
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<td>Exodus 12:7—Blood was placed on the two posts and lintel of the door.</td>
<td>1 John 1:7—The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.</td>
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| **The Feast of Unleavened Bread** |  |
| Leviticus 23:6–7—The day following the Passover, the fifteenth day of Abib, was a ceremonial sabbath. | Luke 23:54–56; John 19:31—The fifteenth day of Abib, in the year the Saviour was crucified, was the seventh-day Sabbath of the Lord. |
| Deuteronomy 16:4—“There shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days.” | 1 Corinthians 5:7—“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.” |

| **The Offering of the First Fruits** |  |
| Leviticus 23:5–11—The firstfruits were offered the third day after the Passover. | 1 Corinthians 15:20; Luke 24:21–23—Christ arose on the third day, and became the firstfruits. |
| Leviticus 23:10, margin—The priest waved a handful of grain in the head or an omer of kernels. | Romans 8:29; Matthew 27:52–53—Many saints arose with Christ. He was the first-born among many brethren. |

### Pentecost

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<th><strong>Type</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Deuteronomy 16:16—All the men of the children of Israel were to appear before the Lord at Jerusalem at the time of this feast.</td>
<td>Acts 2:7–11—Men from all parts of the then-known world were gathered at Jerusalem at the time of Pentecost.</td>
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<td>Exodus 23:16—The Feast of Harvest indicated “the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field.”</td>
<td>Acts 2:41—The antitype of the firstfruits was three thousand souls, the spiritual harvest gathered as the result of Christ’s personal work.</td>
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### The Feast of Trumpets

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<th><strong>Type</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Leviticus 23:24–27—Trumpets were blown, announcing that the Day of Atonement was drawing near.</td>
<td>Revelation 14:6–7—The first angel’s message announced that the real day of atonement, the judgment, was at hand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numbers 10:3–10—The sound of the trumpet assembled Israel to appear before the Lord.</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 15:51–53—The trumpet of God will summon the saints to meet the Lord when He appears.</td>
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### The Day of Atonement

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<tr>
<th><strong>Type</strong></th>
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<td>Leviticus 16:20—When the high priest came out of the sanctuary, he had “made an end of reconciling.”</td>
<td>Revelation 22:11–12—When Christ comes out from the heavenly sanctuary, He announces the eternal destiny of every soul.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leviticus 16:21—The sins were all laid upon the scapegoat.</td>
<td>Psalm 7:16—Sin will return upon the head of the originator of sin.</td>
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These comparisons of the type and antitype of each of the feast days were adapted from a much longer list in S. N. Haskell’s book *The Cross and Its Shadow.*
Lessons from the Fifteenth of Romans

Repentance & Rebaptism

part 2

Ellen G. White

This is the second half of a sermon preached by E. G. White at the Congregational Church, which was being temporarily used by the Oakland SDA Church, 18th and Market Streets, Oakland, California, on Sabbath afternoon, October 20, 1906.

It is our privilege now, in this world, to be workers together with God. But first of all, we must be reconverted. Only when the brain-power and the talent of speech are sanctified, are we fitted for service.

During the past few weeks you have been highly favored with opportunities for Bible study. None can realize how heavily the burden rested upon me when I saw the important work that must be speedily done in California. And when Brother S. N. Haskell and his wife, about this time, were looking first at one place and then at another, with a view of visiting several places before returning to Nashville, where they seemed to think they must labor again, I wrote to them, You have a message to bear in southern California and in other portions of California, and I beg of you to come west soon. I am so thankful that they came. Now that they are here, I greatly desire that their work shall not be impeded in any wise. I want that you should clear the King’s highway. And do not be afraid of the converting power of God. Be not afraid of His truth coming into the formation of your own individual character. If this work should tear your character to pieces, it can bring it together in a wholeness that is sanctified. We greatly need to humble the soul before God and before Christ Jesus, and so relate ourselves toward our Maker and toward one another, that we shall be brought into unity of action.

We read further: “I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.” Romans 15:17. “In those things” — you see where the glory is. It is not in self-exaliation; it is not in one’s telling of his faultless character; it is in humbling one’s self before God. Then you shall represent in your own life the life of Christ.

Says the apostle: “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation: but as work through Paul? — Through a multitude of revelations whereby he might “make the Gentiles obedient.” Paul had many wonderful visions. He saw that which could not be described by mortal man, and concerning these visions he remained nearly silent; but, nevertheless, God “wrought” through His servant by the abundance of His revelations, to accompany Paul’s preaching with a power that could not be withstood. So thoroughly was Paul’s faith substantiated by these visions that his message was ever “Yea and Amen.” He could not think of consenting to say “Nay” when he had formerly said “Yea.” His words were established by a weight of evidence that was immovable.

“For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient;” Romans 15:17. “In those things” — you see where the glory is. It is not in self-exaltation; it is not in one’s telling of his faultless character; it is in humbling one’s self before God. Then you shall represent in your own life the life of Christ.

Says the apostle: “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed.” Verse 18.

“Wrought by me.” How did God
it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand. For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you. But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you; whencesoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company. But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.” Verses 18–26.

Paul had been gathering up money for the poor at Jerusalem, in order that the way might be opened before him to preach the truth. In Jerusalem there were many who believed not that Jesus had been raised from the dead and was indeed the living Son of the Most High God. Paul desired to reach this class, and so he brought in these contributions in order to open the way.

Respecting this contribution, Paul declared of the Gentiles: “It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things. When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.” Verses 27–28.

Go where we may, everywhere there is work to be done. We need a fitting up for this work, and we need especially to guard against having a tongue that is sanctified to Satan. The tongue that God has given is to be used to glorify Him in speech. Unless it is, we shall be standing directly in the way of God’s work in this world, and the judgments of Heaven will surely fall upon us. But we hope that we shall see of the salvation of God in a much larger degree than we have yet seen it. Paul continues: “And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; that I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints.” Verses 29–31.

As Paul goes to Judea to bear the message of the gospel of Christ to those who were opposing the idea of Jesus’ being the Saviour of the world, he wanted the Christian to strive together with him in their prayers to God. How much better is this than to talk about the faults of one another! Brethren and sisters, when you are talking with one another, and someone begins to speak about the sins of someone else, listen not. Tell him that you must refuse to hear, for this is not your line of work. Instead of entering into a conversation that tends to tear down, try to speak a word of encouragement. Your talent of speech is to be sanctified unto God; it is to be cleansed from everything like faultfinding. Let us strive together with God’s appointed workers in prayer to the Lord that He shall protect them and bless them, and that they may be “delivered from them that do not believe.” Verse 31. Thus the way will be opened for the reception of we meet at family worship during the evening hour, we shall talk the matter over and make it right with God. You see, children, kind words never cause you any pain and sorrow. Speak kindly, tenderly to one another, and see what a refreshing, what a blessing, comes to your own heart. But if you begin to contend with one another, then passions arise, and you have to strive with all your might to retain control over yourself. Be brave, be true.”

And at eventide, when the children would gather together before going to bed, we would talk over the happenings of the day. Possibly during the day one of the children had said, “Mother, someone has done thus and so to me.” I had replied that when we all came together in the evening we could talk it over. When evening came,
they had all had time for reflection, and they did not feel inclined to bring charges against one another. They would say, “Mother, I have done thus and so,” and the tears would start from their eyes, as they would add, “I feel as if I would like to have you ask the Lord to forgive me. I believe He will.” And then we would bow in prayer and confess the sins of the day, and pray for forgiveness. After confessing their wrongdoings, these little fellows would soon fall asleep.

But when a child hears an older person constantly talking about the faults of someone else, he in turn is imbued with the same spirit of faultfinding and criticism. The seeds of contention are being sown. Oh, how can professing Christians indulge in such a work! Two nights before I left my home, I would give me strength to speak to you.

I feel an intense interest regarding every faultfinder, for I know that a quarrelsome disposition will never find entrance into the city of God. Quarrel with yourself, but with no one else, and then be converted. Confess your sins right here where you are, before you return to your homes. With words of confession, humble your hearts before God.

When you are tempted to speak unadvisedly, be on guard. If someone else approaches you with words of criticism regarding one of God’s children, turn a deaf ear to every such word. If you are spoken to harshly, never retaliate. Utter not a word. When under provocation, remember that “silence is eloquence.” Silence is the greatest rebuke that you can possibly give a faultfinder or one whose temper is irritated.

When under provocation, remember that “silence is eloquence.” Silence is the greatest rebuke that you can possibly give a faultfinder or one whose temper is irritated. Keep your eye fixed on Jesus. Keep your eye on the One who never finds fault with you, only to lay before you perils from which He would deliver you.

There is a great work to be done, and many are unready to engage in sacred service. The judgments of God are soon coming upon all our cities, and I desire that we shall all be prepared. I greatly desire that we shall confess our sins, and be converted. If any of you desire to have your hearts softened and broken before God, it is best for you to clear the King’s highway this afternoon, without delay. It is best to prepare the heart for the reception of the Holy Spirit, that it may have free course in the entire being.

It is best that you should open the door of the soul-temple, and let the Saviour come in. “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock,” the Saviour says; “if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20.

We ought to long with all the heart for a thorough reversion, that the truth may be enthroned in heart and mind, and that we may, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, be prepared to present the third angel’s message before others who need it so much. Now is our opportunity; now is our chance. May God help us, that we may be converted.

Dear brethren and sisters, if there are any of you that desire to say anything this afternoon, be free. Are you ready to rededicate yourselves to God? Christ is ready; He is waiting, watching, longing. Angels are in this room. Wicked angels are here, and holy angels are here. Which side shall gain the victory over your heart here today, my brother, my sister? These are the hours of the Sabbath; you cannot spend them any better than by clearing the King’s highway. Remove the root of bitterness from your heart. Do not break off the top of it. Root it out lest, springing up again, many shall be defiled. You cannot afford to be content with half-hearted work. Dig it out by the roots, and then God will help you to be reconverted.

Elder S. N. Haskell speaking: Perhaps some would like to bear testimony. If we could see the interest that heaven is taking at the present time in our behalf, if we would realize what is going on above, there is not one of us that would rest satisfied before we knew that we had a clean record on high.

The Lord is anxious to save us. He is anxious that everything separating us from Him should be put away, that our hearts may beat in unison with Heaven. It is time to be in harmony with God. Let us spend
a little while in clearing the King’s highway. If we have been indulging in the sin of telling others’ faults, let us confess it before the Lord and before our brethren, When probation ends it will come suddenly, unexpectedly—at a time when we are least expecting it. But we can have a clean record in heaven today, and know that God accepts us; and finally, if faithful, we shall be gathered into the kingdom of heaven.

(Several testimonies were borne by various members of the congregation; but the response was not so hearty as might have been expected after such an appeal had been made. The testimonies were more or less indefinite, with, however, a few exceptions. The break that seemed necessary in order that the spirit of confession might come in, was not made. It seemed as if the powers of darkness were striving for the mastery. It was at this juncture that the prayer was offered by Sister White.)

Mrs. E. G. White: I should like to pray. (Praying) Our heavenly Father, we come to Thee this evening, as our only Refuge, as our only Helper, as the only One who can save us from ourselves. Oh, my heavenly Father, Thou hast heard the words that I have tried to say to this people this afternoon. And I ask Thee, Lord, that Thou wouldst make the impression.

Thou alone canst break the iron bands of the heart. Thou alone canst cause the blind eyes to discern what sin is. Thou alone canst impress the understanding with a realization of the character that every soul must have and reveal in this world before he can be prepared for translation into the family of heaven. Oh, my Father, my Father, the blindness, the terrible blindness, that comes over the people, that they do not discern what manner of character Thou canst accept and what Thou wilt be compelled to reject! We ask Thee, Lord, that Thou wouldst work upon minds and hearts. Oh, that Thou wouldst impress upon all the terrible nature of sin, and how Thou dost regard sin.

Oh, my Father, my Father, Thou didst so love the world that Thou gavest Thine only beloved Son to die a shameful death, that the world through Him might have everlasting life! Thou hast given the human family here below the privilege of educating themselves in right-doing, that they may be prepared to unite with the sinless family above, and dwell forevermore in Thy kingdom. We see the opportunities and the privileges that are passing by, and yet there are hearts that are becoming more and still more hardened, less and still less sensitive. Oh, we pray Thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ who has borne the stripes, who has suffered the agonies of the crucifixion to make it possible for every soul that lives to unite with the family of God—oh, we pray, my Saviour, we pray Thee to break up this hardness of heart! I pray Thee to melt and subdue the soul.

I pray Thee, my heavenly Father, that Thou wouldst flash light upon the people here, that they may obey the call. If they repent not, Thou wilt have to say to them, “How camest thou in hither, not having a wedding garment?” Matthew 22:12. It is the wedding garment of Christ’s righteousness that must be put on. Oh, Lord, I ask Thee to have compassion upon human minds in this congregation! I pray Thee, Lord, that they may not go on hardening their hearts any longer. I pray Thee that this awful manifestation of self may be broken up. I pray Thee that self may be crucified, and that self may die, in order that there may be a reversion in the midst of us, and that souls may be brought to humble themselves before Thee, and to be reconverted.

My Father, my Father, for Christ’s sake, let Thy Spirit impress the minds of those who are in this house, and may they clear the King’s highway, and prepare the way for Thee to come to work with human minds. Help them to remove the stumbling-blocks out of the way, and to take themselves out of the way. They are standing directly in Thy way; and oh, impress their hearts so fully, so sensibly, that they will repent, repent, repent, and be converted, before it shall be everlasting too late!

Oh God, the word is about to be pronounced: “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11.

Awful words to hear, to those that are unready!

Wilt Thou, Lord, break up this coldness, this iciness, this frozen-heartedness! Oh, give them no rest, day nor night, until they see the necessity of transformation of character.

Wilt Thou, Lord, break up this coldness, this iciness, this frozen-heartedness! Oh, give them no rest, day nor night, until they see the necessity of transformation of character; until they see the necessity of clearing the King’s highway.

My heavenly Father, we come to Thee as Thy little children. Thou...
hast called us little children, and I pray Thee that we may become little children. Oh Lord, Thou didst say to Thy disciples, when they were seeking to be first, that those who seek to be the first shall be the last of all. Help us to humble our souls before God. Help our hard hearts to repent.

My Father, my Father, I present before Thee the merits of our Redeemer, Thy Son Jesus, who suffered the awful agonies of the cross to redeem the race. I plead with Thee that Thou wouldst break up the fallow ground of the heart, in order that the seeds of truth may become fastened in the mind and spring up and bear the best kind of fruit, to the glory of God. We cannot endure the thought that of the large number who are in this congregation, many at last may say that “the harvest is past, the summer is ended” (Jeremiah 8:20), the final profers of salvation have been made, and my soul is not saved! What an awful acknowledgment this would be! Break, I pray Thee, break the minds of the congregation, so that every one of us may seek Thee with all the heart, as we go out from this house, in order that we may carry with us the impression of the Spirit of God. Help, oh, help us to be converted, that the light of heaven may come into our minds and our souls, and that we may have something to say in honor of Jesus, to glorify His name upon the earth.

Oh, heavenly Father, I ask Thee that the angel of the Lord before whom Joshua the high priest is represented as standing while the enemy accuses the sinner of his defiled garments—may this angel vouchsafe his presence unto us this afternoon. Thou didst turn to Satan, and say, “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?” Zechariah 3:2. And to those who accused the sinner, the angel said, “Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.” Verse 4. And he added: “Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair miter upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord stood by.” Verse 5.

Satan is trying to fix upon every one that he can influence, all the discouragement possible. Lord, I pray Thee, let the baptism of the Holy Spirit come into this congregation. I pray Thee, for Christ’s sake, to sweep back the mist and the cloud that Satan interposes here. He is here; his followers are here; there are those here who are listening to his words; and I ask Thee, Lord, to break the spell; I ask Thee that there may be such marked consecration before God, that Christ can say, “I will clothe thee with change of raiment.”

Oh God, we want raiment without a spot; we want garments without a stain; we want a preparation to do a grand, a great, a holy work that must be done. We pray Thee that Thou wouldst work mightily, so that the salvation of God shall be revealed. Thou hast a whole heaven of blessing that Thou art waiting to pour out upon a people who are ready to receive it, and use it. Oh, all heaven is full of Thy graciousness and Thy pardon, which we may receive abundantly if we will only come to Thee and repent and be converted.

My Lord and my God, I ask Thee to carry through the reformation that is to be done in this place, and the reformation that is to be done in the different meeting places in this community. Let the salvation of God be revealed. My Saviour, my Saviour, Thou art inviting: Thou art waiting for them to come, so that Thou canst say, “Thy sins be forgiven thee; go, and sin no more.” See Mark 2:5; John 8:11. May the healing power of God come upon body and soul. My Father, my Father, I ask Thee for Christ’s sake to come into the midst of us, and break the terrible power of darkness, and let souls go free, and Thy blessed name shall have all the glory. Amen.

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As the congregation arose, Sister White said: “Let us sing, ‘Jesus Lover of My Soul.’ Sing it with all your heart.”

Benediction.


...continued from page 6

Thanksgiving to God for His wonderful blessings and for the advancement of His work. When we gather together to commemorate God’s blessings, whether at camp meetings or on other occasions, we are experiencing a sort of feast of tabernacles. However, when the judgment in heaven is finished, and Jesus leaves the Most Holy Place in heaven and returns to earth to take His people home, then the great antitypical feast of tabernacles will be celebrated. See Patriarchs and Prophets, 541–542.

Please study the chart on the facing page to see many additional comparisons between the typical feast days and what they represent in the antitype.

As Solomon has said, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1. God’s feast days had, and still have, a definite purpose. Let us not attempt to destroy the order and purpose God has established with our own ideas. We are now in the antitypical day of atonement under the calendar God established. Earth’s history is soon to end. The antitypical feast of tabernacles is just ahead. Are you ready? ❖
O n page 202 of *The Upward Look*, Sister White states, “It is conformity to the world that is causing our people to lose their bearings.” Is losing our bearings something we need to be concerned about? She continues, “The perversion of right principles has not been brought about suddenly.” Thus we see that she equates losing our bearings with the perversion of right principles.

Any sincere seeker of truth, anyone who sincerely desires to reside on the other side of Jordan, should stand up and take notice. When the prophet to the remnant church warns us that we are perverting right principles, serious seekers for the heavenly kingdom should immediately begin to examine themselves to see if they are part of this apostasy.

In reviewing a history of God’s people, we see that Israel’s problem, time after time, was that they conformed to the world, so much so that God used the inhabitants of that world to bring punishment upon them through long periods of war and/or captivity. None of these punishments came without substantial warnings from God’s servants, the prophets, first.

One of the earliest warnings came from Moses, who told the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 11:16–17, “Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; and then the Lord’s wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you.” Moses continued in verses 26–28: “Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; a blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: and a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.” (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

We of all people should clearly understand the importance of obedience. A common and succinct way to state it: “Obey and live; disobey and die.” Or as Solomon states it in Proverbs 13:13, “Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.”

**Divine Power to Obey**

It is only by faith that we can have that righteousness which we must have to be able to stand faultless before the throne. Obedience does not “earn” us a place in the kingdom. On the other hand, however, we can indeed (and many, many will) lose heaven through disobedience. This knowledge is one of the main points that separates Seventh-day Adventists from “broad road” people. So many denominations today maintain that “all you need is love.” Christ loved us so much that He died that we might live. This is, of course, an unquestionable statement of fact. But that love and that death did not, by any stretch of the imagination, guarantee anyone (or everyone) a place in heaven. It only made a way to heaven possible. Each of us has the freedom to choose whether or not we will avail ourselves of the way opened by Christ. As scripture tells us, though, “Few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:14.

It is easy, and logical, to conclude that if our Creator God expects us to be obedient, He is going to provide us with as much information as He can to assist us in that effort. Not only does He make His power to overcome as He overcame available to us through faith, He gives us that faith to begin with! See Ephesians 2:8. What a wonderful God we serve! For a confirmation
that it is through the power of grace through faith that we overcome, compare Ephesians 2:8 with 1 Peter 1:5.

This gift of grace is beautifully confirmed in Steps to Christ, 68: “In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe. All who choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus.” What a glorious promise! How can we fail of achieving all that God intends for us to achieve?

I recently had a powerful manifestation of that promise in my life. I had moved from the desert south to the Pacific Northwest, with its perennially sunny skies, to the Pacific Northwest, with its perennially cloudy skies. My first winter there was a real trial. Leaving work after sunset and navigating my way home in rainy darkness created a situation in which it was easy for me to let Satan prey on my heart. I was sorely depressed at the situation as evening after evening I was subjected to this cold, wet, dark environment.

By God’s grace, I made it through the first winter and enjoyed a glorious Pacific Northwest summer. The abundant wildflowers and lush verdure made me quickly forget the past winter. But then the second winter came. The switch to daylight-saving time brought darkness forward abruptly. One evening about 4:30 I had to hurry to keep a 5:00 appointment. As I rushed out of the office, I was confronted first by the dark, then by the cold, and then by the rain. And though I had tried to cultivate the habit of keeping one umbrella at the office and another at home so that I would never be without one, it was one of those days when they were both at home. I ran through the rain to my car lamenting my situation. As I buckled up and started the car, turning on the heat, the defroster, and the windshield wipers, the prior winter’s depression began to creep over me.

Just then, the Holy Spirit impressed upon me the above quote from Steps to Christ. I spoke out loud, “Lord, I choose to avail myself of the abundant grace with which you have surrounded this world.” Immediately my gloom lifted. The winter climate of the Pacific Northwest never bothered me again. I praise the Lord for His infinite mercy and His glorious promises!

**We know almost intuitively what a lie is, but are we left in the dark as to what God considers abominable?**

**What Is an Abomination to God?**

In addition to the power to overcome through abundantly-supplied faith and grace, God in His Word has given us incredibly detailed instruction as to what is right and wrong. Though it should be obvious why we need to know the difference, let us turn to His Word for confirmation:

> “And there shall in no wise enter into it [the holy city] anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” Revelation 21:27.

We can see from this text that shall anyone who “worketh abomination.” We know almost intuitively what a lie is, but are we left in the dark as to what God considers abominable?—Hardly; for God instructed His prophets to show His people just what is abominable: “Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations.” Ezekiel 16:2.

The prophet then begins a long allegory of Israel’s fallen condition, concluding in verses 48–50: “As I live, saith the Lord God, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.”

We can begin learning what the Lord considers to be abominable by searching the Scriptures for characteristics of the residents of Sodom. Several of their character traits are given in the passage quoted above as reasons for its destruction:

1. Iniquity
2. Pride
3. Fullness of bread
4. Abundance of idleness
5. Failure to help the poor and needy
6. Haughtiness (synonymous with pride. That it is repeated is significant.)
7. Committing abominations (that word again!)

It could be maintained that pride, fullness of bread, idleness, lack of charity, haughtiness, and abominable behavior are all manifestations of iniquity or that the phraseology of verse 49 indicates that these are the specific kinds of iniquity that Ezekiel was told to point out. However, we know from Scripture that there were indeed...
other forms of iniquity practiced in Sodom in addition to the specific ones outlined in these verses, the most notorious of which deal with sexual immorality. And is the world today not sickeningly mimicking that aspect of the inhabitants of Sodom?—“For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the Lorn, to provoke the eyes of his glory. The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.” Isaiah 3:8–9.

How many of the world, indeed, how many professed Seventh-day Adventists, are boldly disobeying the plainest instructions in the Word of God! And “they hide it not.” Ezekiel thus concludes his accusations against Israel in chapter 16, verses 58–59: “Thou hast borne thy lewdness and thine abominations, saith the Lord. For thus saith the Lord G0v: I will even deal with thee as thou has done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant.”

Clearly it is incumbent upon anyone who desires to reside in God’s kingdom to know what He considers abominable. A thorough study of God’s Word reveals more than 100 verses using the various forms of the word “abomination.” And a study of those verses reveals that it is through engaging in these abominations, these varying forms of disobedience, that we as a people are losing our distinctiveness, failing to be the peculiar people that God has called us to be. Herein lies one of our greatest dangers.

Some of the more common abominations are obvious, such as idolatry, sexual immorality in all its various forms, murder, lying, and so on. The references to these in Scripture are so prevalent that to quote them all would require several pages. However, there are some scriptural definitions of abominable behaviors that few today, even among professed Adventists, would view as contrary to God’s Word or consider worthy of rebuke, much less of the dire end that Scripture enjoins for the disobedient. Consider for example the following list with representative Scripture references:

- Sun worship/astrology—Though a form of idolatry, it is specifically mentioned in 2 Kings 23:5–13 as an evil which Josiah “put down” and “took away.”

- Justifying the wicked/condemning the just—Proverbs 17:15.
- Prayer from one who denies the claims of the law—Proverbs 28:9.
- Refusing to acknowledge or live by God’s judgments and statutes—Ezekiel 5:5–9.
- Apostasy—Ezekiel, chapters 8 and 9 are worthy of much study. They contain a prophecy of the professed church in the last days. See The Great

A thorough study of God’s Word reveals more than 100 verses using the various forms of the word “abomination.”

- Human sacrifices—2 Kings 16:3; 23:10.
- Fortune-telling, magic, wizardry—Deuteronomy 18:10–12.
- Eating or even touching an unclean thing—Leviticus 11:13; 24; 20:25.
- Dressing in opposite-gender clothing—Deuteronomy 22:5.
- Cheating in business deals—Deuteronomy 25:14–16; Proverbs 11:1; 20:10, 23.
- Living unrighteously—Deuteronomy 25:16.
- Failure to come apart and be separate/marrying out of the faith—Ezra 9:1–2.
- Being stubbornly disobedient or obstinate—Proverbs 3:32; 11:20.
- Bearing false witness and sowing discord—Proverbs 6:19.


- Allowing apostate spiritual leaders to conduct services in the sanctuary—Ezekiel 44:10–13.

Some of the examples of abominations mentioned in Scripture deserve a deeper study. When we dip more deeply into God’s Word (or as Sister White says, as we mine for jewels), God through His Holy Spirit opens our minds to receive light that would otherwise be buried. Consider for example Deuteronomy 23:18. On the surface, God’s Word condemns giving as an offering any money acquired through sexual immorality. However, through deeper study, we can see that the meaning is much broader.

continued on page 19...
Of all the generations who have lived in the 6,000 years of the great controversy, possibly 100 billion or more men, women, and children have lived and died. This is the greatest hour in the history of our world in which Satan has brought wars, suffering, misery, and death to our planet. Satan has now come down with great wrath because he knows he has a very short time before the probation of the world closes.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.

His plans to deceive and destroy the Seventh-day Adventist people and their mission are revealed in numerous passages in the Bible and from the pen of our prophet, Ellen White. On occasion we are given an opportunity to listen in on the enemy’s plans. One example is the passage entitled “The Snares of Satan,” printed in the sidebar that accompanies this article. Please stop and read it right now.

What a commentary! What a plan of destruction of the remnant church of God! We ask the question, Has it been successful?—Yes, a thousand times yes. Yet, there is still more to his plan to destroy the great pillars of our faith—the Sabbath, the sanctuary message, and the great warning messages of Revelation 14:6–12, and Revelation, chapter 18.

Again, we turn to Inspiration to further understand his satanic plans for our destruction:

“During the Christian dispensation, the great enemy of man’s happiness has made the Sabbath of the fourth commandment an object of special attack. Satan says, ‘I will work at cross purposes with God. I will empower my followers to set aside God’s memorial, the seventh-day Sabbath. Thus I will show the world that the day sanctified and blessed by God has been changed. That day shall not live in the minds of the people. I will obliterate the memory of it. I will place in its stead a day that does not bear the credentials of God, a day that cannot be a sign between God and His people. I will lead those who accept this day to place upon it the sanctity that God placed upon the seventh day.”

‘Through my viceroy, I will exalt myself. The first day will be extolled, and the Protestant world will receive this spurious sabbath as genuine. Through the nonobservance of the Sabbath that God instituted, I will bring His law into contempt. The words, “A sign between me and you throughout your generations” (Exodus 31:13), I will make to serve on the side of my sabbath.’

‘Thus the world will become mine. I will be the ruler of the earth, the prince of the world. I will so control the minds under my power that God’s Sabbath shall be a special object of contempt. A sign? I will make the observance of the seventh day a sign of disloyalty to the authorities of earth. Human laws will be made so stringent that men and women will not dare to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. For fear of wanting food and clothing, they will join with the world in transgressing God’s law. The earth will be wholly under my dominion.”

“Through the setting up of a false sabbath, the enemy thought to change times and laws. But has he really succeeded in changing God’s law?—The words of the thirty-first chapter of Exodus are the answer. He who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, has declared of the seventh-day Sabbath: ‘It is a sign between me and you throughout your generations.’ ‘It is a sign . . . for ever.’ Verse 17. The changed signpost is pointing the wrong
way, but God has not changed. He is still the mighty God of Israel. ‘Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.’ Isaiah 40: 15–17. And He is just as jealous for His law now as He was in the days of Ahab and Elijah.” Prophets and Kings, 183–185.

Can we not see and understand what Satan has done to us? The sacredness of true Sabbathkeeping has been forgotten by most of our leaders, pastors, and laity. Very few are keeping Sabbath according to Isaiah 58:13–14.

**Last Movements Are Very Rapid**

We have been told that as we draw near the end, the greatest apostasy will prevail within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is called the Omega. There will be a falling away from the great pillars and landmarks of our faith:

“As God called the children of Israel out of Egypt, that they might keep His Sabbath, so He calls His people out of Babylon, that they may not worship the beast or his image. The man of sin, who thought to change times and laws, has exalted himself above God, by presenting a spurious sabbath to the world; the Christian world has accepted the child of the Papacy, and cradled and nourished it, thus defying God by removing His memorial, and setting up a rival sabbath.

“After the truth has been proclaimed as a witness to all nations, every conceivable power of evil will be set in operation, and minds will be confused by many voices crying, ‘Lo, here is Christ; lo, He is there. This is the truth, I have the message from God, He has sent me with great light.’ Then there will be a removing of the landmarks, and an attempt to tear down the pillars of our faith. A more decided effort will be made to exalt the false sabbath, and to cast contempt upon God Himself by supplanting the day He has blessed and sanctified.

This false sabbath is to be enforced by an oppressive law.” The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 984–985.

Where are the watchmen, leaders, pastors, and lay leaders who will stand for the landmarks of our faith?

Sunday laws will soon be a reality. Let us again take note of God’s warning of what will soon take place.

**Compulsory Sunday Laws**

“The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, lay aside reason and the fear of God and follow custom and tradition.

“I will influence popular ministers to turn the attention of their hearers from the commandments of God. That which the Scriptures declare to be a perfect law of liberty shall be represented as a yoke of bondage. The people accept their minister’s explanations of Scripture and do not investigate for themselves. Therefore, by working through the ministers, I can control the people according to my will.

“But our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbathkeepers. We must excite popular indignation against them. We will enlist great men and worldly-wise men upon our side, and induce those in authority to carry out our purposes.

The Snares of Satan

By Ellen G. White

As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.

Says the great deceiver: “We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; they will lead many to see the claims of the law of God; and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and shows that the last work for man’s salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in darkness till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also.

“The Sabbath is the great question which is to decide the destiny of souls. We must exalt the sabbath of our creating. We have caused it to be accepted by both worldlings and church members; now the church must be led to unite with the world in its support. We must work by signs and wonders to blind their eyes to the truth, and lead them to silence this sect of Sabbathkeepers.
or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance.”

The Great Controversy, 592.

“Those who are under the influence of a false religion, who observe a spurious rest day, will set aside the most positive evidence in regard to the true Sabbath. They underhand manner among the clergymen of various denominations, and the object of this secret maneuvering is to win popular favor for the enforcement of Sunday sacredness. If the people can be led to favor a Sunday law, then the clergy intend to exert their united influence to obtain a religious amendment to the Constitution, and compel the nation to keep Sunday.”

Review and Herald, December 24, 1889.

A call will soon come (indeed it is even now being urged) from the clergy asking the state to honor prevailing in society. Because of mankind’s perverseness and iniquity, God is truly giving man up to the sure results of his sin. This is evidenced by the many increasing problems in nature, society, finance, and so on. However, it is mistakenly believed that the fearful cause of all these judgments is the direct result of the desecration of Sunday. Sadly, men will break God’s law, thinking they are working toward establishing morality and obedience to God’s commandments.

The signs of the times are now ominous.

The thirteenth chapter of Revelation is being fulfilled. The second beast of Revelation 13:11–18 (the United States of America) is now in a position to enforce the worship of the image to the first beast of Revelation, chapter 13—the Papacy.

May God help us to wisely use every moment of our time and every talent He has given us to work for the salvation of our own souls and of others—both in reformation and revival in His remnant church and in evangelistic work near and far. ¶

Where are the watchmen, leaders, pastors, and lay leaders who will stand for the landmarks of our faith?

will try to compel men to obey the laws of their own creation, laws that are directly opposed to the law of God.” Testimonies, vol. 9, 234.

“Plans of serious import to the people of God are advancing in an Sunday by law. Then church and state will compel men to honor Sunday.

One of the reasons for the current and future push for Sunday laws is a belief that God’s judgments are due to the immorality who are now ranked with commandment-keepers will come over to our side.

“But before proceeding to these extreme measures, we must exert all our wisdom and subtlety to deceive and ensnare those who honor the true Sabbath. We can separate many from Christ by worldliness, lust, and pride. They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passions, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall.

“Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with the cares of this life. Present the world before them in its most attractive light, that they may lay up their treasure here and fix their affections upon earthly things. We must do our utmost to prevent those who labor in God’s cause from obtaining means to use against us. Keep the money in our own ranks. The more means they obtain, the more they will injure our kingdom by taking from us our subjects. Make them care more for money than for the upbuilding of Christ’s kingdom and the spread of the truths we hate, and we need not fear their influence; for we know that every selfish, covetous person will fall under our power, and will finally be separated from God’s people.

“Through those that have a form of godliness but know not the power, we can gain many who would otherwise do us harm. Lovers of
...continued from page 15

The word translated “whore” in this text is more commonly translated “harlot” or “adultery.” The implication then for the phrase “the hire of a whore” is any money gained through any type of sexual immorality. Bear in mind that Scripture tells us that when Israel turned to idolatry or false worship, she is judged to have committed harlotry or adultery. See Jeremiah 3:8–9; Hosea 4:12.

We can conclude then that to make an offering of any money that is gained contrary to God’s Word is an abomination to Him. For example, someone might maintain that to keep his job, he has to work on the Sabbath. (We are not speaking here of emergency or healthcare workers.) To justify his “harlotry,” he makes an offering of his earnings for that day. Such an offering, according to Deuteronomy 23:18, is an abomination to God and will result in the giver’s being cut off from the kingdom unless confession and repentance are made.

For a comprehensive summation of abominable behaviors, study Ezekiel, chapters 18 and 22. In these chapters, God gives us an eye-opening delineation of what He considers abominable: theft, murder, idolatry, adultery, oppression, violence, failure to keep your word, usury, vexing the fatherless and widows, lewdness, accepting bribes, extortion, giving false witness against the innocent, profaning the Sabbath, and forgetting God. Any of these terms that are unfamiliar should only prompt us to study further to know the meaning for ourselves, that we might be found among God’s peculiar and holy people, not among those who are “practicing the very things which Jesus has taught that they should not do” as stated in the following quotation:

“Those who claim to know the truth and understand the great work to be done for this time are to consecrate themselves to God, soul, body, and spirit. In heart, in dress, in language, in every respect, they are to be separate from the fashions and practices of the world. They are to be a peculiar and holy people. It is not their dress that makes them peculiar, but because they are a peculiar and holy people, they cannot carry the marks of likeness to the world. . . .

“Many who suppose they are going to heaven are blindfolded by the world. Their ideas of what constitutes a religious education and religious discipline are vague, resting only on probabilities; there are many who have no intelligent hope, and are running great risk in practicing the very things which Jesus has taught that they should not do, in eating, drinking, and dressing, binding themselves up with the world in a variety of ways. They have yet to learn the serious lessons so essential to growth in spirituality, to come out from the world and be separate. The heart is divided, the carnal mind craves conformity, similarity to the world in so many ways that the mark of distinction from the world is scarcely distinguishable. Money, God’s money, is expended in order to make an appearance after the world’s customs; the religious experience is contaminated with worldliness, and the evidence of discipleship—Christ’s likeness in self-denial and cross-bearing—is not discernible by the world or by the universe of heaven.” Fundamentals of Christian Education, 311.

God help us to be the peculiar people He would have us to be!

pleasure more than lovers of God will be our most effective helpers. Those of this class who are apt and intelligent will serve as decoys to draw others into our snares. Many will not fear their influence, because they profess the same faith. We will thus lead them to conclude that the requirements of Christ are less strict than they once believed, and that by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings. Thus they will separate from Christ; then they will have no strength to resist our power, and ere long they will be ready to ridicule their former zeal and devotion.

“Until the great decisive blow shall be struck, our efforts against commandment-keepers must be untiring. We must be present at all their gatherings. In their large meetings especially our cause will suffer much, and we must exercise great vigilance, and employ all our seductive arts to prevent souls from hearing the truth and becoming impressed by it.

“I will have upon the ground, as my agents, men holding false doctrines mingled with just enough truth to deceive souls. I will also have unbelieving ones present who will express doubts in regard to the Lord’s messages of warning to His church. Should the people read and believe these admonitions, we could have little hope of overcoming them. But if we can divert their attention from these warnings, they will remain ignorant of our power and cunning, and we shall secure them in our ranks at last. God will not permit His words to be slighted with impunity. If we can keep souls deceived for a time, God’s mercy will be withdrawn, and He will give them up to our full control.

“We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety for their own souls, and lead them to criticize, to judge, and to accuse and condemn one another, and to cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence; and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate.”

Testimonies to Ministers, 472–475. For further study, see The Great Controversy, 37, 593–602; Early Writings, 71–73.
Satan's Two Attacks

Joe Crews

Suppose you had to summarize the entire Bible in just two words. What would you choose? I believe those words would have to be sin and salvation. That is really what the Bible is about, from Genesis to Revelation.

The devil purposed in the beginning to make man sin, and to steal away his salvation.

You see, God had based everything upon obedience. He had given life, a righteous character, and dominion over the earth on just one condition: obey and live. Of course, man sinned, and transgression and the curse of sin were transferred to this earth for the very first time. Thus began the mighty conflict, between good and evil, Christ and Satan, obedience and disobedience.

From this point on the Bible is filled with the story of God’s great program to bring man back to that original position of obedience from which he fell:

“Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21. Sin is disobedience; it is breaking God’s law. Sometimes people come to me and say, “Oh Brother Joe, you talk too much about the law, and about judgment. Why don’t you talk about grace, mercy, and the love of Jesus?” Friends, I have never been able to separate the law from love.

Two Camps

When you come to the very last book of the Bible you will find that this whole world is going to be divided into two great camps. Either we are going to have the seal of God, or the mark of the beast.

Every person in the world is going to make a decision based upon the law of God. If we love Him enough it will be revealed in obedience to God’s great law, and so we will receive the seal of God. The mark of the beast has also to do with this matter of obedience. You see, the condition that God set up in the beginning for man to remain in the Garden of Eden is the condition for man to return to the Garden of Eden.

In the last book of the Bible, what is the great outstanding characteristic of the saints, of those who will be translated out of this world?—They keep the commandments of God: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12. See also Revelation 12:17; Revelation 22:14.

God must have a people, friends, who can be trusted with eternal life, for we will retain our power of choice throughout all eternity. This is certainly the grandest gift that God ever bestowed upon the human family.

Will sin ever rise a second time?—No, no, the Bible says affliction will never rise a second time. See Nahum 1:9. But how are the angels going to know that? Imagine, how are these beautiful creatures of God going to feel about the gift of immortality and a home in heaven being bestowed upon these representatives of the race that killed their beloved Commander?—They are going to know it by the experience that we are having right now. This world is where our faith and our characters are being prepared and tested for that companionship of heavenly angels.

Mark this down: no one will go through the pearly gates of the heavenly city of God who would not rather lay down his life and die rather than sin or displease God in any way.

The devil’s work has always been to make people sin, for that is the only thing that will keep anybody out of heaven. The Bible says, nothing which defileth will go
through the gates. See Revelation 21:27. Sin is the only thing that defiles, as far as God is concerned, so this means that the least sin will not go in there.

The devil's plan is to make us look lightly upon disobedience, to make sin appear unobjectionable. He is constantly inventing new weapons to lead people into sin, and if something works well in one generation, he will continue to use it. That is why persecution will be one of the great weapons that Satan will use at the very end of time.

Who Are You Serving?

Satan understood a principle long before the apostle Paul ever wrote it in the pages of the New Testament:

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” Romans 6:16.

Whoever you obey, you become a servant of that power. The devil’s program involves turning you away from obeying God so you cease to be God’s servant and become a servant of Satan.

If the devil can make everybody sin, then he will fulfill that false accusation that he brought against God in the very beginning. He said, “You are asking them to do the impossible. Man cannot obey that law. It is a spiritual law, and man is carnal and fallen, and therefore you are not fair, by requiring an impossible thing.”

In order to disprove these false charges, in order to vindicate His name before the universe, God must produce a people who can live without sin. If God cannot produce, through the power of the gospel, a people who can be fully obedient, then the devil was absolutely right. This whole program is going on today as a mighty object lesson and demonstration before the universe.

The great controversy is not being fought on some far-away galactic battlefield. No, it is being fought right here in the hearts of all the people who are living in this world. You and I have been born on the battlefield, and we must take sides. We must know who our enemy is, who his allies are, and what his battle plans and weapons are. God’s plan is for His people today to learn these things and to prepare for the final contest that is coming up very, very soon.

You Worship Me in Vain

Let me say this. The devil does not care why you disobey, as long kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Verse 21.

What is the will of the Father? — It is written in the law of God and then engraved in the minds and hearts of all who are God’s people under the new covenant relationship. These people in Matthew, chapter 7, were not obedient to God’s law; therefore, Jesus said, “No, no you are not my people. I do not even know you. You are doing these works, but they are not my works. They are just done in my name, but they are not mine.”

If God cannot produce, through the power of the gospel, a people who can be fully obedient, then the devil was absolutely right.

Now, turn to Matthew 15:9. I can just see the consternation on the faces of those Pharisees as Christ uttered these words, “But in vain they do worship me.”

These people thought that if they just faithfully carried out the form of worship every Sabbath, doing what they considered to be their obligation, it would earn them a place in the kingdom of heaven. However, Jesus is saying, “You worship me in vain.” What did He say next? — “Teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

“Why,” He said, “you have not been keeping my commandments. You have not been teaching my law. You have brought in human laws and the traditions of man and have put my commandments aside. That is the reason your worship is vain.” Let me tell you, doctrine has a lot to do with our correct worship.

Obviously, you can worship God in vain, and there is a lot of vain, empty worship today that involves a lot of devotion, excitement, and
demonstration. Jesus said, “You worship me in vain because you are not keeping my commandments, and you brought in the commandments of men instead.”

Jesus said, “If ye love me,” do what?—“Keep my commandments.” John 14:15.

**Religious Reasons to Disobey**

In 1 Samuel, chapter 15, we read that Saul went up to fight against the Amalekites. Those people had become so degraded, so perverted and polluted that God said, “Do not bring anything back. Destroy everything.” See verse 3.

The devil suggests that if you and I work hard enough at it we will be able to keep God’s law so well that God will be obligated to save us.

Samuel came out to meet the returning army the next day, and Saul met him with those pompous words, “Blessed be thou of the Lord.” Verse 13.

Samuel broke through all of that apostasy and said, Saul, “What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” Verse 14.

Saul said, “Well, the people wanted to bring back some of the best to give to God. This is not for us. We are going to put this on the altar. We are going to worship God with this.” See verse 15.

How in the world could we worship God by disobeying Him? If anybody ever came up with a religious reason for disobeying God, this was it.

Did Samuel say, “Well, that is great Saul. I had not thought about that. That is a good idea to give the best to God”?—No, no; he said, Saul, “to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. This day the Lord has rejected you from being king.” See verses 22–23.

Friends, to obey is better than anything. Why?—Because God has made obedience the great test of our love and our loyalty.

Today, we have exactly the same thing taking place in the world. Wherever you are, within 50 miles there are probably thousands of people disobeying God. Next Sabbath morning, they will be out working during the Sabbath. And what did God write with His own finger in the very heart of the great

Perhaps you have seen the bumper stickers that say, “Honk if you love Jesus.” “Wave if you love Jesus.” What did Jesus say? “If ye love me,” do what?—“Keep my commandments.”

People have this idea that love is simply to be happy—hugging everybody and telling everybody you love them—and that this is the heart and core of religion. That is what is being taught today, my friends, and there is a great danger that many Seventh-day Adventists are believing the same thing.

However, God never said that good and happy feelings are the height and the acid test of true religion. He did say, “If you love me, keep my commandments—obey me.” That is the real test.

**Counterfeit Righteousness**

Let us look at two great strategies that the devil has invented to make people disobey God.

We mentioned that Satan knows that sin will keep anybody out of heaven, and he wants to make everybody sin—Christians, non-Christians, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Seventh-day Adventists, everybody.

Can one willful sin neutralize the whole power of the gospel in the life of an individual?—It absolutely can. See Testimonies, vol. 5, 53. One cherished sin can cause people to be lost.

Let us look at the first trick that the devil uses to make people sin. The devil says something like this: “Listen, you know what the Bible says? The Bible says, ‘Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.’ This text says that keeping the law is the big thing. If you can be good enough by keeping every tiny bit of the law, why, you will be able to go to heaven as a result.”

Is there some truth in what he says?—Yes, we should be very careful to keep God’s commandments.
Yet, is there also a deadly error mixed up with it?—Yes, there is a strain of legalism in there. The devil suggests that if you and I work hard enough at it we will be able to keep God’s law so well that God will be obligated to save us.

Now, that is what we call legalism, friends. And I am not going to tell you that there is none of it in Christianity today. There are millions of people who have been blinded, and deceived by legalism, and they really believe that they can and will be saved if they are just very careful in keeping all of the law.

Every non-Christian religion is full of legalism. They are based upon it. The participants believe that they can earn their salvation by fulfilling a certain set of rules and penances.

You might say, “Well, Brother Joe, wouldn’t this argument of Satan really cause people to obey the law better, by telling them if they try harder, and if they can be good enough that they will be able to be saved?” —No, not really.

The devil knows that in Eden it was easier for Adam and Eve to obey God compared to now. Why?—They each had a perfect mind, a holy character. You and I are not so much drawn into sin by external things, as by that which comes from within. Adam and Eve had nothing from within that drew them toward disobedience or sin.

The devil says, “If Adam and Eve had just tried a little harder, they could have lived forever. They did not need to die. They could have obeyed God’s law, and that would have saved them. So, all you have to do is to just be more careful, try harder, and keep that law better.”

Then people try to obey in their own strength. They try and fail, and finally, they give up and say, “It cannot be done. God is not going to require the impossible of me; therefore, He will go ahead and save me in my sin, because you cannot really overcome sin.”

Reconciled Enemies
Just suppose that you perfectly obeyed God’s law from this moment for the rest of your life. Would that save you?—No, because you have already sinned. We have all sinned before we had the power to live without any sin for the rest of our lives. And the wages of sin is what?—Death. And without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. See Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:22. So you see, friends, that plan will not work.

The only individual who ever lived in this world without committing a single sin was Jesus Christ; He had a perfect record of righteousness. The word righteousness really means right doing.

There is not a person who would be willing to stand before God on the basis of the record of his own life, for each one of us can remember things that we would like to blot out of our ugly past.

God will only accept a perfect record of right doing. You might say, “Well, Brother Joe, then that means that we are lost. There is no hope for us.” That is true, unless by some means you and I may receive the credit for the perfect record of Jesus.

Look at the first part of Romans 5:10: “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son . . .”

This says we were enemies. We got separated from Him. In the beginning there was no separation. There was perfect oneness—“at-one-ment.” You know, that is atonement—perfect union between God and man—and that must be restored.

The sin problem has to be resolved somehow before we can be “at one” with God again. And so

Jesus wants to come into your heart and live out His wonderful life of obedience so that we may demonstrate the life and character of Jesus.

Counterfeit Faith
Now, what is the second strategy that the devil uses?—He comes and says, “You know you are not
really saved by works. That was all wrong. We are not under the law; we are under grace. We are not saved by works; we are saved by grace through faith. We are not under the old covenant; we are under the new covenant. The law cannot save us, so you do not have to worry about the Ten Commandments. All you have to do is just love Jesus it, because “faith without works is dead.” James 2:26.

You see, the devil has counterfeited both ends of the most beautiful experience that ever came to a human being—that of righteousness by faith. He has counterfeited the “righteousness” end with legalism, and he has counterfeited the “faith” end with a counterfeit faith of faith. In Romans 7:7, Paul says, “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.” He quotes right out of the Ten Commandments.

Now, let us take a brief look at 1 John, chapter 3, beginning with verse 4. Here is a very simple, succinct definition of sin: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” John is saying the same thing that Paul said. He is saying sin is transgressing the law. Paul made it very clear that the law was the Ten Commandments.

Look at verse 5, keeping the definition of sin in mind: “And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins. . . .” To take away our sins. So Jesus came to save us from what? —From breaking God’s law.

The rest of the verse says, “And in him is no sin.” Jesus was perfectly obedient.

Then verse 6 says: “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not.”

This verse says, if you have Christ dwelling in you, you will not break God’s commandments. “Whosoever sinneth,” whoever does walk in willful disobedience, “hath not seen him, neither known him.” You say, “Brother, What is he saying?” Now, do not quote me; I am quoting John here. God told him to say that.

Look at the next two verses: “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil.” Verses 7–8.

John said if men who are claiming to be righteous are disobeying God, forget it. They are not children of God; they are children of the devil. They are not serving God at all, they are serving Satan instead, because they are serving a different master.

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One of the greatest deceptions of the devil in these days is that you can be willfully transgressing God’s law and still have the assurance of salvation.

and everything will be all right. He will save you.”

Notice how the devil mixes up a lot of truth together and then puts it into a little strain of deadly error. What is the error this time? — It is the idea that you do not have to worry about obeying the law, that obedience has nothing to do with salvation. That is how this whole idea comes in about “cheap grace” or “sloppy agape.” This is one of the greatest deceptions today that will destroy millions upon millions of people.

We meet it all the time in evangelism. People of all faiths will say “amen” while you preach those first few sermons. However, when you get down to the subject of law and grace, and to the Sabbath, those people will turn and say, “Oh Brother Joe, don’t talk to us about that old law. We are not under the law; we are under grace. We are not saved by those old commandments of God; we are saved by grace. Don’t talk to us about the commandments.” You see, they have been blinded by Satan. It is so hard for people to see the beautiful balance between faith and works.

You do not have any true faith if you do not have works to go with that does not produce obedience. The devil does not care which end you go off on, as long as it is one end or the other.

There has to be a balance. Our faith has to be so real that it will produce genuine works of obedience.

**Saving Faith**

There are three kinds of faith mentioned in the Bible.

One of them does not work at all. It is mentioned in James. Even the devils have it—the “devils also believe, and tremble.” Verse 19. It is just an intellectual assent, and it will not save anybody. The devils know the Bible is true, but it will not help them.

The second kind of faith does work. It is like you are driving your car and you come to a sign that says, “Stop.” Your faith works, and you bring the car to a stop. Why do you do it? Are you afraid that another car might slam into you? Are you afraid that maybe a policeman is watching? You have a faith that works, but it works from what? — Fear. And that, my friends, is legalism again, and it will not save anyone either.

Let us look at the experience that results from the third kind...
A Solemn Appeal to Laodicea

Ellen G. White

If those who knew the truth, the present truth for this time, would individually realize that a responsibility rests upon them to communicate to those who know not the truth, the light the Lord has graciously given them, they would more nearly meet the mind of Christ. They would be His light, penetrating the darkness of error which covers the religious world, and which is as dense as the darkness that enveloped the Jewish nation in the days of Christ.

Shall Seventh-day Adventists walk in the same path as did the Jewish nation? Shall the message to the Laodicean church be applicable to this people? Shall those who have seen great light, who have had large opportunities and many privileges, cease to do service as witnesses for Christ? Those who know the truth, but who feel no special burden to reveal corresponding works, will be like that servant who knew his Master’s will, but did it not.

The Lord has appointed every converted soul to witness for Him.

The light that has been given to the individual members of His church is to shine forth, not merely in much talk, but in good works. Every talent entrusted to every soul is to be traded upon. The talents that might have been put out to the exchangers by those who have done nothing in the service of God will be required again with the improvements that the Lord required His stewards to make. Every jot of light, of ability, of influence, is to be used, not for self-pleasing, but for the Lord. We are to be yoked up with Christ in perfect obedience to the Lord our God, who is holy, just, and good. Thus God’s people may develop characters of increasing consecration, efficiency, and tact, and act their part as laborers together with God.

Why are so many so slow in recognizing the work they ought to do in seeking to save that which is lost? Consider prayerfully what is to be done. Kill indolence. Lay hold of personal labor. Too much labor is done by those who minister in word and doctrine in behalf of churches that should be set to work themselves. The church members should carry a weight of responsibility. They should keep their own souls in the love of God by exercising all the powers they have. By precept and example they should bear witness of the power of the truth and grace of Christ upon human hearts. This will commend the truth that the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign between them and their God. Obedience in the observance of the Sabbath testifies of the sanctification received through its observance.

In many of our organized churches the banner of truth is trailing in the dust because the members are not doing service to God, but are serving their own pleasure. They work through the influences that surround the soul. By precept and example, in self-indulgence, in their worldly habits of dress, in their words and actions, they testify against the truth, against self-denial, against the meekness of Christ. They are cold spiritually, and far separated from Christ. If
they followed in the footsteps of Christ, they would be partakers of His self-denial, of His self-sacrifice, that they might lift up and save the souls that are ready to perish.

The talents entrusted to men may be used in an unsecrected manner, by doing a good action from impulse in a haphazard way, refusing to see opportunities that are close by and that should claim the attention. Many practice self-denial and self-sacrifice by fits and starts. They need to seek the wisdom that comes from God alone. They need to consult their Leader. They need to do much praying, stand what this means, “Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”? See 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.

Entire consecration to God, living an undivided heart-life of service, this is a living testimony to the world that you recognize your accountability to improve. Every entrusted talent is to be treated as absolutely and really belonging to Him whose you are by creation and redemption. Consecration of words, of voice, of every work, is needed. This act of sanctification of soul, body, and spirit is not an act on the strated in making that law void by their wrong principles.

True Commandment-keepers, or Liars and Decoys?

The true commandment-keeping people of God show to the world a character of unspotted integrity, testifying by their own course of action that the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. See Psalm 19:7. Thus the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, through His obedience to the law of God, exalted and made that law honorable. God will surely condemn every member of every church claiming to be Seventh-day Adventist, who is not doing Him service, but through pride, selfishness, and worldliness, is showing that the truth of heavenly origin has not worked a reformation in his character.

Please read carefully Revelation 3:15–18. The voice of Jesus Christ is heard, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore [not half-hearted], and repent. Behold, I [your Saviour] stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” Verses 19–21.

Will the churches heed the Laodicean message? Will they repent, or will they, notwithstanding that the most solemn message of truth—the third angel’s message—is being proclaimed to the world, go on in sin? This is the last message of mercy, the last warning to a fallen world. If the church of God becomes lukewarm, it does not stand in favor with God any more than do the churches that are represented as having fallen and become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird. Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, calling them-

The true commandment-keeping people of God show to the world a character of unspotted integrity, testifying by their own course of action “the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.”

much trusting in Jesus Christ that His Holy Spirit may work in them, revealing a straightforward course of service which God will approve, and which will be a benefit and blessing to many souls. The consecration of all our words and actions to God makes us His witnesses. It develops a character that is the result of cherishing the truth in all its principles. Truth is not a cheap commodity; it is as precious gold, tried in the fire.

We pass through this world but once. Let every step taken by those who claim to be sons and daughters of God be forward. Listen to the words of Christ: He that “will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” Matthew 16:24. This alone will designate each of us as His disciples. Are we witnessing before the angels of heaven and before the worlds unfallen that we as human beings recognize that we under- part of the human agent of creating anything and rendering it to God. All we have is from God and by Him. It is just as much His, if we do not recognize it thus and take some credit to ourselves. By consecrating all to God, you are simply showing the angels of heaven that you recognize that soul, body, and spirit belong to the Lord, and are to be devoted to His service.

The talent given to the unprofitable servant, which he wrapped in a napkin and buried in the earth, was the Lord’s own, entrusted to the servant for use. It was to be so used that it would gain other talents. Our life is to be a life of earnest, thoughtful service to God. Those who feel no real obligation to represent the truth in life and character, who do not testify to the power of the grace of Christ by revealing the reformation it has wrought in them, fail to exalt the law of God before those whose characters are demon-
selves the commandment-keeping people of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, will receive of the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God. Only those that are sanctified through the truth will compose the royal family in the heavenly mansions Christ has gone to prepare for those that love Him and keep His commandments.

“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” 1 John 2:4. This includes all who claim to have a knowledge of God, and to keep His commandments, but who do not manifest this by good works. They will receive according to their deeds. “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.” 1 John 3:6. This is addressed to all church members, including the members of the Seventh-day Adventist churches.

“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.” Verses 7–10.

All who claim to be Sabbathkeeping Adventists and yet continue in sin are liars in God’s sight. Their sinful course is counter-working the work of God. They are leading others into sin. The word comes from God to every member of our churches, “And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.” Hebrews 12:13–17.

This is applicable to many who claim to believe the truth. Rather than give up their lustful practices, they venture on in a wrong line of education under Satan’s deceiving sophistry. Sin is not discerned as sinful. Their very consciences are defiled, their hearts are corrupted, even the thoughts are continually corrupt. Satan uses them as decoys to lure souls to unclean practices which defile the whole being. “He that despised Moses’ law [which was the law of God] died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:28–31.


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...continued from page 24

Look at verse 9: “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.”

Whoever is truly converted, is filled with the Holy Spirit, and has a true genuine love relationship with Jesus—they will not keep on disobeying Him, “for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

Who is the seed of the woman?—That is Jesus. As long as Jesus is abiding and living in your heart you cannot sin. The only way that you can sin is to separate yourself from Jesus and put Him out of your heart.

You cannot have Jesus and the assurance of salvation at the same time that you are willfully and deliberately sinning. The apostle says, “You cannot sin because Jesus is in your heart, and as long as He is there giving His strength, and His grace, and His power, and His victory you cannot sin, but if you want to sin you separate from Jesus. You put Him out, and then you can sin.”

One of the greatest deceptions of the devil in these days is that you can be willfully transgressing God’s law and still have the assurance of salvation.

One thing is never spoken in the Bible about sin—that is, to reduce the amount of sin you commit. Any time the Bible speaks about sin, it says just one thing—*do not do it.* Jesus did not say go and taper off on this thing. Jesus came to save us *from* our sins, not *in* our sins.

I pray that God will give us that deep spiritual awareness—that as long as we have Jesus in our hearts we have power over sin.

“Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57.

“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27.

That hope, my friends, is the hope of eternal salvation that is brought to us as we put our faith in Jesus. *

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*The late Joe Crews was the founder of Amazing Facts, a ministry now located in California. This article was adapted with permission from a sermon preached at a Hartland camp meeting. You may order a recording of this and other messages by Joe Crews from Hartland Publications by calling 1-800-774-3366.*

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*Volume 18, Number 11*
Music and the Great Controversy
part 2

H. Lloyd Leno

The intellectualization of jazz in the late 1940s and early 1950s paved the way for the next style of music and dance that brought back the emphasis on body movement with sexual implications. The writer has studied a number of sources describing the origin, purpose, and meaning of rock and roll, but none are more articulate and explicit than that of William Bowling Hedgepeth, a contemporary of the famous rock star Mick Jagger. At age 31 he recalls his experience when at age 13 he attended a “rhythm and blues” show in Atlanta. He reminds us that as the forerunner of rock and roll, rhythm and blues “was black music for black people. It was repetitious city sounds and feelings set in a sort of neoprehistoric drumbeat cadence with overtones of gospel and undercurrents of relentless tension. It was like jazz in many ways but played with different instruments, always in 4/4 time (stressing the second and fourth beats) and almost always with an air of deliberate artlessness. . . . Mostly the songs were semipornographic paens to [violence and promiscuity]. . . .

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

“Whatever it was, it clearly induced young Anglo-Saxons to employ their torsos in distinctly unwhite ways. . . . Mick Jagger declared, ‘My father used to call it jungle music,’ and I used to say, ‘Yeah, that’s right, jungle music, that’s a very good description.’ ”

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

Rhythm and the Body

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

Of all the elements of music, rhythm is the most obvious and,
Therefore, more easily followed through history. Furthermore, since the human being is a rhythmic organism, rhythm is the element to which human beings respond most readily; and this response is physical. This explains why it is the rhythmic element that crosses cultures most easily. In tracing the rhythmic element we found two aspects that characterized pagan worship as well as popular public entertainment: the relative importance of rhythm to the music and the kind of rhythm pattern; in short, amount and type. In the music we have traced, we found first that rhythm always dominated the music. It was always much more important than melody. Second, there was a decided preference for the repetition of pattern and beat. Third, the predominant and distinguishing rhythmic characteristic was that of syncopation.

Syncopation may be defined as placing stress or accent on a normally weak beat or portion of the beat. In Western music the stability and order we feel in rhythm is due to the stress placed regularly on the primary beat(s) or pulse of the measure and on the first part of that beat. This would occur on beats one and three for 4/4 meter and on beat one for 3/4 meter. This gives music order and stability. It can be called normal, psychologically and physiologically, because the regular movements of the arms and legs, as in walking, are based primarily on a 1–2 or 1–2–3–4 sequence with an emphasis on the “down” part of each step. In military marching this feeling of pulse and meter is even more obvious. It is for this reason we find it easy to relate to pulses or phrases with this rhythmic structure. Even waltzes have 4- or 8-measure phrases. When syncopation is used for variety and interest and/or to support a text it is a welcome and exciting departure from the norm. All music as well as life experience needs variety and surprises along with the normal rhythm of routine.

Both music and life need a certain kind of tension as well. But neither music nor life should be based on tension or unexpected events. For variety and interest all composers make use of syncopation. In vocal and choral music it is often used to conform to the rhythm of speech as well as to emphasize certain words.

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

In the practice of music we can recognize that one of the principle issues of the great controversy is involved: the true versus the false concept of God.

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

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

The Truth About God

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

We, as Seventh-day Adventists, should be well aware that Lucifer began at the very beginning to misrepresent the character of God. He is accomplishing this in secular music in two ways: (1) Through the immoral influence of music, specifically the perversion of sexuality, he is attacking one of the most important symbols that God has given us to help us understand Him and His love. That symbol is
Christ as the Bridegroom and the church as the bride. Also, in promoting sexual immorality Satan is seeking to break down the family relationships which help us to appreciate God as a heavenly Parent who deals so graciously with His unruly children. (2) By the use of religious terminology in song titles as well as in the names of rock groups such as “Black Sabbath,” “Gods of Thunder,” “Triumph Over Death” words which usually carry theological meanings are coupled with a contradictory term or associated with a philosophy completely antagonistic to the character of God as revealed in Scripture.

but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil.” Ibid., 558. What a sobering thought, that through a wrong choice of music one could place himself on common ground with spiritualism!

In the doctrine of hell, Satan has pictured God as a vengeful tyrant who will torture sinners for eternity. This doctrine has made atheists of many and caused others to worship out of fear. In certain styles of religious music another false picture of God is created. Instead of portraying God as vengeful and severe, He is represented as being completely permissive. By means of this con-

Whether used for divine worship or as a medium for witness the music we choose makes a statement. What does it say about God; is it the truth?

In religious music the deception is much more subtle and, therefore, perhaps more dangerous. Notice these statements from The Great Controversy in the chapter “Modern Revivals.” Speaking of a revival which will result in ministers and members leaving other churches Mrs. White predicts, “The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.” Describing the counterfeit she adds, “There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead.” The Great Controversy, 464. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Another type of counterfeit is found in spiritualism. We usually associate this religion with mysterious events, but notice — there is a new emphasis: “Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil.” Ibid., 558. What a sobering thought, that through a wrong choice of music one could place himself on common ground with spiritualism!

In the doctrine of hell, Satan has pictured God as a vengeful tyrant who will torture sinners for eternity. This doctrine has made atheists of many and caused others to worship out of fear. In certain styles of religious music another false picture of God is created. Instead of portraying God as vengeful and severe, He is represented as being completely permissive. By means of this con-

Whether used for divine worship or as a medium for witness the music we choose makes a statement. What does it say about God; is it the truth? We might well consider the question Moses put to the backslidden people at Mt. Sinai, “Who is on the Lord’s side?” Therefore, in all our worship and witness, verbal or musical, should we not aspire to follow Christ’s example and reveal the truth about our God? See John 6:38–40; 17:6; The Desire of Ages, 19. Then, whether in everyday activities or in public presentations, we will merit the highest of all commendations, the words of God about Job: He has spoken of me what is right. See Job 42:7. $

Series concluded.

Notes:
1 A song of joyful praise or exultation.
2 To modify prudishly
4 Ibid., 47.
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I’ve just read Rebellion and it is a masterpiece for the remnant people and the times we live in.

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Just a note to say thank you for organizing the camp meeting in Washington. It was a little bit of heaven and now we know how Mrs. White felt when she had to face the darkness of earth after seeing things of heaven. May the Lord continue to bless all of you and your ministry. Thank you for all the speakers—one was no better than another, so that means the Word of God was spoken.

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Please send me as many copies of your book Rebellion as $ — will pay for. Every church member needs this little book!

DA, Idaho

I want to express my great appreciation for the booklet Retreating Toward Egypt. Thank you so very much! What would we do without the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy? God is so patient with His people.

Every dedicated Seventh-day Adventist needs to read this booklet. Thank you for what you are publishing.

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I must first thank you for the book you sent me—Retreating Toward Egypt. It held me spellbound. I did not stop till I read the book. It was such a blessing to me.

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May God continue to direct your ministry for giving the three angels’ message the special sound it needs, to prepare a people for the soon coming of the King of kings and Lord of the universe.

Thanks also for your wonderful magazine, Our Firm Foundation. I look forward every month for my copy. Enclosed is $ — to help in your ministry wherever the needs are. We all have an obligation to God to spread the message while there is yet time. May God continue to bless your work.

MT, New York
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