Every position of truth taken by our people will bear the criticism of the greatest minds; the highest of the world’s great men will be brought in contact with truth, and therefore every position we take should be critically examined and tested by the Scriptures. Now we seem to be unnoticed, but this will not always be. Movements are at work to bring us to the front, and if our theories of truth can be picked to pieces by historians or the world’s greatest men, it will be done.” Letter 6, 1886 (emphasis supplied).

We are told in the gospel of John, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” 17:17. Is it any wonder, then, that Ellen White said the sealing process is none other “but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually...”? 4 BC 1161. Correct information is first and foremost if our spiritual experience is to bear the fruits of sanctification, because error never sanctifies. Without the right information, we cannot make the right decisions, and if we have the wrong doctrine, we will have the wrong experience.

Hello, I am Heidi Heiks and I have been given the privilege of serving you as the new editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine. For years I have been doing research and collecting primary sources and documents on various topics to provide myself and others with the necessary tools to combat error and promote the truth. With all this work finally coming to a close and while I was wondering how the Lord would have this documentation made available to his people, Joe Olsen offered me the editor's position at Hope International, which is another story in itself. I recognize the solemn responsibilities the position carries and humbly seek your prayers as I strive to do my best in working for you and for His ministry here.

At Hope International we are all very much excited, to say the least. Why? Here are just a few of the many doctrinal issues we will be sharing with you. For the very first time we will show and document what really happened in 508 and 538 AD. The mystery around these dates has been solved. The dates stand in concrete while the Spirit of Prophecy is exonerated and this controversy comes to a close.

Also, we will be sharing the final word on the “daily” in the book of Daniel. What do we mean by the “final word”? At last the controversy over multiple interpretations of the daily can be resolved because we can, for the first time, fully document what are the facts and what are the myths surrounding this topic.

Many inquires have been made for the truth on the “daily,” so, following the last will and instruction on this subject from Ellen White the time had then come to have the matter resolved as confirmed in Manuscript Releases, Vol. 20, pg. 223, we decided we must step forward and “take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth” EW 50, “There is no Bible sanctification for those who cast a part of the truth behind them...” RH May 6, 1862. The hour is late and we must be moving onward and upward in our understanding.

Hope International does not put this information out for debate because, throughout either dissertation, you will not find one personal opinion or one private interpretation. We have been diligent to follow only the facts, and whatever platform they would lead us to stand upon, we all agreed, “So it shall be.” Both topics will be shared in forthcoming issues of Our Firm Foundation. We will also make available all this documented research in two separate, beautiful, bound volumes.

Here is a look at other upcoming topics. Ellen White has also told us that there will be four main phases of persecution. Did you know that Nazi Germany used the same four steps and in the very same sequence? Having thousands of archival documents on this issue, we will show and document exact parallels (if history is to be a guide) of how the same cause will produce the same effect. We will unmask the role most Christian sects played in state-sponsored terrorism so we may be able to detect the devices of Satan.

And there’s much more to come. We will endeavor to fully exhibit expositions in Daniel chapters 8, 11, 12; Revelation 17; and others.

While we recognize the necessity of these vital topics, we also recognize that if our hearts have not been completely surrendered to Jesus Christ and we have not a living experience in our daily walk with Christ, this information will avail us nothing. We have been told, “our first work is with the heart.” RH July 7, 1904. Therefore, our first “Theological Waymarks” bimonthly article will begin with this premise.

I personally want to thank God for this opportunity and request your comments and support as we fortify our mind, body and soul. Please visit our Table of Contents to know how you can submit articles for publication.
Our Mission
It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of Our Firm Foundation to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world.—Editors

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Hope International is a lay ministry founded, supported, and operated by Seventh-day Adventists to assist the Seventh-day Adventist church in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in every way that is consistent with the principles of God as revealed in Inspiration.

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We are accepting article-length manuscripts (1850 to 2250 words) for possible publication in Our Firm Foundation. We prefer that submissions be submitted in Word (.doc) as a computer file or on letter size paper neatly typed. Include a digital picture and a short bio. Please address all correspondence to Editors, Our Firm Foundation, PO Box 220, Knoxville, IL 61448, or by email to editorial@hopeint.org.

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Obscuring Christ’s ministry for us in the sanctuary has been Satan’s goal since the cross.

Recently our small study group convened to gain consensus about the meaning of the “daily.” We’d discussed it for months. One advocated paganism; another, Christ’s ministry in the holy place; the third came with one question: “What difference does it make which version we believe?” We left that session rejoicing in unity and understanding, which we now share. (Italics added.)

After his ascension, Christ entered the heavenly sanctuary as humanity’s High Priest to continue His ministry of reconciling us to the Father. “The intercession of Christ in man’s behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven.” FLB 203

To avail ourselves of our Advocate’s intercession, “we must by faith enter within the veil, ’whither the forerunner is for us entered.’” Heb. 6:20.” Ibid. Our prayers to Him must be based on confidence that He’s there interceding for us.
Satan Begins New Strategy

Satan had failed to prevent Jesus from offering Himself on the cross. Therefore, he had to block the next phase of His ministry from being understood, lest we “follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.” If Satan would succeed, humanity’s spiritual eyesight would be turned from the heavenly sanctuary to a counterfeit earthly one. And if the counterfeit focused only on the earthly event of the cross—if the cross could be presented as sufficient for salvation—then the eternal significance of Christ’s mediation in the heavenly sanctuary would be lost upon us. We would rely solely on the merits of the cross and fail to grasp that unless sinful practices are forsaken, we will ultimately be separated forever from God.

Satan’s Scheme Working

Satan’s scheme has succeeded to a tragic degree. Those who claim “once saved, always saved” rely entirely on justification. For them, the sanctuary message ended in the courtyard. They neglect the soul preparation that only repentance and sanctification can provide, because their focus has never moved from the cross to the heavenly sanctuary. They trust solely in repeated forgiveness, without ever actually overcoming. They expect to be saved while still sinning, relying entirely on forgiving grace and neglecting to avail themselves of enabling grace. They do not know Revelation teaches that only overcomers will receive eternal life.

Those claiming the law was abolished at the cross are in a similar desperate plight. In their view, no more is needed. They expound on God’s love, but ignore His justice. They are unaware that in heaven, the sanctuary message is being played out in antitype, nonetheless. Any sins that do not go beforehand to judgment will be retained by the sinner.

This ignorance pleases the enemy of souls but, as usual, our God has revealed Satan’s methods, lest we be taken in this snare.

Warning for Thessalonica

Just twenty years after Jesus’ death, Paul admonished the faithful in Thessalonica to “let no man deceive you by any means. . . . He knew that before “the day of Christ, certain events would occur: . . . That day shall not come, except there come a falling away first. . . . 2 Thes 2:3.

Strong’s defines “falling away as apostasia, a “defection from truth, to forsake. The word is the feminine form of the Greek apostasia, indicating “something separative as in divorce, for example. The implication is plain.

Unless errors were successfully resisted and the gospel of the early church zealously guarded and believed, the early Christians would lose sight of where their Master was and what He was doing there in their behalf. Unless they would cherish the truth in their hearts, they would “fall away,” departing or apostatizing from the faith by following another gospel. Sadly, many “fell away,” despite the warning.

Paul continued, . . . And that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. 2 Thes 2:3. In Paul’s day, the papacy was a few centuries away, from development, but in spiritual foresight, he warned that “the mystery of iniquity doth already work. Verse 7. Inspiration tells us “Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy. GC88-49.

Satan had failed to prevent Jesus from offering Himself on the cross. Now he had to block the next phase of His ministry from succeeding.

The Man of Sin Develops

Paul’s alarm was timely—and will remain so until the end of time. Satan was already developing a devastating counterfeit for Jesus’ ministry in the Holy Place. He intended that people not follow his apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ. GC88 49.

The Roman church became paganism’s new face! In its new guise, paganism was even more dangerous. While professing to honor God and the Bible, it subtly worked...
Only by God’s people falling into “apostosia” could the papal counterfeit gain a foothold.

Strong’s Concordance reveals that “leteth means to “possess, retain, withhold, with the “idea of suspension. (2722, 737) This “he who thus “holds fast, essentially restraining or hindering something for a time, is Christ and His gospel, proclaimed through the apostles and the Holy Spirit.

Thus we can paraphrase Paul’s words as follows: “Only Christ and the pure gospel, which now withhold/ prevent/ restrain false teachings by encouraging the holding fast or retaining of the truth, will stop/slow/ impede this mystery of iniquity from working out that false gospel, until that same “he-who-restrains (Christ and His gospel) is ‘taken out of the way.’

Christ’s heavenly mediation has been replaced, “taken away in many minds and hearts by a counterfeit sanctuary system and a counterfeit plan of salvation.

The hidden objectives of the man of sin will nevertheless be fully disclosed “in his time. Verse 6. Basically, until God decides it is time for the next stage in the great controversy to occur, He will withhold it from the stage of human action. Eventually, though, Satan’s true nature and the falsity of his accusations against God must be demonstrated to the world, so God’s character can be vindicated before the universe. Therefore, God allows Satan to work his evil, within boundaries. The greatest exposition of Satan’s malignant character is yet to occur, but the papal claim to intercessory priesthood has already been astonishing in its impact.

In verse six, that same restraining power of Christ and truth was referred to: “And now ye know what withholdeth [margin: “holdeth”] that he might be revealed in his time. In other words, “Something of great significance is coming, which is now being held in abeyance by our Lord.

Hebrews Pointed to Sanctuary

So long as the truth about Jesus’ location and activity was taught and held dear, error could not flourish and the “man of sin would be “held fast. To that end, Paul was inspired to write the Book of Hebrews for the early Christians and for the Gentiles “throughout the provinces among whom the Jerusalem believers would be scattered during the coming war with Rome. Even before 70 AD, he endeavored to turn their eyes heavenward, so that “when their Temple should be destroyed, it would be needful for them to have their faith anchored to something sure and steadfast that would not fail. “It seems to have been in this crisis hour that the book of Hebrews appeared. It contained just the help needed: light on the sanctuary question; on Christ as high priest; . . . on the blessed hope . . . which entered into that within the veil’ (ch. 6:19). 7BC 389.

Hebrews “consists essentially of a comparison with, and contrast between, the symbols by which God presented the plan of salvation to His chosen people in OT times, and the reality of Christ’s ministry on behalf of sinners since the cross. . . . Through the typical system and Israel’s experiences under it, Paul seeks to develop a more complete understanding and appreciation of the ministry of Christ in heaven above. Ibid., 390.

Eyes Diverted from Heaven

And while Paul attempted to do that, Satan worked to block that very same understanding and appreciation. “This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of the ‘man of sin.’” GC88 50.

Paganism was no more “taken away” than was Christianity. By and large, the original forms of both were gradually supplanted by the “Romish church, uniting the forms of paganism and Christianity, and like paganism, misrepresenting the character of God. . . .” GC88 568.

Except for a small remnant, much of the world has turned its eyes from a heavenly mediator to a powerful earthly ruler—a blasphemous, self-styled king. Despite
Paul's warning, the precious sanctuary message has been “forsaken,” “fallen away from,” lost sight of. Cruel, arrogant men have “mediated” for people who knew of no other mediator.

Only by God’s people “falling away” into apostasia regarding the sanctuary could the papal counterfeit have succeeded as it has. Jesus withheld it from happening for a time, to prepare His people with truth and warnings, but it would come, of necessity, to contrast the nature of the would-be usurper with the true Sovereign, to test His people, and ultimately to end the controversy forever.

God Redirects our Focus

Wielding desolating power for many centuries, the papacy finally was dethroned in 1798. Within one generation, God intervened magnificently once again in human history to redirect the eyes of mankind to the sanctuary. The Great Awakening, based on revelations to William Miller of prophetic fulfillment in Daniel, drew the world’s attention to the true and only mediator. What had been “taken away” from view was restored to view.

During that time, “the subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious.” GC 423. Jesus had accomplished His work in the Holy Place (the “daily” service) and was about to begin His final service in the Most Holy. Startling, joyful news for many who previously had had no idea!

However, the barren, fallen churches of Babylon refused the Midnight Cry message. Again Jesus’s heavenly ministry is unknown or unacknowledged by most of Christianity, the truth about His final work almost completely “taken out of the way” due to apostasia. And while the “prophecy concerning the falling away was partially fulfilled in Paul’s day, . . . its complete fulfillment occurs in the days immediately prior to the return of Jesus.” 7BC 270.

Failure to Follow

If we do not by faith follow our Savior “whithersoever He goes, the consequences are terrible. Mrs. White wrote that those who, in the 1840-1844 time period, failed to follow Jesus into the Most Holy Place by accepting the prophetic light at that time “went into darkness. 1SM 74. “Then I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne [in the holy place, after 1844]; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne and pray, Father give us thy spirit, then Satan would 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. EW 56.

Inspiration tells us, “As long as the waiting ones cherished the light and kept their eyes raised from earth to Jesus, Satan could have no power to deprive them of its precious rays.” EW 249. Paul had given the same encouragement to the Thessalonians.

Adventism Today

Satan is well content if we believe that idolatrous paganism was “taken away” when the “abomination of desolation” was established. While failing to acknowledge the metamorphosis of paganism, that interpretation of the “daily” also tends to be primarily historical. What Satan does not want us to recognize is his obscuring of the sanctuary service in heaven. That interpretation has profound theological and eschatological implications.

Message of Encouragement

Paul counsels us, “. . . Stand fast and hold the traditions which ye have been taught.” 2 Thes 2:15. Satan has tried masterfully to hide Jesus’ heavenly ministry from humanity. Does it not follow that the greater Satan’s efforts to conceal, confuse or divert, the more precious is the truth he seeks to hide?

How important, then, is mankind’s knowledge of the ongoing heavenly mediation! How important a unified message to carry to the world! If believers avail themselves of Jesus’ ministry in the sanctuary above, they can be “free from the burden of sin,” becoming perfected, overcoming sin. Right on time, the sanctuary will be cleansed, the sins of the faithful blotted out, our High Priest will announce “It is finished,” and we will see our King.

Jean Handwerk is a former teacher who now spends much of her time giving Bible studies and writing about biblical topics. She loves the outdoors and writes from Wilmington, DE.
“T
he condition of eternal life
is now just what it always
has been,—just what it was
in Paradise before the fall of our
first parents,—perfect obedience to
the law of God, perfect righteous-
ness. If eternal life were granted
on any condition short of this,
then the happiness of the whole
universe would be imperiled. The
way would be open for sin, with
all its train of woe and misery, to
be immortalized. "It was possible
for Adam, before the fall, to form
a righteous character by obedi-
ence to God's law. But he failed to
do this, and because of his sin our
natures are fallen, and we cannot
make ourselves righteous. Since
we are sinful, unholy, we cannot
perfectly obey a holy law. We have
no righteousness of our own with
which to meet the claims of the
law of God. But Christ has made a way
of escape for us. He lived on earth
amid trials and temptations such
as we have to meet. He lived a sin-
less life. He died for us, and now he
offers to take our sins and give us
his righteousness. If you give your-
self to him, and accept him as your
Saviour, then, sinful as your life
may have been, for his sake you are
accounted righteous. Christ's char-
acter stands in place of your char-
acter, and you are accepted before
God just as if you had not sinned.
"More than this, Christ changes the
heart. He abides in your heart by
faith. You are to maintain this con-
nection with Christ by faith and the
continual surrender of your will to
him; and so long as you do this, he
will work in you to will and to do
according to his good pleasure. So
you may say, 'The life which I now
live in the flesh I live by the faith
of the Son of God, who loved me,
and gave himself for me.' So Jesus
said to his disciples, 'It is not ye
that speak, but the Spirit of your
Father which speaketh in you.'
Then with Christ working in you,
you will manifest the same spirit
and do the same works,—works of
righteousness, obedience."— "The
faith essential for salvation is not
mere nominal faith, but an abid-
ing principle, deriving vital power
from Christ. It will lead the soul
to feel the love of Christ to such a
degree that the character will be re-
fined, purified, ennobled. This faith
in Christ is not merely an impulse,
but a power that works by love and
purifies the soul. It accomplishes
something, bringing the soul under
discipline, elevating it from defile-
ment, and bringing it into connec-
tion with Christ, till it appropriates
his virtue to the soul's need. This
is saving faith."— "Where there
is not only a belief in God's word,
but a submission of the will to him,
where the heart is yielded to him,
the affections fixed upon him, there
is faith,—faith that works by love,
and purifies the soul. Through
this faith the heart is renewed in
the image of God. And the heart
that in its unrenewed state is not
subject to the law of God, neither
indeed can be, now delights in its
holy precepts, exclaiming with the
psalmist, 'O how love I thy law! it is
my meditation all the day.' And the
righteousness of the law is ful-
filled in us, 'who walk not after the flesh,
but after the Spirit.'"— "Many hold
faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a
transaction, by which those who re-
cieve Christ join themselves in cov-
enant relation with God. A living
faith means an increase of vigor, a
confiding trust, by which, through
the grace of Christ, the soul becomes
a conquering power."— "How often
those who trusted the word of God,
though in themselves utterly help-
less, have withstood the power of
the whole world,—Enoch, pure in
heart, holy in life, holding fast his
faith in the triumph of righteous-
ness against a corrupt and scoffing
generation; Noah and his household
against the men of his time, men of
the greatest physical and mental
strength and the most debased in
morals; the children of Israel at the
Red Sea, a helpless, terri-
fled multitude of slaves, against the mightiest
army of the mightiest nation on the
globe; David, a shepherd lad, hav-
ing God's promise of the throne,
against Saul, the established mon-
arch, bent on holding fast his pow-
er; Shadrach and his companions
in the fire, and Nebuchadnezzar
on the throne; Daniel among the li-
ons, his enemies in the high places
of the kingdom; Jesus on the cross,
and the Jewish priests and rulers
forcing even the Roman governor
to work their will; Paul in chains
led to a criminal's death, Nero the
despot of a world empire.
“Such examples are not found in the Bible only. They abound in every record of human progress. The Vaudois and the Huguenots. Wyclif and Huss, Jerome and Luther, Tyndale and Knox, Zinzendorf and Wesley, with multitudes of others, have witnessed to the power of God’s word against human power and policy in support of evil. These are the world’s true nobility. This is its royal line. In this line the youth of today are called to take their places.

“Faith is needed in the smaller no less than in the greater affairs of life. In all our daily interests and occupations, the sustaining strength of God becomes real to us through an abiding trust. . . . “As a shield from temptation and an inspiration to purity and truth, no other influence can equal the sense of God’s presence. ‘All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.’ He is ‘of purer eyes than to behold evil,’ and cannot look on iniquity. This thought was Joseph’s shield amidst the corruptions of Egypt. To the allurements of temptation his answer was steadfast: ‘How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’ Such a shield, faith, if cherished, will bring to every soul. . . . “Through faith in Christ, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed. ‘Ye are complete in him.’

“Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that every one who would make his life work a success must understand. Christ says, ‘What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.’ He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God’s will; we must ask for the things that he has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing his will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.

“For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do his work, for any gift he has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received. “We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised he is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most.”-- “We do not value the power and efficacy of prayer as we should. Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish. We are seldom, in all respects, placed in the same position twice. We continually have new scenes and new trials to pass through, where past experience cannot be a sufficient guide. . . . The temptations to which we are daily exposed make prayer a necessity. Dangers beset every path.” "As workers for God, we must reach men where they are, surrounded with darkness, sunken in vice, and stained with corruption. But while we stay our minds upon him who is our sun and our shield, the evil that surrounds us will not bring one stain upon our garments. As we work to save the souls that are ready to perish, we shall not be put to shame if we make God our trust. Christ in the heart, Christ in the life, this is our safety. The atmosphere of his presence will fill the soul with abhorrence of all that is evil. Our spirit may be so identified with his that in thought and aim we shall be one with him.”

“He whose trust is in God will with Paul be able to say, ‘I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.’ Whatever the mistakes or failures of the past, we may, with the help of God, rise above them. With the apostle we may say:— "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Review & Herald
November 11, 1915

Ellen G. White, 1827-1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.
True Christian counseling is ordained of God; worldly counseling rejects God.

**EXCUSING BEHAVIOR**

Such theories, presented with the aura of academia, give a convenient excuse for behavior, and often those who accept this stuff pigeonhole themselves or others in a comfortable mindset that makes them feel not too bad at all as they compare themselves among themselves. The so-called improvements these theories claim to give to family understanding too often degenerate into a form of psychological name-calling or inflexible labeling.

It is also interesting that books promoting this information claim that the personality types are beyond our control yet, at the same time, they tell you how to change them. It’s reminiscent of Satan first suggesting it can’t be known for sure what God means, and then giving Eve some inside info on God’s very thoughts.

“Another reason for the four temperaments’ popularity may be their fleshy appeal. Those who encourage Christians to utilize the four temperaments for spiritual growth consistently warn against using temperament weaknesses as excuses for behavior. Unfortunately, that is a great temptation—to move from ‘understanding’ why I act a certain way to ‘excusing’ sinful behavior because of ‘my temperament.’ Whenever sinful behavior is relabeled ‘weakness,’ there is a dwindling sense of responsibility and a gnawing sense of being trapped in helplessness. Once resigned to one’s weakness, one may attempt to ‘make up’ for that ‘weakness’ by developing and focusing on the so-called ‘strengths’ of the particular temperament one thinks he has.”

Some psychological “wisdom” has been found to be erroneous. “The psychological rationale for ventilating anger does not stand up under experimental scrutiny. The weight of the evidence indicates precisely the opposite: Expressing anger makes you angrier, solidifies an angry attitude, and establishes a hostile habit.”

**EXALTING SELF**

Christian friend, everything necessary for our salvation is to be found in the Word of God, the precious Bible. God’s messenger to
His last-day people has given a lot of additional light to us. Why do we have to search the dried and cracked cisterns of the world for a drop of moisture, when fountains of living water flow for us? Why do we gather up the teachings of infidels, atheists and their demon friends, presenting them to people as truth, when those teachings are denied by the only truth we can really count on, which we find in the Bible?

“The great men of earth will then understand that they have surrendered mind and heart to ensnaring philosophy which pleased the carnal heart. Hope and grace and every inducement had been held out by One who loved them, and gave his life for them, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life, but they refused the love of God. Their lofty opinions, their human reasonings, were extolled; they declared themselves sufficient in themselves to understand divine mysteries, and they thought their own powers of discrimination were strong enough to discern truth for themselves. They fell an easy prey to Satan’s subtlety, for he presented before them specious errors in human philosophy, which has an infatuation for human minds. They turned from the Source of all wisdom, and worshiped intellect. The message and the messengers of God were criticized and discarded as inferior to their lofty human ideas. The invitations of mercy were made a jest, and they denied the divinity of Jesus Christ, and derided the idea of his preexistence before he assumed human nature. But the tattered shreds of human reasoning will be found to be only as ropes of sand in the great day of God.”

**ADMITTED AGENDA**

Now let’s ask the psychologists themselves what their aim is. Author Mary Pride delved into the early issues of the well-known journal *Psychology Today*. Here’s what she found. In the second year of the esteemed periodical (1969), she read that one of their missions was to help man “face our inner experiences without the guidance of traditional dogmas, ritual, or patriarchal authority—the foundation stones of Judeo-Christian religious experience.

Left without collectively-sanctioned God-values and moral absolutes, we are compelled to erect our own morality… intended to discourage the seeking of Christian counsel. The writings of Ellen White state that in a severe personal crisis, it is wise to seek guidance. This is what she defines as Christian psychology. Such guidance should come from those of maturity, experience, and a deep personal commitment to Christ.

**Psychology looks within for solutions. Christianity looks to God for solutions.**

Separation from God is the goal, in order to fully experience and understand self.

The Bible has proven itself true in many ways. It has never failed us and never will, but these theories cannot even be substantiated. Throw them away, and seek the living Word for psychological advice!

**CHRISTIAN COUNSELING**

At this point it must be emphasized that nothing in this article is intended to discourage the seeking of Christian counsel. The writings of Ellen White state that in a severe personal crisis, it is wise to seek guidance. This is what she defines as Christian psychology. Such guidance should come from those of maturity, experience, and a deep personal commitment to Christ.
direction is the all-important determinant between truth and error—between heaven and hell.

CORRUPTION FORETOLD

Ellen White predicted that near the close of time, personal counseling would go beyond constructive advice. A corrupt form of psychology would come into popular acceptance. On the surface it would appear harmless—even beneficial. Underneath the veneer of emotional healing, though, an incredible harm would be done. She said that psychology would become satanic in character. It would invade and corrupt the very work of God. It would even deny God. For example, there are Seventh-day Adventists psychiatrists who believe that religion should not be brought into their practices.5

“Satan has come unperceived through these sciences and has poisoned the minds of thousands and led them to infidelity. He is well pleased to have the knowledge of these sciences widespread. It is a plan that he himself has laid, that he may gain access to minds and influence them as he pleases. ... And while those devoted to these sciences laud them to the heavens because of the great and good works they affirm are wrought by them, they are cherishing and glorifying Satan.”6

“Through the channel of phrenology, psychology, and mesmerism [hypnosis], he [Satan] comes more directly to the people of this generation, and works with that power which is to characterize his efforts near the close of probation.”7

When do these warnings apply? Ellen White did not specifically point to the psychology of her time. Her warnings looked ahead to the psychology which would be practiced near the close of probation. This is obviously a prediction—an end-time prophecy.

ESSENCE OF THE WARNING

In unmistakable words, God has forbidden one human mind to meddle in the mind of another. This opens the door to demonic deception. The Adventist Church is in grave danger. The beliefs and practices of the secular world have been making inroads into our ministry. Once these theories are accepted by a minister, the more likely is their application, and the laity become unwittingly involved. A belief that training in or use of psychology would enhance personal ministry has misled some.

We must be on guard. The warnings God gave through Ellen White indicate that mind-sciences would corrupt the gospel of Christ as the source of peace of mind. What legacy are we reaping from our love affair with the spiritu-alist concepts of modern psycho-babble? We have women confused about their roles; men who are taught to idolize their personal parts; children who feel they must do their own things; parents who are afraid to train or instruct because they might do damage; people who believe that children should be raised by psyche-experts and not by parents; youth fresh from college who feel that their degrees gives them wisdom to direct the lives of others; pastors who try to use Ericsonian hypnosis to manipulate the laity; people whose only conversational ability consists in discussing and analyzing their friends and family by the latest psycho-fad—and all the while Satan is laughing at us, the Holy Spirit is grieved and the angels of God are weeping.

Want real answers for your problems and perplexities? Get back to the plain inspired counsel of God!

Notes:
1 Four Temperaments, Astrology and Personality Testing, Chapter One, Martin and Deidre Bobgan.
3 Signs of the Times, March 7, 1895.
4 Mind, Character, and Personality, 765.
6 Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 1, 290-291.
7 Selected Messages, Book 2, 351.
Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

I write these lines not as an authority, not as a professionally trained counselor, but simply as a mother who desires to have her children in the heavenly kingdom. I will be sharing principles with you that I have gleaned from God’s Word and that we are applying in our home.

Methods

I have found by many trials and errors that there is no set of methods that we can apply to cause our children to become like Christ. Many things taught even by Christian counselors today are nothing more than worldly methods, theories, and philosophies. In the beginning they may seem to be effective, but it isn’t long before their true character is shown. We can’t afford to study books filled with these theories. We must go to the Word of God and inspired counsel to find guidance for training our children.

While I used to understand that obedience is important, it seemed that when my girls were yet quite young, they challenged my authority. I read one author who said I should count to three before I expected my children to obey. Initially, it seemed to be very effective. But not very long after, even my young girls could reason it out. They realized that they did not need to do what mother wanted them to do until I hit the number three.
I didn’t want to have to punish them, either. So I counted slower and slower and slower until I was counting by halves and then quarters.

That method is contrary to what God’s Word teaches us. From Genesis to Revelation we are taught to exercise prompt and perfect obedience. We see it in the Garden of Eden. We see it in Christ in the garden of Gethsemane. Three times He was tempted to let man go his own way and turn away from what was ahead of Him. Three times, when He was in the wilderness, He was tempted. But on every point, each time, Christ had to yield the first time. He could not wait until the third time.

A Friend Compares Results

A very close friend of mine, a mother also striving to prepare her children for the heavenly kingdom, called me one day. “Alane, I saw you give one of your children a corrective measure one time when you visited us. It was so effective to bring about not just a change in your child’s behavior, but a change in your child’s heart. I could see that the whole attitude in the child was surrendered. I was so excited to see that result.”

My friend went on, “I took that correction, or discipline, and began to apply it in my own home. However, it did not yield the same results!”

I then explained to her the most important solution to our parenting: we must be in Jesus Christ. If we are not in Christ, we begin to take methods that may be beneficial one time in correcting our child, but that may not bring about the desired results the next time. True submission of the will and true harmony and unity in the home is brought about only when all of the members are in submission to Jesus Christ.

Today a certain disciplinary measure may work in my daughter. Tomorrow the Lord may give me a different direction. He knows the condition of my child’s heart. He knows how hard or soft it is. He knows how close or far it is from being won over. He knows if it needs a stern correction or simply an entreaty correction. Our only solution is to be in Christ Jesus, dependent on Him for guidance.

If we are to follow the example of Abraham, we will set in order our homes; teach or educate the members of the household; instruct with authority; govern with urgency; and use corrective measures to bring our children to God. Redemptive discipline “disciples” us to be redeemed by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to learn how to accept His blood and power so we can be transformed into the likeness of His character.

Abraham’s redemptive discipline was very effective. We see that when he was called to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, Abraham and Isaac both were willing to be governed by their heavenly Father. “Isaac had been trained from childhood to ready, trusting obedience, and as the purpose of God was opened before him, he yielded a willing submission” Patriarchs and Prophets, 152. There was no fight. There was no rebellion. There was such love in his heart that he could make his father’s horrible task as easy as possible for him.

Redemptive discipline includes all the ways that God brings us to Him that we can learn to yield a trusting, ready, and willing obedience. This is what the life of Jesus taught us. He said in His deepest trial: “Father, . . . not My will, but Thine, be done” Luke 22:42.

Solutions

For many years, I worked as an intensive care nurse. The patients were very ill; their bodies were out of balance. They struggled for life itself. We have also been so long sickened by sin that we are out of balance and out of harmony with the will of God.

One of the methods of treatment used in the intensive care unit was an IV solution. Through that bottle we infused into the patient all the components necessary to cleanse and nourish the cells, and promote physical healing. If for any reason the IV was disconnected, the life of the patient was jeopardized.

We must have just such a solu-
tion of redemptive discipline to bring our children’s spiritual lives back into balance. God wants to infuse into us all the components necessary for total restoration. The flow must be continuous. If we are not willing to stay connected to Christ by submission of our will, we jeopardize our spiritual experience.

In order to regulate the IV solution, tests had to be taken on the patient periodically. Did they need more of this or that antibiotic? Did they need less of this or that electrolyte? In like manner, all during the day as we intensive care parents pray for our children, we watch the situations that test their hearts. We then adjust the solution according to their needs. Let us look carefully at the components of the redemptive discipline solution.

Teach

We must first teach our children what the will of God is. We go to Scripture and we learn, for example, “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might” Ecclesiastes 9:10. “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord” Colossians 3:23. So today we teach our child that whatever their hands are given to do, they are to do it with their very best ability—because they are doing it for Jesus.

Train

If we stop with only verbal teaching, we will not accomplish that which we desire to see in our child. We must train them in the task and set an example. We teach our children that their rooms are to be neat and orderly after the order of heaven. When they begin to make their beds, I need to take time as an intensive care parent to show them how the bed should look. When they are young this requires a lot more effort because they need to be shown more than once. When they are older, it does not take as many times to demonstrate. But I still must set an example by keeping my own room neat and orderly.

When it is time to sweep the floor in the morning after breakfast, I teach them how to do it. They are to pick up the rugs and sweep under all the edges. They work from one side to the other and not just sweep up a piece here and a piece over there. I get the broom and show them. Then I oversee that they complete the job thoroughly.

I can teach my child penmanship which can look very nice in the penmanship book. But what does it look like in the math assignment, the phonics workbook, the reading lesson, or the English lesson? My son Josiah’s penmanship at six years old can be neat as he learns to form the letters to the best of his ability. But when he is eight, his penmanship should look better than it did at six. As we do things more and more, we become better at them. This is the training aspect.

To be continued.

Tom and Alane Waters, of Restoration International, reside in Eureka, Montana, and have dedicated their lives full time to reaching all people with the practical gospel.
Mrs. White says that when we better understand the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, we will have less to say about the Roman power. We should endeavor to understand the great principles that are being taught there. TM 112.

**Symbolism of Sinful Man**

In the prophecy of Daniel 2, the nations of the world are presented in the overall symbolism of a man or image. The kingdoms presented are kingdoms of man. They are the result of man’s genius and knowledge and their religions were the religions of man. In Daniel 7 these same kingdoms are represented as wild ravaging beasts. What is man like in his natural state? The Bible says he is like a beast. But there is something else of significance in these beasts.

In Daniel 7:4 the first beast was like a lion and a man’s heart was given to him. The heart of a man is “deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?” Jer. 17:9. The rest of these powers show they have the hearts of men, for they reveal the evil of human nature—human nature as it is seen in its corporate and collective capacity. Daniel 7:7 speaks of Rome, that it shall “devour and break in pieces and stamp the residue.” Does this sound like human nature? We read of Jesus in the Bible: “a bruised reed shall he not break and smoking flax shall he not quench . . .” Matt. 12:20. But man, beastly by nature and with a heart hardened in sin, knows not the love and benevolence of Christ, so he “brake[s] in pieces and bruises.”

The fourth beast of Daniel 7 had ten horns representing the ten kingdoms of Europe. Then out of the ten horns there came a little horn, at first small, but “three horns were plucked up by it.” This was the anti-Chris. And this horn had the “eyes of a man.” Dan. 7:8. This is not speaking here of physical eyes, for the Scripture speaks of the eyes of your understanding in Eph. 1:18.

**All that man ever does is always short of perfection.**

The papacy was the result of human wisdom and human scholasticism and human theology working in the early church. When human reasoning tried to deny the human nature of Christ, it came up with the doctrine of immaculate conception. When human reasoning began to assert the authority of the church, it came up with the doctrine of infallibility of the pope. When human reasoning started to work out the state of the dead and what would happen to a Christian that was not mature when he died, it came up with the doctrine of purgatory. The eyes of man’s understanding produced the papacy. They were only men, and we are no different from them, as all men are the same. The mouth in Dan. 7:8 speaks great things. The Bible says “He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God,” but what words did this mouth speak? The devil, it says, speaks of himself, so then he is a liar. The words of man are carnal; they are error, because they are from the eyes and the heart of a man.
Nothing good could come from this because from the very source it is wicked and it is opposed to all that which is of God. “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because when ye received the work of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God…” 1Thes 2:13.

Paul understood the prophecies of Daniel as he spoke of “that man of sin” 2 Thes 2:3. “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and shall think to change times and laws; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time” Dan 7:25. “…The mystery of iniquity doth already work…” 2Thes 2:7. “…He as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” 2 Thess 2:4. “…This saith the Lord God; because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God” Eze 28:2.

**All history is a revelation of man and the heart of man.**

With this background let us turn to the thirteenth chapter of Revelation. A decree goes forth “And that no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” Rev. 13:17. “Here is wisdom, Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six” Verse 18. This number is the number of a man. And we read in chapter fifteen, verse two, of those who “…had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name…”

To get the victory over the number of his name is more than getting the victory over something that is written on the pope’s hat. The number of a man is six, for even when man does his very best, he never reaches the number seven. Seven is the symbol of perfection. All that man ever does is always short of perfection. Six is man’s number.

**A Magnificent Deception**

We are facing a great test when something is to be developed, beginning in this nation, which is going to present what will appear to be the most exalted and wonderful system of religious faith that has ever been seen upon this earth. We are not prepared for the subtlety of the great test. The image to the beast which is to be formed in this country is to appear to be the ultimate in human goodness. It will appear as the most wonderful thing that man has ever conceived of. It is something that will seem to be very good, but the apparent goodness will be something which is very evil—just as in the garden of Eden, where Satan’s tree was a tree of knowledge—but of both good and evil.

**Only that which comes from God leads to God.**

When this institution is brought before the world, the world is going to marvel, and all will “worship his name whose names are not written in the Book of Life.” But there will be upon the earth a little remnant who will refuse to acknowledge this grand religious order. Why will they not acknowledge or worship it? Because they discern that all across this system is the number of a man. The image of a man and a heart of a man, the eyes and the mouth of a man and the words of a man. THE RELIGION OF A MAN. Is the religion of man any good?

**Examples of Cain and Abel**

So many times we are told in the Spirit of Prophecy that the last great conflict that we are about to enter is a battle between the commandments of God and the commandments of man, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of man, fables and tradition. “…Only the religion that comes from God will lead to God” 9T 156, also DA 189. We should see that the last great religious crisis is the same in principle as the first religious controversy, the one between Cain and Abel. Was Cain a religious man? Yes, of course, he was, but he was not a good man. Often religious men, even though thought of as good, are the most evil on the earth. Religion is often merely a cloak of appearance, so it is no compliment if some call you a religious person. We know Cain was religious, for he brought an offering and worshipped before an altar. Cain’s religion did not come from God, for only that which “comes from God leads to God.” The religion of Cain came from his heart and his eyes, for he said to himself,
as I see it, “I think I ought to worship God this way.” But it matters not what we see or think, for it has his younger brother ought to yield to him. And so as in all religion that comes from man, he thought it was his prerogative to force his brother to yield to his convictions. (This is where this system always leads, no

Any man who seeks to compel or control the reason of another becomes an agent of Satan.

nothing to do with truth. Again, “only that which comes from God leads to God.” Did Abel’s religion lead him to God? Yes, for his religion did not come from himself but from God. Abel did not make it up a religion or worship according to the way he thought he should, but as it was revealed from heaven.

Truth comes only by divine revelation. The human brain cells are utterly incapable of comprehending truth without divine aid. When God says that we should seek for Him, it is not that we should search Him out with our human conception, but we should respond to His revelation. Abel’s religion was revealed from heaven and it led him to God.

Compelling by Right?

What was the relationship between these two brothers? Cain, being first-born, was the priest. Because of this position he thought

matter what name you attach to it.) And finally, because he could not persuade him, he murdered him. Then God placed a mark upon Cain. We read about another mark in Revelation 13, 14, and 15. It is the same thing as Cain’s. We, too, can receive a mark, even though we call ourselves Seventh-day Adventists. It is easier to receive the mark than we imagine. “Any man, be he minister or layman, who seeks to compel or control the reason of any other man, becomes an agent of Satan, to do his work, and in the sight of the heavenly universe he bears the mark of Cain.” 1 BC 1087.

This problem does not belong to any particular religious group. The problem comes down to the heart of every man. “Any man,” as it has no qualification, just “any man . . . who seeks to compel or control the reason of any other man becomes an agent of Satan and bears the mark of Cain.”

A Cloak of Religion

At the time of Christ’s ministry on this earth there was a controversy between Him and the Sanhedrin. Were these men of the Sanhedrin religious? They were exceeding religious, but their religion did not
come from God. Jesus said they were “teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” Matt 15:9. But the teachings of Jesus lead men to God, for it was from God. “. . . As my Father hath taught me, I speak these things” John 8:28. “My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me” John 7:17. Now contrast that with Jesus’ words to the Pharisees: “Ye are of your father the devil. . . . When he speaketh a lie he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it” John 8:44 In other words, “You are teaching your commands and it is only your own teachings you are trying to enforce upon the people.” But when Jesus spoke, the doctrine was not his: “For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him” John 3:34. There was no selfishness in His teaching, nothing savoring of man in what He taught, for it came wholly from God, straight from the heavenly throne.

In the time of the apostles we find the same controversy going on. The Sanhedrin was following in the steps of Cain. They thought they had the authority to control and compel the reasoning of the people. They even went so far as to crucify Jesus because of their evil thinking, the same thing that Cain did to his brother, because Cain was the priest.

**Man’s vs. God’s Religion**

Saul of Tarsus, on authority from the priests, persecuted the Christians—until he found another religion. There was a great contrast between Saul of Tarsus and Paul the apostle for it says, “But I cer-
By introduction of this new and exciting series we call “Theological Waymarks,” we address the great need for a much deeper and intensified study of God’s word, as never before, because the hour is indeed late. Secular headlines are screaming the hour in which we live, yet in the church the silence is deafening!

When we read a statement such as “None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict” (GC 593-4), we believe it means just what it says. It is for this purpose that we introduce this series.

**Urgency of the Hour**

We have been told, “Every position of truth taken by our people will bear the criticism of the greatest minds; the highest of the world’s great men will be brought in contact with truth, and therefore every position we take should be critically examined and tested by the Scriptures. Now we seem to be unnoticed, but this will not always be. Movements are at work to bring us to the front, and if our theories of truth can be picked to pieces by historians or the world’s greatest men, it will be done. We must individually know for ourselves what is truth, and be prepared to give a reason of the hope that we have with meekness and fear, not in a proud, boasting, self-sufficiency, but with the spirit of Christ. We are nearing the time when we shall stand individually alone to answer for our belief. Religious errors are multiplying and entwining themselves with Satanic power about the people. There is scarcely a doctrine of the Bible that has not been denied” Letter 6, 1886.

I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom. God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. . . . This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and
must start upon that which heaven would want us to build, and what is that? “...Our first work is with the heart” RH July 7, 1904.

**Heartwork First**

On page 601 in *The Great Controversy*, just before the final warning chapter, we are told, “We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose.” If we are not having a living, victorious Christian experience with Jesus Christ now, we will not have the faith or the experience to carry us through when the hour of temptation will try every man’s heart. What, then, is a living experience, according to the prophet? How does one obtain it? What does inspiration mean, “Our first work is with the heart”? These and many more questions are the basis of our first study. What we all need now is not a theory of the truth but a living experience, an active faith.

**Fearsome Forecast**

On the other side of the coin, we have this admonition: “In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. ...The mark of the beast will be upon us. ...In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. ...Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ’s righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness” 5T 80-1.

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” The very atmosphere is polluted with sin. Soon God’s people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal” 5T 136.

“The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending. These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren and to excite indignation against them. This day is just before us. The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened...
with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges. My brother, my sister, ponder these things, I beseech you. You have each a work to do” 5T 463.

“The hope of salvation is accepted without a radical change of heart or reformation of life. Thus superficial conversions abound, and multitudes are joined to the church who have never been united to Christ” GC 468.

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side” GC 608.

“We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God.

What happened in these poor people’s experience? Can we know for a surety where they made the wrong turn so we won’t be part of that number who will follow down that path? Yes, but only as we understand the role we have to play in cooperation with heaven in the great plan of salvation for mankind. As Ellen White clearly illustrates, “God will not do for us that which we can do for ourselves; but he has said, ‘Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.’ And when we comply with the conditions, he will fulfill his word” RH May 20, 1884.

Would it not be wonderful to know, in a plain, straight-forward method, the progressive steps for eternal life, as designated by heaven? And to truly comprehend that gift and our own roles in the plan of redemption? And to be confident that we’ve complied with the conditions? And then, having done so, share the gospel with others by our own personal experience? These are the keys that will unlock many misunderstandings, and will reveal why so many will make shipwreck of faith. This is why Inspiration has declared to us, “But the teacher of sacred truth can impart only that which he himself knows by experience. …So with His servants. Those who would teach the Word are to make it their own by a personal experience” COL 43. Having now established the premise upon which we will build, let us begin our study.

Having had experience in the school of hard knocks, I learned long ago that to assume anything without first studying out the issues for oneself—whether what one has read or heard is true, and especially in the arena of Christianity—is to invite a ninety-nine percent chance of having to eat crow. In other words, you will have to recant something you have written or said. To avoid this consequence, let us build our foundations together from the ground up.

Our Study Begins

DrivingindowntownColumbus, Ohio, I noticed billboards with a local church advertisement that said “Looking for God.” It displayed a picture of a man looking through a telescope into the heavens and listed the name of the church, its address and the time of its services. It reminded me of a text in the Bible...
that says, “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?” Job 11:7. I thought to myself, “How many people really think that to find God, they must go to some specific location or church building?” So how does fallen humanity find God?

Paul states ever so clearly that “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God” Rom 3:11. Paul is clear that not one human being this side of Adam has ever sought out God. So how do we make sense out of Jeremiah 29:13 when he says, “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart”? Fortunately, Jeremiah does not leave us wandering in the wilderness, for he declares, “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee” 31:3. Also, “I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them” Hos 11:4. Here we see that the first steps in the plan of redemption are taken by heaven in the form of a gift. He draws us to Himself with lovingkindness. Does this not reveal a compassionate Redeemer?

Yet there is another side to this we do not want to overlook. As Paul was reasoning with Felix, “…Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee” Acts 24:25. We find no evidence that convenient season ever took place.

When the Spirit is calling, that is the time without delay to respond to His call. To delay is lethal. We do not decide when that calling is to take place or how many times he will call for we know not if that will be the final calling heaven will make in behalf for you or me. Many will fall here. “Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.” Hos. 4:17. Again, “And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man.” Gen. 6:3. This is why the prophet has said, “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation)” 2 Cor 6:2. The next step in the plan of redemption is conversion for the individual who has responded to his calling. In our January issue we will be looking at what is true conversion? And what it is not. What does heaven expect of us and what can we expect from heaven in our Christian walk?

To be continued bimonthly.

Heidi Heiks, editor for “Our Firm Foundation” magazine, has been a college educator, author, radio speaker for “People of the Book” radio program, and is a current teacher and speaker for Hope International throughout the U.S.
“Mom! What happened to our tomato plants?” Isabel yelled. “Come quick!”

Mother rushed to see what had befallen the tall plants. She and Isabel had planted them in late spring, and each day mother and daughter had been checking for ripe tomatoes. The first ones were going to be ready any day, now. They were eagerly looking forward to sandwiches made with freshly picked tomatoes on Mother’s delicious homemade bread. What a treat!

But sure enough, the deer had returned. They’d eaten the leaves right off the tops of the plants. Instead of rows of lush green growth, pale leafless stems branched into the air in all directions.

“Oh, Izzy, those deer certainly did some destruction this time. It looks like our crop of tomatoes will not be as plentiful as we would have liked.”

“It’s much worse than last time,” Isabel lamented. “We need a fence around the tomatoes.”

“That’s right. We should have put up a fence the first time the deer found our garden.”

“Why didn’t we?” asked a disappointed Isabel.

Mom sighed, but then smiled. “Well, it’s just human nature to hope that the problem will go away. We like things nice and easy, but we all have problems at one time or another. As a matter of fact, the Bible tells us to rejoice when we have trials and troubles, because they’re opportunities for us to grow spiritually.”

Isabel was confused. “How can we be happy when we’re sad?”

“We can be happy because Jesus promises to always help us through our problems, even though He doesn’t stop us from having them.”

Isabel was beginning to be a little irritated with Jesus. “If He loves us so much, why doesn’t He protect us from problems? He could have kept the deer away from our garden.”

Mother wasn’t discouraged, though. She seemed almost happy. “Yes, Izzy, He could have, but He must have a lesson for us to learn. Sometimes He allows problems so we can learn something important about Him or about ourselves. That’s one way He shows He loves us. And He knows our garden is a good way to get us to think about what He’s trying to tell us. Isn’t that wise of Him?”

“I suppose,” agreed Isabel, but she still wasn’t very pleased with Jesus for what He’s allowed to happen. She was almost angry with Him. “So what do you think Jesus wants us to learn?”

Mother turned the question back to her daughter. “What do you think, Izzy?”

“Hmm,” said Isabel as she put her mind to work. A few minutes later, she finally had an answer. “I think He’s trying to tell us not to put off doing what we know we should do. Look what happened.”

Mother smiled as Isabel added, “If we had put the fence up when Jesus let the deer come the first time, we wouldn’t be sad today! The first time, they only ate a little of our garden.”

“That’s right,” Mother said. “Jesus showed He loves us by keeping the deer from doing much harm the first time. He gave us time to put up a fence before they came back. But we didn’t do it. So you and I are really the cause of our own problem, aren’t we?” Isabel nodded as Mother continued. “He was good to us, and we didn’t recognize it. Then when the deer returned, they filled up on our tomato plants. Do you think we’ve learned what He wanted to teach us?”

This time it was Isabel’s turn to smile. “I sure do! Jesus was trying to help us. He does love us! And this time, let’s not wait. Let’s go put up that fence right now!”

Isabel headed for the door, and Mother was right behind her.

Jean is a former teacher who now spends much of her time giving Bible studies and writing about biblical topics. She loves the outdoors and writes from Wilmington, DE.
Would you like to find a cheap yet effective product that could clean out your colon; detoxify your body of harmful chemicals, radiation, heavy metals, and bacteria; strengthen your immune system; purify your blood; heal ulcers and wounds internally and externally; dissolve tumors, cysts, age spots, keloid scars; normalize your pH; create a balance of minerals in your body; alleviate pain; and more? Clay can do all this, and more! If you haven’t heard of the wonderful healing benefits of clay, you’re in for a real treat!

Clay treatment alone is, obviously, not enough; it is far more important to establish and maintain proper eating habits and a healthy lifestyle. However, since the power of clay is a healing phenomenon that is so relatively unknown, I felt it imperative to devote an article solely to its health benefits.

Our Creator bestowed upon our earth unlimited means for restoring and maintaining good health. The fresh fruits, vegetables, and grains invigorate and energize the body. The countless herbs help regain balance during times of sickness and frailty. The sunshine which awakens and revitalizes all living beings and the sparkling streams and rivers of pure water for cleansing the body inside and out are more of His gifts.

The study of nature and its healing properties is infinitely magnificent and gratifying. Regrettably, however, some of the simplest and most amazing natural remedies are often overlooked by people who are searching for more complicated and expensive ones.

“I would expect you will laugh at this; but if I could give this remedy some outlandish name, that no one knew but myself, it would have greater influence” Letter 82, 1897. (PHI44 24.2).

What I’m referring to as “clay” is a greasy sort of earth that retains that quality even when wet and impermeable. It is the same type of clay used by potters, artists, and sculptors. There are many colors and varieties, each with its own properties. I’m going to focus on green clay, as it is said to be the most active, and can be taken safely internally and also used effectively externally. Green clay is found in different areas of the world. The clay we have comes from France, hence the name French green clay or European clay.

For therapeutic purposes, clay can be used internally and externally. In this article, due to lack of space, I’m going to focus only on using it internally. Dissolved in water and drank, clay has amazing curative properties beneficial to many internal problems such as ulcers, colitis, heartburn, acid reflux, irritable bowel syndrome, stomach viruses, mineral deficiencies, constipation, toxicity due to chemicals or poisons, diarrhea, parasites, pH imbalance, anemia, heavy metal toxicity, irritability, problems sleeping, and so many more there isn’t room on this page to list them all!

When taken orally, clay has a multifaceted effect. It has the keen ability to go to the place where it is needed most and heal that area. While it destroys unhealthy cells and bacteria, it also rebuilds healthy cells and tissues. As it heals, it pulls out all harmful bacteria, toxins, and chemicals, while leaving the healthy bacteria and intestinal flora untouched, causing your body to regain its natural homeostasis. Germs and parasites CAN NOT flourish in the presence of clay. Because of the minute particle size of the clay, it is able to surround the bacteria or parasites and cut off their supply of nutrients, leaving them unable to sustain life. They are then excreted easily and painlessly surrounded by a clay barrier.

Clay’s ability to attract toxins, bacteria, heavy metals, and other noxious substances comes from its positive electrical charge. With all negative and unhealthy substances containing a negative electrical charge, they are irresistibly attracted to the radiantly positive pole of the clay. This includes all unhealthy substances, even radiation! After the meltdown of Chernobyl in Russia, clay was added to chocolate bars and distributed to the masses to reduce the effects of the nuclear radiation. In addition, the scientists who went in afterward covered their bodies with a layer of clay before donning their radiation resistant gear, in order to absorb any radiation that might make it through their suits and render it essentially harmless. Also, it was used during the Balkan war of 1910 to reduce mortality from cholera among the soldiers from a whopping 60% to a mere 3%.

To be continued next month.

If you have any questions about how clay can benefit YOU, call Heather Olson at 309-343-5853. She will be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you might have.

Green clay 8 oz - $6.00 plus S&H.
Green clay 5lbs - $29.00 plus S&H.
aid worker Abdul Rahman, who fac-
es the death penalty in Afghanistan
for converting to Christianity. An
adviser to President Hamid Karzai
said the case would be dropped if a
psychological exam shows Rahman
to be mentally unfit. Newsweek,
April 3, 2006. p. 21

This same attitude manifested to-
wards someone who has accepted
Christ will be manifested toward
Sabbath keepers before long. We
too will be considered mentally un-
stable and a threat to society.

1 Peter 4:12-14 “Beloved, think it
not strange concerning the fiery
trial which is to try you, as though
some strange thing happened unto
you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye
are partakers of Christ’s suffer-
ings; that, when his glory shall be
revealed, ye may be glad also with
exceeding joy. If ye be reproached
for the name of Christ, happy are
ye; for the spirit of glory and of God
resteth upon you: on their part he is
evil spoken of, but on your part he
is glorified.”

Global Warming – A Sign

No one can say exactly what
it looks like when a planet takes
ill, but it probably looks a lot like
Earth. Never mind what you’ve
heard about global warming as a
slow-motion emergency that would
take decades to play out. Suddenly
and unexpectedly, the crisis is upon
us...By one recent measure, several
Greenland ice sheets have doubled
their rate of slide, and just last
week the journal Science published
a study suggesting that by the end
of the century, the world could be
locked in to an eventual rise in sea
levels as much as 20ft. Time April 3,
2006. p. 35

Just another of many, many signs
that this old world is just about
worn out.

Hebrews 1:10-11 “And, Thou, Lord,
in the beginning hast laid the foun-
dation of the earth; and the heavens
are the works of thine hands: They
shall perish; but thou remainest;
and they all shall wax old as doth
a garment;”

My righteousness is near; my sal-
vation is gone forth, and mine arm
shall judge the people; the isles
shall wait upon me, and on mine
arm shall they trust. Li

“Cut off his head.”

“This is humiliating for Islam…
Cut off his head.” Muslim cleric
Abdul Raouf, on former medical-

Horror - A Box-Office Favorite

In a risk-averse town like
Hollywood, the high church of
horror has become the one sure bet.
Since last fall, seven horror movies
have topped the box office. Lions
Gate’s “Saw” franchise, the genre’s
current kingpin, has rung up $250
million worldwide; a third film
is planned for Halloween. Three
more creepfests are scheduled for the next month, starting with Universal’s “Slither” this Friday. Even Disney has gotten into the act with the PG-13 flick “Stay Alive,” which, alas, is about the systematic slaughter of disco fans. Newsweek April 3, 2006. p. 61

Again, Satan is preparing the minds of our youth, and many others for unspeakable atrocities to be done to God’s people. Compassion is being systematically being stripped away from our consciences as Satan grasps control of the mind through these and other films. It is not accidental that as we near the close of probation there is more and more thirst for the cruel and terrible.

Sex in the Syllabus

Colleges are getting serious about porn studies, but should professors show or just tell?

“It’s called the porn curriculum, and it’s quietly taking root in the ivory tower. A small but growing number of scholars are probing the aesthetic, societal and philosophical properties of smut in academic departments ranging from literature to film, law to technology, anthropology to women’s studies. Those specialists argue that graphic sexual imagery has become ubiquitous in society, so it’s almost irresponsible not to teach young people how to deal with it.” Time, April 3, 2006. p. 80

Still wonder if it is safe to send your children to public education? These colleges actually give college credit for these classes! Some colleges require the viewing of this material for a grade! What else needs to be said? God will soon require an answer from those who have foisted this upon our youth, and from us if we send our children to the world to be educated.

We are under solemn, sacred covenant to God to bring up our children, not for the world, not to put their hands into the hands of the world, but to love and fear God, and to keep His commandments.” FE 289 Emphasis Supplied

Satan has full control of these young men, using their clueless and/or disinterested parents, cheap grace at church, and music! Don’t lose sight of that one. Music is a powerful tool in the enemy’s hands.

“Satan will make music a snare by the way in which it is conducted.” 2SM 36, 38

“Music is the idol which many professed Sabbath-keeping Christians worship. Satan has no objection to music, if he can make that a channel through which to gain access to the minds of the youth. Anything will suit his purpose that will divert the mind from God, and engage the time which should be devoted to His service. He works through the means which will exert the strongest influence to hold the largest numbers in a pleasing infatuation, while they are paralyzed by his power.” IT p. 506

Burning Churches - For the fun of it

Burning churches turns into a kick for young nihilists

“This is just so hard to believe,” said the state fire marshal, Richard W. Montgomery, after Alabama authorities caught the arsonists who burned nine churches. “My profile on these suspects is shot all to heck and back.”

The church burners were three bright college students from good families: Benjamin N. Moseley, Russell L. DeBusk Jr. (both 19, from the Methodist-related Birmingham Southern College), and Matthew Lee Cloyd (age 20, from the University of Alabama, Birmingham)...

Meanwhile, Mr. Moseley and Mr. DeBusk were identifying themselves to their classmates as “Satanists.”...

Mr. Cloyd also wrote, “May our parents be clueless!” Many adults do not realize that nihilism has become a major strain in the youth culture, especially among intelligent, creative young people, who become convinced of their superiority to their peers and to adult society. They typically become cynics, believing neither in the liberal pap they are force-fed at school nor in the more conservative ideals of their parents. They scorn church, which they blame for not understanding or appreciating them. Their attitude is reinforced by their music, and they relate to everything with mockery, irony, and theatrical self-displays.” World, March 25, 2006. p. 32

Contributor - Joe Olson
1. Who made this prediction? “You have wanted to be too much, and make a show and noise in the world, and as the result your sun will surely set in obscurity.”

A. A. G. Daniels  
B. J. N. Andrews  
C. Ellen G. White  
D. H. O. Olson

2. What was the price per night for which D. M. Canright made himself available for lectures against Seventh-day Adventists and Mrs. E.G. White?

A. $65.00  
B. $25.00  
C. $12.00  
D. $2.00

3. What year did D. M. Canright consider the beginning of his dark period in his experience of Ellen White’s reproofs to him?

A. 1869  
B. 1871  
C. 1873  
D. 1878

4. What state conference in 1879 elected D. M. Canright their president?

A. Ohio

5. In what year did D. M. Canright bring out his 413-page book *Seventh-Day Adventism Renounced*?

A. 1881  
B. 1883  
C. 1889  
D. 1891

6. Who was the author of the book *In Defense of the Faith*, published by the denomination, that countered D. M. Canright’s book *Seventh Day Adventism Renounced*?

A. F.D. Nichol  
B. F.M. Wilcox  
C. W.H. Branson  
D. Dr. Sadler

7. In what year was *The Lord’s Day from Neither Catholics or Pagans*, the second book by D. M. Canright, published?

A. 1899  
B. 1903  
C. 1908  
D. 1915

8. In what year was D. M. Canright’s third and last book, *Life of Mrs. E. G. White*, published?

A. 1907  
B. 1914  
C. 1916  
D. 1919

9. How many people attended D. M. Canright’s funeral?

A. 6  
B. 125  
C. 250  
D. 600

10. What did Dudley M. Canright have engraved on his tombstone?

A. “In the Blessed Hope”  
B. “An Author of World Renown”  
C. “Here rests D. M. Canright”  
D. “Rev. D. M. Canright”

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”—E. G. White, *Life Sketches*, 196. Many today have neglected to study the history and people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. To help encourage interest in Adventist history, we have put together questions about people and events of our past. Our goal is to spark faith, and further study into “the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”

Historical

Footnotes

1. Whom made this prediction? “You have wanted to be too much, and make a show and noise in the world, and as the result your sun will surely set in obscurity.”

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3. What year did D. M. Canright consider the beginning of his dark period in his experience of Ellen White’s reproofs to him?

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Matthew 22:37
Wearing a tie with this verse will be a witness to others, but also a personal reminder as you go about your day, “Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind.”

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Ellen G. White
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We are all looking for ways to witness to the world around us. A handsome stylish approach is by displaying your faith on a great looking tie. We carry the Hospitality line of ties in a variety of styles; here are some favorites:

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Ellen G. White
In Heavenly Places
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For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted):
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Sales tax: Illinois residents, please add 6.5%. Washington state residents, please add 7.8%.

All money sent must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.
I just want to confirm receipt of a mailbag containing issues of the magazine Our Firm Foundation. I got it two days ago, and already more than half of the quantity (105 magazines) have been distributed.

I believe God’s timing is always the best, because after my initial request for past copies of the magazine, I got a response saying you were on a tight budget. But after my local post office confirmed to me that there was a parcel from Hope International for me, I was more than excited, and blessed the Lord. Even the cost of handling charges and penalties (due to late collection, owing to inefficiency on the post office’s part) of approximately US$45.00 that I was made to pay came in a miraculous manner.

Currently we are attending a campmeeting for the Kitwe South Mission District. Therefore I am taking advantage of the same forum to distribute the messages. I am hoping to finish the same by tomorrow afternoon.

My sincere prayer is that the good Lord may continue blessing you abundantly as you also bless us and remember us in this part of the world. The work is really demanding, and lack of adequate tools is our greatest constraint.

May the good Lord continue inspiring you with great messages, as you also inspire the world with hope in the world where there is little hope.

Your fellow servant in Christ’s service,
Wellington Chabala

Also our greetings to Joe Olson. Enjoyed his article in latest newsletter, May-June 2006.
WN - Hawaii

May God richly bless you and the ministry at Hope. Will speak with you soon.
In Christian love and fellowship,
JK

We want to thank you for the EXCELLENT Firm Foundation magazine. Jesus is surely the one focused on in every page and word. We don’t want to miss a copy.
TDF- Rockford, IL

A subscriber in Texas, called to say, “I love the magazine Our Firm Foundation. I love all the articles. They are present truth that is needed so much at this time. It is food for my hungry soul. I would not want to be without one issue. I love every issue and could not point out what part of the magazine I like the best. It is all wonderful. Thank you again for all your huge efforts! God bless you all!”
JK

Thank you truly for allowing the Lord to use each one of you. Each person is a part of the whole body of Christ. God bless.
CG- Chicago, IL

The articles written in Our Firm Foundation are right on! You are tithe-worthy and preach the three angels’ messages.
LB- Missouri Valley, Iowa
To Our Dear Subscribers,

I thank God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; that the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. –Philemon 1:4-6

We are indeed so very thankful for all of you. Every morning we have worship and prayer before our workday begins. We think of you, our dear brothers and sisters, and mention you before God. We would not be able to operate this ministry without your support and prayers!

Everything we do at Hope International is aimed at preparing and perfecting others and ourselves for the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This includes everything from how our maintenance man Dan presents himself when he visits the hardware store, to sending out teams to preach in remote areas. Our smiles are free, but as you know, most of our endeavors cost money. We strive constantly to be wise stewards of God’s money, which we thankfully receive from our donors.

We are not embarrassed to let you know that we welcome your generous donations. We know that we are allowing you an opportunity to receive a blessing. In giving of our lives, our time, and our money, we all take on the character of Christ, who gave up all riches to become poor for our sake.

The reward, the glories of heaven, bestowed upon the overcomers, will be proportionate to the degree in which they have represented the character of Christ to the world. “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly.” Thank God that it is our privilege to sow on earth the seed that will be harvested in eternity. The crown of life will be bright or dim, will glitter with many stars, or be lighted by few gems, in accordance with our own course of action.

Day by day we may be laying up a good foundation against the time to come. By self-denial, by the exercise of the missionary spirit, by crowding all the good works possible into our life, by seeking so to represent Christ in character that we shall win many souls to the truth, we shall have respect unto the recompense of reward. It rests with us to walk in the light, to make the most of every opportunity and privilege, to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so we shall work the works of Christ and ensure for ourselves treasure in the heavens. (RH Jan. 29, 1895)

We therefore ask you to prayerfully consider Hope International as a recipient of your support. Sister White encourages the study of 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, to insure that no selfish motives lead us to withhold funds that are needed to help finish the work.

Thank you all again for your interest and your support! May God’s blessings be upon you and your entire family.

Joe Olson and the Hope International Staff