What are we doing to our children? Page 26
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Dear Reader,

As of the middle of July, 2008, I accepted the position at Hope International as editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine. Why, then, you might ask, are you not reading about it until the September 2008 issue?

The answer is especially important to our contributors that send in articles for publication in this magazine. For the rest of our readers, it may be quite informative in regard to the actual production of the magazine. We appreciate receiving articles between 1750 and 2500 words. These articles, if accepted for publication, will not appear in the magazine for a few months since the magazine is prepared at least two months in advance.

Your article will be read by me and the editorial staff and may be returned to you with suggested changes. I plan on informing every contributor of the receipt of his or her article, as well as its acceptance for publication, if that is the case.

Your submission should be in accord with the purposes of Hope International to strengthen every Seventh-day Adventist in his or her personal walk with Jesus Christ by encouraging the reading of the Scriptures, regular prayer, maintaining a healthy life style, and having a deeper understanding of the doctrines of the church. Some readers have referred to Our Firm Foundation as being similar to the “good old Review” of Ellen White’s day.

In order that you, as a reader, might feel closer to the people behind the magazine, I share a brief testimony.

I was born, raised and attended schools in and around Denver, Colorado. I went to East High School, the University of Colorado, and the University of Denver College of Law. I married upon graduation from law school, and over a few years had three wonderful children. Even though one of those children was born in a Seventh-day Adventist Hospital, I had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists.

During my fourteen years of law practice, I was on a continual search for truth. I have been an atheist, an agnostic, an evolutionist, deeply involved in New Age, a reborn Christian outside of Adventism, and finally a reborn Seventh-day Adventist Christian. Once I found the historic Seventh-day Adventist message, I knew it was truth, and that God had guided me to it. I left my law practice to go into the ministry.

I attended Andrews University for one year. While there my first wife, who was very supportive of my career change, and who had been baptized along with two of my children and me, was diagnosed with breast cancer. We returned to Colorado, where I participated in a field school and then became an associate pastor at the Denver South Church. Eventually I was transferred to my own pastorate in the Powell, Greybull, Cody district of Northern Wyoming. I was ordained during my time there. But, while there, my wife succumbed to her cancer.

I remained in my district and eventually remarried to my present wife, who was a lifestyle counselor at Uchee Pines in Alabama. In fact, she was my first wife’s lifestyle counselor, although I had not met her while my first wife was alive.

Mary, my present wife, and I took a leave of absence from the ministry and moved to the wilderness of Montana across from Glacier National Park. We began to learn about country living. After being there for a little more than a year, I accepted an invitation from Hope International to work there, and that resulted in my traveling and preaching with Ron Spear for over three and one-half years. Mary became a secretary there.

I submitted my first article to Our Firm Foundation while I was still pastoring in the Rocky Mountain Conference. During my time with Hope, I had an article in the magazine almost every month. After over three and a half years with Hope International in continual travel both abroad and in the United States, I left Hope to move into the mountains of western North Carolina above the city of Asheville, to again enter into country living. That was in 1994.

We live in an antique log cabin that originally was built lower on this same property in the year 1888; the cabin is actually dated. We are off the grid except for our telephone; we have gravity flow water, cut wood for our heat, and can testify to the joy of country living.

I have been a member of the board of Hope International for many, many years because I believe in the mission of Hope to help as many as possible to be ready for God’s kingdom through the power of Jesus in each life. I pray that I will be able to serve each of you as I move forward as the editor of Our Firm Foundation.

The most important accomplishment we can have through the articles and other items that appear in Our Firm Foundation is to encourage you to be studying and growing in your own Christian walk.

“The Jews perished as a nation because they were drawn from the truth of the Bible by their rulers, priests, and elders. Had they heeded the lessons of Jesus, and searched the Scriptures for themselves they would not have perished.” Testimonies to Ministers, 109.

Our Firm Foundation
“And Benhadad, the king of Syria, gathered all his host together: and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it. And he sent messengers to Ahab, king of Israel, into the city, and said to him, Thus saith Benhadad, thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine. And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine and all that I have.” I Kings 20:1–4.

Do We Meet the Condition?

Ahab gave what was asked of him by Benhadad: absolute surrender. I want to use these words: “My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have,” as the words of absolute surrender with which every child of God ought to yield himself to his Father. We have heard it before, but we need to hear it very definitely: the condition of God’s blessing is absolute surrender of all into His hands. If our hearts are willing for that, there is no end what God will do for us, and to the blessing God will bestow on us.

Your God in heaven answers the prayers which you have offered for blessings on yourselves and on those around you by this one demand: Are you willing to surrender yourselves absolutely into His hands? What is our answer to be? God knows there are hundreds of hearts who have said it, and hundreds more who long to say it but hardly dare do so. There are hearts who have said it, but who have yet miserably failed, and who feel themselves condemned because they did not find the secret of the power to live that life. Let me say, first of all, that God claims it from us!

What Absolute Surrender Is

You know in daily life what absolute surrender is. You know that everything has to be given up to its special, definite object and service. I have a pen in my pocket, and that pen is absolutely surrendered to the one work of writing. That pen must be absolutely surrendered to my hand if I am to write properly with it. If another hand holds it partly, I cannot write properly. My coat is absolutely given up to me to cover my body. And now, do you expect that in your immortal being, in the divine nature that you have received by regeneration, God can work His work, every day and every hour, unless you are entirely given up to Him? God cannot.

But this one lack of absolute surrender is just the thing that hinders God.

The temple of Solomon was absolutely surrendered to God when it was dedicated to Him. And everyone one of us is a temple of God, in which God will dwell and work mightily on one condition: absolute surrender to and goodness. Throughout the universe there is nothing good but what God works. Are not the sun, the moon, the stars, the flowers, trees and grass all completely surrendered to God? Do they not allow God to work in them just what He pleases? When God clothes the lily with its beauty, is it not yielded up, surrendered, given over to God as He works in it its beauty? And God’s redeemed children—oh, can you think that God can do His work if there is only half or a part of them surrendered? He cannot do it! God is life, love, blessing, power and infinite beauty, and God delights in communicating Himself to every child who is prepared to receive Him. But this one lack of absolute surrender is just the thing that hinders God. And now He comes and, as God, He claims it.

Trust God’s Nature

Yes, it has its foundation in the very nature of God. God cannot do otherwise! Who is God? He is the fountain of life, the only source of existence and power
Him. God claims it, God is worthy of it, and without it God cannot work His blessed work in us. God not only claims it, but He will work it Himself.

Fear, Doubt, and Hesitation

I’m sure there is many a heart that says, “But I have passed through so much trial and suffering, and there is so much of the self-life still remaining. I dare not face entirely giving it up because I know it will cause so much trouble and agony.” Oh, that God’s children have such thoughts of Him—such cruel thoughts! I come with a message to those who are fearful and anxious. God does not ask you to give the perfect surrender in your own strength or by the power of your will; God is willing to work it in you! Do we not read, “It is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure”? Phil 2:13. And that is what we should seek: to go on our faces before God until our hearts learn to believe that the everlasting God Himself will come in to turn out what is wrong. He will conquer what is evil, and work what is well-pleasing in His blessed sight. God Himself will work it in you.

I want to encourage you, and I want you to cast away every fear. Come with that feeble desire. If there is the fear which says, “My desire is not strong enough. I am not willing for everything that may come, and I do not feel bold enough to say I can conquer everything.” I implore you, learn to know and trust your God now. Say to Him, “My God, I am willing that you should make me willing.” If there is anything holding you back, or any sacrifice you are afraid of making, come to God now and prove how gracious your God is. Do not be afraid that He will command from you what He will not bestow in you.

We Have Only to Yield

God comes and offers to work this absolute surrender in you. All these searchings and hungerings and longings that are in your heart, they are the drawings of the divine magnet known as Jesus Christ. He lived a life of absolute surrender. He has possession of you; He is living in your heart by His Holy Spirit. You have hindered Him terribly, but He desires to help you get hold of Him entirely. And He comes and draws you now by His message and His words. Will you not come and trust God to work in you that absolute surrender to Himself? Yes, blessed be God, He can do it and He will do it! God not only claims it and works it, but He accepts it when we bring it to Him.

God works it in the secret of our hearts; He urges us by the hidden power of His Holy Spirit to come and speak it out, and we have to bring and yield to Him that absolute surrender. And when you come and bring God that absolute surrender, it may, as far as your feelings or your consciousness goes, be a thing of great imperfection. You may doubt and hesitate and say, “Is it absolute?” But remember there was once a man to whom Christ said, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” Mk 9:23. His heart was afraid and he cried out, “Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief.” Mk 9:24. That was a faith that triumphed over Satan and the evil spirit was cast out.

Do not be afraid, but come just as you are. Even in the midst of your trembling, the power of the Holy Spirit will work.

So if you come and say, “Lord, I yield myself in absolute surrender to my God,” even though you do so with a trembling heart and with the consciousness “I do not feel the power; I do not feel the determination; I do not feel the assurance,” it will succeed! Do not be afraid, but come just as you are. Even in the midst of your trembling, the power of the Holy Spirit will work.
The Spirit of God Works

Have you not yet learned the lesson that the Holy Spirit works with mighty power, while on the human side everything appears feeble? Look at the Lord Jesus Christ in Gethsemane. We read that He, “through the eternal Spirit,” offered Himself a sacrifice unto God. Heb 9:14. The almighty Spirit of God was enabling Him to do it. And yet what agony and fear and exceeding sorrow came over Him, and how He prayed! Externally, you can see no sign of the mighty power of the Spirit, but the Spirit of God is there. And even so, while you are feeble and fighting and trembling, with faith in the hidden work of God’s Spirit, do not fear, but yield yourself unto Him.

Believe that He Accepts

And when you do yield yourself in absolute surrender, let it be with the faith that God does now accept it. That is the great point and that is what we so often miss: that believers would be thus occupied with God in this matter of surrender. Be occupied with God. We want to get help, every one of us, so that our daily life in God will be dearer to us, so that God will have the right place and be “all in all.” And if we are to have that throughout life, let us begin now and look away from ourselves and look up to God. Let each believe, “I am a poor worm on earth and a trembling child of God, full of failure, sin and fear, bowed down here, and no one knows what passes through my heart.” I simply say, “Oh, God, I accept your terms. I have pleaded for blessings on myself and others. I have accepted your terms of absolute surrender.” While your heart says that in deep silence, remember there is a God present that takes note of it and writes it down in His book. There is a God present who at that very moment takes possession of you. You may not feel it, you may not realize it, but God takes possession if you will trust Him.

He Also Maintains

He not only claims it and works it and accepts it when you bring it, but He maintains it! That is the great difficulty for many. People say, “I have often been stirred at a meeting or at a convocation and I have consecrated myself to God. But it has passed away. It may last for a week or for a month, but it fades away. After time it is all gone.” It is because you do not believe what I am now going to tell you and remind you of. When God has begun the work of absolute surrender in you, and when God has accepted your surrender, then God holds Himself bound to care for it and to keep it. Will you believe that?

In this matter of surrender, there are but God and I—I, a worm; God, the everlasting and omnipotent Jehovah.

Worm, will you be afraid to trust yourself to this mighty God now? God is willing. Do you not believe that He can keep you continually, day by day and moment by moment? If God allows the sun to shine upon you moment by moment, without intermission, will He not let His life shine upon you every moment? And why have you not experienced it? Because you have not trusted God for it, and you do not surrender yourself absolutely to God in that trust! A life of absolute surrender has its difficulties. I do not deny that. But it has something far more than difficulties. It is a life that with men is absolutely impossible. But, by the grace of God, by the power of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, it is a life to which we are destined, and a life that is possible for us! Praise God! Let us believe that God will maintain it.

His Will Alone

Give yourselves up absolutely to the will of God. You know something of that will, but not enough—far from it. But say absolutely to the Lord God, “By Your grace I desire to do Your will in everything, every moment of every day.” Say, “Lord God, not a word upon my tongue but for Your glory. Not an affection of love or hate in my heart but for Your glory and according to Your blessed will.”
When God has begun the work of absolute surrender in you, and when God has accepted your surrender, then God holds Himself bound to care for it and to keep it.

What has God promised you and what can God do to fill a vessel absolutely surrendered to Him? God wants to bless you in a way beyond anything you can expect. From the beginning, ear has not heard, neither has the eye seen, what God has prepared for them that wait for Him. I Cor 2:9. God has prepared unheard-of things, blessings much more wonderful than you can imagine, more mighty that you can conceive. They are divine blessings. So say now, “I give myself absolutely to God, to His will, to do only what God wants.” It is God who will enable you to carry out the surrender. Then say, “I give myself absolutely to God, to let Him work in me to will and to do of His good pleasure, as He has promised to do.” The living God wants to work in His children in a way that we cannot understand, but that God’s Word has revealed. He wants to work in us every moment of the day. God is willing to maintain our life. Only let our absolute surrender be one of simple, childlike and unbounded trust.

Abundant Blessings

This absolute surrender to God brings wonderful blessings to each of us. What Ahab said to his enemy, King Benhadad—“My lord, O king, according to thy word I am thine, and all that I have”—should we not say the same to our God and loving Father? If we do say it, God’s blessings will come upon us.

Separate From the World

God wants us to be separate from this present world. We are called to come out from the world that hates God. Come out for God and say, “Lord, anything for You.” If you say that with prayer and speak that into God’s ear, He will accept it and He will teach you what it means. You have been praying for a blessing, but do remember there must be absolute surrender. Can God bless you if you are not absolutely surrendered to Him? Absolutely He cannot! Let us believe He has wonderful blessings for us if we will stand up for God and say, be it with a trembling will, yet with a believing heart, “God, I accept Your demands. I am Yours and all I have. Absolute surrender is what my soul yields to You by divine grace.”

Denying Self

You may not have such strong, clear feelings of surrender as you would like to have, but humble yourselves in His sight and acknowledge that you have grieved the Holy Spirit by your self-will, self-confidence and self-effort. Bow humbly before Him in the confession of that and ask Him to break the heart and to bring you into dust before Him. Then, as you bow before Him, just accept God’s teaching that in your flesh, “there dwelleth no good thing” (Rom 2:18), and that nothing will help you except another life must come in. You must deny self once and for all. Denying self every moment must be the power of your life, and then Christ will come in and take possession of you. And of the Father we ask that He will strengthen us with all might by the Spirit in the inner man, and that He would fill us with His mighty power. And as the Spirit reveals Christ to us, He comes to live in our hearts forever, and the self-life is cast out.

So Little Power or Devotion

While we are bowed before God in humility, we confess our sins and the sins of our people and our church and the sad state of the church of God on this earth. Just think of the Christians around us—not the nominal professing Christians but the many earnest Christians who are not living lives in the power of God or to His glory.

So little power, so little devotion or consecration to God, so little perception of the truth that a Christian is a man utterly surrendered to God’s will. We are members of a sickly body, which will hinder us and break us down, unless we come to God.

Deliverance Necessary

We must, in confession, separate ourselves from partnership with the world and from coldness toward each other. We must give ourselves up to be entirely and wholly for God. How much work, day by day, in which human energy is continually manifested, and in which there is little waiting upon God and His Holy Spirit. Who is there who truly acknowledges that it is the power of self and the flesh, and who is willing to cast all at the feet of Jesus Christ? There really is a deliverance to be had. Do you love Christ? Do you long to be in Christ and yet are not like Him? Let death be to you the most desirable thing on earth—death to self—in order to have fellowship with Christ.

Separation. Do you think it a hard thing to be called to be entirely free from the world, and by that separation to be united to God and His love, by separation to become prepared for living and working with God every day? Surely one ought to say, “Anything to bring me to separation, to death, for a life of full fellowship with God and Jesus Christ.”

. . . What can God do to fill a vessel absolutely surrendered to Him? God wants to bless you in a way beyond anything you can expect.

Come and cast this self-life and flesh-life at the feet of Jesus. Then trust Him. Do not worry yourselves with trying to understand all about it, but come in faith of a living Christ who will come into you with the power of His death and the power of His life. That the Holy Spirit will bring the whole Christ, who was crucified and is risen and living in glory, into your heart, is my prayer. Amen, come Thou, Lord Jesus.

John Staines writes from Lincoln, Illinois.
The True and False Sabbath; True and False Christians

The change of the Sabbath is a sign or mark of the authority of the Romish Church. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false sabbath in the place of the true, are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath, which has been accepted by the world in the place of the day of God’s appointment.

There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion. None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of “the third angel” shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.

With rapid steps we are approaching this period. When Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power in sustaining a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will the papal Sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and State. There will be a national apostasy, which will end only in national ruin.

Papal Plans, Protestant Patronage, and Persecution

Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Roman Catholic Church. She presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties, and declaring that her spirit of persecution no longer exists. But she is the same as in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up at the peril of their lives to expose her iniquity; the same as when she assumed the power to control kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. She may clothe herself in Christlike garments, the better to carry forward her purposes; but she still retains the venom of the serpent, and her principles are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in churches, and in the hearts of men. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when it crushed out human liberty, and slew the saints of the Most High.

**Persecution always follows a restriction of religious liberty on the part of secular governments.**

By compromises and concessions, Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery, giving her vantage-ground which papists themselves are surprised to see and fail to understand. The Protestant world needs to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty. When the State shall enforce the decrees and sustain the institutions of the church, then will Protestant America have formed an image of the Papacy. Then the true church will be assailed by persecution as were God’s people in ancient times. Almost every century furnishes instances of what human hearts, controlled by rage and malice, can do under a plea of serving God by protecting the rights of the church and State. The Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliances with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. How many non-conformist ministers have suffered under the power of the Church of England! Persecution always follows a restriction of religious liberty on the part of secular governments.

Rejection of Great Light

It is urged by many that the intellectual and moral darkness prevailing during the middle ages favored the spread of dogma, superstition, and the oppression of popery, and that the general diffusion of knowledge, and the well-nigh universal acceptance of the principles of religious liberty, forbid a revival of superstition and tyranny. It is true that great light, intellectual, moral, and religious, is shining upon this generation. Since 1844 light from the heaven of heavens has beamed from the open door of the temple of God. But it is to be remembered that the greater the light bestowed, the greater the delusion and darkness of those who reject the Word of God and accept fables, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.

Satan will excite the indignation of apostate Christendom against the humble remnant who conscientiously refuse to accept false customs and traditions. Blinded by the prince of darkness, popular religionists will see only as he sees, and feel as he feels. They will determine as he determines, and oppress as he has oppressed. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. The church and the world will unite, and the world will lend to
the church power to crush out the right of the people to worship God according to His Word.

As in Esther’s Time

The decree which is to go forth against the people of God in the near future is in some respects similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews in the time of Esther. The Persian edict sprang from the malice of Haman against Mordecai. Not that Mordecai had done Haman harm, but he had refused to flatter his vanity by showing him the reverence which is due only to God. The king’s decision against the Jews was secured under false pretenses. Satan instigated this scheme in order to rid the earth of those who preserved a knowledge of the true God. But his plots were defeated by a counter-power that reigns among the children of men. Angels who excel in strength were commissioned to protect the people of God, and the plots of their adversaries returned upon their own heads.

But if the people of God will put their trust in Him, and by faith rely upon His power, the devices of Satan will be defeated in our time as signally as in the days of Mordecai.

History repeats itself. The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is now at work to gain control of the Protestant churches, that through them he may condemn and put to death all who will not worship the idol sabbath. We have not to battle with man, as it may appear.

Peace and Unity Not to be Attained by Sacrificing Principle

Christ never purchased peace and friendship by compromise with evil. Tho His heart overflowed with love toward the human race, He could not be indulgent to their sins. Because He loved men and women, He was a stern reprover of their vices. His life of suffering, the humiliation to which He was subjected by a perverse nation, show His followers that there must be no sacrifice of principle. God’s tried people must maintain watchfulness, with fervent prayer, lest, in their eagerness to prevent discord, they surrender truth, and thus dishonor the God of truth. Peace is too dearly obtained if purchased by the smallest concession to Satan’s agencies. The least surrender of principle entangles us in the snare of the enemy.

To Each the Test Will Come

The decree is to go forth that all who will not receive the mark of the beast shall neither buy nor sell, and, finally, that they shall be put to death. But the saints of God do not receive this mark. The prophet of Patmos beheld those that had gotten the victory over the beast and over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

To every soul will come the searching test, Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Satan is putting forth his utmost efforts in the rage of a last despairing struggle against Christ and His followers. False teachers are employing every device possible to stimulate the hardened sinner in his rebellious daring, to confirm the questioning, the doubting, the unbelieving, and, by misrepresentation and falsehood, to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect. Who are prepared to stand firmly under the banner on which is inscribed, “The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”?

We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. But if the people of God will put their trust in Him, and by faith rely upon His power, the devices of Satan will be defeated in our time as signally as in the days of Mordecai.

Signs of the Times, November 8, 1899.

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.
We all go through this experience from time to time. And we can be sure that we will go through it again. Paul and Barnabas had this experience at Lystra, which is why I call it the “Lystrian Experience.”

“And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.” Acts 14:8–11.

The Lystrians thought that Paul had done something wonderful for them, and they were overjoyed . . . so much so that they determined to worship them. They were so happy with what they were given, the health of this cripple, that they wanted to praise Paul and Barnabas by sacrificing unto them.

Giving What They Want
Whenever you give people what they want—whenever things are “going their way”—they are happy . . . and they like you.

We are all like that from time to time, aren’t we? When everything is going well, when we are getting what we want . . . we are happy campers. We’re praising God, ready to do sacrifice for Him. Ready to exalt anyone and everyone responsible for our good fortune.

God is a wonderful God when everything is going our way. Our spouses are wonderful; our kids are perfect; even the pastor is a great man . . . as long as we are happy. Our Christian experience is one of uninterrupted joy and praise during these times. The sun is shining . . . and it is a beautiful day.

Have you had that experience?
When all is going well? Have you ever heard of “sunshine Christians”?

“There are some who are ever at their post of duty, come sunshine or come storm. There is also a class of sunshine Christians. When everything goes well and is agreeable to their feelings, they are fervent and zealous. . . .” Testimonies, Vol. 4, 300.

Not Much of a Test
It is not much of a test when everything is going your way, to know if you are a Christian or not. It is when it is not going your way that tells whether the metal is true or not—whether it will stand the test. When you like what is going on, when it is “agreeable to your feelings,” what’s not to be happy about? When the sun is shining, and the blessings are coming . . . everybody is praising God and you.

And we all want that experience, don’t we? We all want to be happy and we want people to be happy with us, right?

Well, here is how you do it. Give people whatever they want, whenever they want it, and as much of it as they want. Then everyone will be happy with you—right?

As the Wind Blows
Not quite. You see, people are fickle. Webster’s defines “fickle” as “marked by lack of steadfastness, constancy, or stability: given to erratic changeableness.” “Erratic changeableness.” “Erratic” means “having no fixed course.”
just go whatever way the wind blows. People can love you one day and hate you the next. Have you ever had that experience?

This is what Paul and Barnabas experienced at Lystra. The people of Lystra were ready to worship them and do sacrifice unto them. They were so inclined to do this, that even when Paul and Barnabas said not to, the Bible says that they were “scarcely restrained.”

“And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.” Acts 14:18.

In other words, it almost didn’t work even then. They wanted to worship them as gods for healing the crippled man.

Yes, when you do something the people like, you are the “man,” and they want to praise you for it. But the Lystrian experience doesn’t end there. No . . . there is another verse in this experience.

From Worship to Hatred

“And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.” Acts 14:19.

Please note that this change in the people came in the very next verse! From praise to premeditated murder . . . in one verse!

A few words, and the crowd goes from praising with raised hands to pounding with rocks.

And they didn’t merely think or meditate about killing Paul. They did it! They stoned him dead! Or so they thought. One verse later!

You see, people are fickle, erratic, changeable, keeping no fixed course. The very people who were ready to worship them as gods were ready to kill them a few minutes later. What happened? What evil had they done? What had they said? What does the scripture say? We just read it:

“And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people. . . .” Acts 14:19.

All it took was for some people who didn’t like Paul and Barnabas to come and talk . . . and the people were “persuaded.” Pretty incredible, isn’t it? A few words, and the crowd goes from praising with raised hands to pounding with rocks.

What was said? What was told to these Lystrians that made them change so quickly? It was so inconsequential that it is not even mentioned in the scripture.

When Feelings Override Facts

You see, when you are unstable, erratic, changeable, you change when the wind changes. You go wherever the current takes you. Facts play no part—only the emotion of the moment. You make your decisions based on how you feel just then. Praise and premeditated murder—coming from the same person.

And it does not take long for the change to take place. That is why it is so important for us to rely upon facts, rather than feelings. We are tempted to do the same thing. The devil doesn’t leave us alone.

We are permitted to see and experi-
“There are some who are ever at their post of duty, come sunshine or come storm. There is also a class of sunshine Christians.”

Christ Crucified Anew In His People

“All his deceiving power will be brought to bear upon human subjects, to complete the work of deluding the human family. So deceptive will be his working, that men will do as they did in the days of Christ; and when asked, Whom shall I release unto you, Christ or Barabbas? the almost universal cry will be, Barabbas, Barabbas! And when the question is asked, ‘What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?’ the cry again will be, ‘Crucify him!’ Christ will be represented in the person of those who accept the truth, and who identify their interest with that of their Lord. The world will be enraged at them in the same way that they were enraged at Christ, and the disciples of Christ will know that they are to be treated no better than was their Lord.

“Those who love and keep the commandments of God are most obnoxious to the synagogue of Satan, and the powers of evil will manifest their hatred toward them to the fullest extent possible.” Review and Herald, April 14, 1896.

This is not presented to us as a possible occurrence. It is an inevitable one.

Where Is our Trust?

And what “facts” do you suppose will be presented? No doubt the same “facts” that were presented to the Lystrians. And what will the people do when presented with these so-called “facts”? The same thing they did to Paul. “Let’s kill them!” will be the cry.

Remember . . . people are fickle. They can and will change in a minute. In light of that, where should our trust be? In these “fickle” people? No, we need something more stable than that.

“With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles.” 2 Chronicles 32:8.

Hezekiah, the king of Judah, knew that to trust in man is folly, but to trust in God—now there is strength, there is stability. God and His word is our only “firm foundation.” People will fail you again and again.

We are not blessed because people like us. We are blessed because we do what God says.

If they are happy with you, and you are giving them what they want, all may be well. But let that change, and things can turn on a dime. We have to make sure that our confidence, our hope, our trust . . . is in doing the will of our Lord.

“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.” Rev 22:14.

We are not blessed because people like us. We are blessed because we do what God says.

As a matter of fact, it is almost certain you will not be liked if you do God’s will. And what was Paul’s attitude when he was stoned by these fickle people?

First Lystrian Lesson: Praise in Trial

“. . . The apostle suddenly lifted up his head and rose to his feet with the praise of God upon his lips.” Acts of the Apostles, 184.

When Paul was treated so maliciously, what were his thoughts? Praise! Praising God! This is another part of the Lystrian experience. When we are treated unfairly, when we are spoken evil against, we need to praise God. For so treated they the prophets before you. So it has ever been with God’s people.

It is easy to praise God for the good—but it is a Lystrian experience to praise God for the bad. But why? What’s the point? Why suffer, and be happy about it?

For one thing, we praise God for these things because He felt you were “worthy” enough to suffer for Him. It is a wonderful thing to be considered “worthy” by God Almighty!

Second Lesson: We Are Witnesses

Another reason is because we are to be examples. Others are ever watching. And this is the last part of the Lystrian experience. The witness. People are to see Christianity in action . . . in the tough times.

Well, what kind of example is it when things are going well? Even the devil is happy when things are going his way. The real example, the real test, is when things are not “sun-shiney.” When Stephen was stoned, there was a witness to that event, who became a mighty power for God. Remember who that was? Saul, who is now named Paul.

Witnessing Multiplies

The witness that Stephen gave that day made a powerful impression upon young Saul—an impression that was to last a lifetime. As a result of that stoning, a mighty warrior of the faith was
established. Stephen was gone, but God replaced him with Paul.

We all know the result of that fateful day for Stephen. But here is something you might not have known. When Paul was stoned, there was a witness then, too. And he, too, became a mighty power for God’s work. He was important enough for Paul to have written him at least two letters, both of which are preserved in our Bibles today. That’s right. It was Timothy.

“Among those who had been converted at Lystra, and who were eyewitnesses of the sufferings of Paul, was one who was afterward to become a prominent worker for Christ and who was to share with the apostle the trials and the joys of pioneer service in difficult fields. This was a young man named Timothy. When Paul was dragged out of the city, this youthful disciple was among the number who took their stand beside his apparently lifeless body and who saw him arise, bruised and covered with blood, but with praises upon his lips because he had been permitted to suffer for the sake of Christ.” 

Acts of the Apostles, 184

Triumphs of Trials Endured

Yes, the Lystrian experience can be a mighty power for good, sowing seeds for eternity! Saul, or Paul, was a young man when he witnessed the stoning of Stephen. Timothy was a young man when he witnessed the stoning of Paul. And both scenes of persecution were fertile ground for the seeds of gospel truth.

When Paul was eventually led to give up his life for the gospel, do you know who it was that took his place? Who took the place of the mighty and valiant warrior of the truth? Whom do you suppose God would use to fill the shoes of one of the greatest evangelists the world has ever known? It was Timothy.

“Paul continued his charge: “Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” Paul was about to finish his course, and he desired Timothy to take his place…” Ibid., 506

Your Lystrian Experience

The Lystrian experience can be very hard, but if we are faithful through it, it can produce a wonderful harvest of souls for the Master. When you are accused—and you will be;

When you are reviled and hated for Christ’s sake—and you will be;

When you are spoken evil against—and you will be;

Endure hardship. That’s what Paul encouraged Timothy to do. Paul considered Timothy his son in the gospel, and this is what he told his son:

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” 2 Timothy 2:3.

God expounds on this a little further through Ellen White:

“We have only a little while to urge the warfare; then Christ will come, and this scene of rebellion will close. Then our last efforts will have been made to work with Christ and advance His kingdom. Some who have stood in the forefront of the battle, zealously resisting incoming evil, fall at the post of duty; others gaze sorrowfully at the fallen heroes, but have no time to cease work. They must close up the ranks, seize the banner from the hand palsied by death, and with renewed energy vindicate the truth and the honor of Christ. As never before, resistance must be made against sin—against the powers of darkness. The time demands energetic and determined activity on the part of those who believe present truth.” Ye Shall Receive Power, 185.

Take Courage

The Lystrian experience can be very tough, but it can be very glorious, as well. When Stephen was being stoned, he had no idea what Saul was going to become. When Paul was stoned, he had no idea what Timothy was going to become. When the stones are thrown at us, don’t lose heart. Take courage. God has a plan that you can scarcely conceive.

The night of trial will not be long, but it must come, for the sake of others. We do not know who will be watching us as we witness to our faith. It may be a Timothy. It may be a Paul. That’s really not our concern. Here is our duty:

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but 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.” Philippians 3:13–14.

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Belief is not the only condition of salvation. There is a “do” in the Christian faith.

In part one, some of Jesus’ own statements from the gospels, Acts, and Revelation were expounded upon by the author, who considers those statements and more to comprise the “gospel of Jesus.” Part two continues the study.

Fear God, Not Others

We are not to expect popular acclaim, “but he that endures to the end shall be saved.” (Mt 10:22) We should prepare to be itinerant and give our witness in several settings, for “when they persecute in this city, flee into another.” (Mt 10:23) “The disciple is not above his master nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? Fear them not therefore, for there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed, and hidden that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak in the light and what you hear in the ear, that preach upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul. But rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Don’t two sparrows sell for a farthing? Not one of them shall fall to the ground without your Father knowing. The very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, for you are of more value than many sparrows. Whoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Mt 10:24–33) Is this “only believe”?

“He that…”

“A man’s foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. He that loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that takes not his cross and follows after me is not worthy of me. He that finds his life shall lose it, and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it. He that receives you receives me, and he that receives me receives Him that sent me. He that receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. He that receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.” Mt 10:36–41.

Christ’s Credentials

When questions come regarding Christ’s credentials, they are to be referred to His mighty miracles and works of love. “And blessed is he who is not offended in me.” (Mt 11:6) John the Baptist was the Elijah to come before the great and terrible day of the Lord. (Mal 4:5; Mt 11:14) Yet skeptics rejected John, calling him a devil (though he fasted and did not drink), and also rejected the Son
of man (though he came eating and drinking), calling Him names such as “glutton and winebibber,” as well as a friend of publicans and sinners. (Mt 11:18–19) People who don’t like what you say or stand for will find their own reasons to reject you, regardless of what you might otherwise do.

Repentance Needed
In giving His gospel, Jesus did not suggest blanket forgiveness for the unrepentant, but rather pronounced woe on Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum, saying it would be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon, and even Sodom, in the day of judgment, because had Christ done the same mighty works in the latter, they would have long since repented in sackcloth and ashes. Mt 11:21–24.

Obviously repentance, which is something we do, is needed as well as faith and belief. While the truths of Christ’s gospel are hidden from the worldly wise and proud, He reveals them even to “babes.” He comforts us by saying: “Come unto me, all that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest unto your souls. My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Mt 11:28–30.

Judged by Our Words
“All manner of sin shall be forgiven except blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. Even words spoken against the Son of man can be forgiven, but not against the Holy Ghost, either in this world or the world to come. The tree is known by its fruit, and out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man brings forth good things and an evil man brings forth evil things, and every idle word spoken will be accounted for in the day of judgment.” (Mt 12:33–36) “For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.” Mt 12:37.

Greater Than Any Precedent
We should have more faith than to be constantly seeking after a sign from God, for Jesus says those doing so are an “evil and adulterous generation.” (Mt 12:39) To such, Jesus said He would give only the sign of Jonah. Furthermore, Jesus said Nineveh would condemn this faithless generation because they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and a greater than Jonah was witnessing to them. Also, the queen of the south would condemn them because she came from the uttermost part of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and a greater than Solomon was here. And the backslidden are worse off than those who have never known the truth, since “the last state of those are worse than the first.” (Mt 12:40–45) “Whoever shall do the will of Jesus’ Father in heaven, the same is His brother, sister, and mother.” Mt 12:48–50.

Speaking in Parables
Jesus taught in parables, “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying ‘I will open my mouth in parables. I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.’” (Mt 13:35)

He explained to His disciples the meaning of the parables and the condition we should be in to be among those who will be saved (future tense). “He that sows the good seed is the Son of man. The field is the world. The good seed are the children of the kingdom. The tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world.” (Mt 13:39–41)

Notice that those who will be saved (future tense) are part of the harvest at the end of the world. They are not...
saved now or in the past, although they may be in a saving relationship with Christ now. There is a difference. To stay in our saving relationship we must orient ourselves to the kingdom of heaven as if it were a “hidden treasure,” or the “pearl of great price” to which we sacrifice all that we have in order to obtain. (Mt 13:44–46) “At the end of the world, the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.” To be among the just, we must have done the will of the Father.

Then Jesus went back to his own country (Nazareth) and taught them—and yet they believed Him not. Doubting, they questioned where He got His wisdom and mighty works. They knew He was just the “carpenter’s son” whose mother was Mary, and whose brothers were “James, Joses, Simon and Judas.” Thus “they were offended” by Him. “But Jesus said unto them: ‘A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house.’ And He did not mighty works there because of their unbelief.” Mt 13:53–58.

To be in a saving relationship with God, we cannot simply give Him lip service, for “this people draws near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.” (Mt 15:8–9) “They be blind leaders of the blind. If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” Mt 15:14.

“**What Shall a Man Give . . .?**” 

Jesus modeled resistance to evil by saying, “Get behind me, Satan, for you don’t like the things of God but the things of men.” (Mt 16:23) He said, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Whoever will save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He shall reward every man according to His works.” Mt 16:24–27. In the process of salvation, Christ wants our cooperative works and denial. If it’s truly “only believe,” why deny yourself or be rewarded according to your works?

Following Christ involves suffering, as with John the Baptist (the second Elijah) and Jesus Himself. (Mt 17:12) To be successful in accomplishing big things for God, we must exercise big faith, along with fasting and prayer.

(Mt 17:14–21) Also while in this world, we are to pay required taxes. Mt 17:24–27.

**Humility and Conversion**

“Except we be converted and become as little children, we shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever shall humble himself . . . is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Mt 18:3–4) If all it takes is belief, why be concerned about conversion or humility? It is impossible for us to atone, but in Christ we can be obedient, humble and converted.

**Disputes with Others**

If there is a dispute between ourselves and another, we are to resolve it alone with that person if he will hear it. If not, we are to take another witness to establish every word. If he still won’t compromise or resolve the problem with you, then you may take it to the church. If he still remains recalcitrant, “then let him be unto you as a heathen and a publican.” (Mt 18:15–18) Why worry about all these steps if belief is all it takes?

Peter asked Jesus if he should forgive someone seven times. Jesus replied: “Rather, seventy times seven.” But why would forgiveness be necessary if belief were the only ingredient in salvation?

**Divorce and Self-Sacrifice**

Regarding divorce, Jesus said: “Moses because of the harness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. Whoever puts away
his spouse, except for illicit sex, and marries another, commits adultery, and whoever marries the divorced spouse without Bible grounds commits adultery. What God has joined together, let no man split in two.” (Mt 19:4–9)

Why worry about a Biblical divorce if belief is all that is necessary?

When the rich young ruler asked what he must do to inherit eternal life, Jesus said: “Keep the commandments.” Notice Jesus did not say, “Only believe on Me.” Then Jesus said: “Go . . . , sell . . . , give . . . , come . . . , follow me.” (Mt 16:2) If belief were the only ingredient in salvation, why would Jesus ask for sacrifice?

“Everyone that has forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or Children, or lands for my sake shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first.” (Mt 19:29-30)

Christ answered His hecklers about multiple marriages and whose spouse is whose by saying: “You do err, not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.” Mt 22:29–30.

Jesus responded to a lawyer asking which was the greatest commandment by saying: “You shall love the Lord your God withal your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. The second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Mt 22:37–40)

Why endure, or watch, or be ready, if belief is all it takes?

Enduring Till the End

“Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets, and stone them that are sent unto you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not! Behold your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, you shall not see me henceforth, till you shall say, ‘Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.’” (Mt 23:37–39) “Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that endures unto the end the same shall be saved.” (Mt 24:12–13) Why endure, if belief is all that’s asked of us.

“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come. Watch therefore for you know not what hour your Lord will come.” (Mt 24:14, 24) “Therefore be ready, for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes. (Mt 24:44) Why endure, or watch, or be ready, if belief is all it takes?”

To Be Continued.

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God declares that the sanctification coming from Him is bestowed on those only who honor Him by obeying His commands.

Last month our detailed study of the Sabbath covered true sanctification through obedience, clarified which law was nailed to the cross, exposed the empty reasoning of those who claim Sunday as the New Testament Sabbath, and more.

Lying Teachers

“Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.” Ez 22:26.


Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, called the seventh day the Sabbath. Was Paul ignorant? Didn’t he know? Shall we believe the modern teachers who tell us the Sabbath ceased at the resurrection of Christ? It also seems very strange to me that Jesus, during His three-and-a-half years of ministry and communing with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question, never once alluded to any transference of the day. Even after Christ’s resurrection, during the forty days before His ascension, no such thing was intimated. If we listen to, and believe, these modern teachers, then we must also believe that Jesus was ignorant, as well. And that He had no clue as to what He was talking about! Who are you going to believe, dear reader? Are you going to believe dear Jesus, and stand on God’s Word, or believe and stand on some men’s tradition? “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.” Lk 4:16.

Jesus Our Only Teacher

We are to copy no human being. There is no human being wise enough to be our criterion. We are to look to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our precious Saviour, who is complete in the perfection of righteousness and holiness. He is “the author and finisher of our faith.” Heb 12:2. He is the...
“Pattern Man.” Follow Jesus and you will be safe. “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve . . .; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Josh 24:15.

Bible writers and prophets all use similar language when talking about these “end times,” and the “little flock” or the “remnant” or the “few” who will prove to be faithful to the very end. The fact that so few will be saved is not nearly as shocking as the reason given in the Bible for their loss. It seems obvious that great multitudes will be excluded from heaven, even though they professed Christ and worshiped Him regularly, and spent much of their time doing wonderful works in His name. Jesus said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, we have not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Mt 7:21–23.

These verses reveal that the earth will be flooded with a lot of false religion in the last days. Millions will be spending their time, their effort, and their money in promoting a religion that involves apparent miracles, apparent spiritual gifts, and much enthusiastic activity. “For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.” Rom 10:2. All of this is explicitly spelled out in the teachings of our Lord. Yet those many will finally be utterly rejected by Jesus, and shut out of heaven. Talk about startling truth! More people need to get their eyes open to this little-understood situation that will characterize the end-times—and to why they will be rejected in spite of their devoted worship and ministry in the name of Jesus.

What we must understand is this: religious activity is quite useless if we are not doing the will of God! Christ declared that calling on God’s name, and even leading out in great selfless humanitarian programs, will be wasted if obedience to God’s will is excluded. Mark this fact upon the tables of your mind, and never forget it: the Scriptures exalt obedience as the distinguishing test of a valid religion. Those who engage ever so fully in preaching in Jesus’ name, with time, talent and money, but do not keep his commandments, cannot meet with the approval of God. In fact, because they are not obeying Christ, such worshipers actually open a door by which Satan can enter unrecognized, and work miracles through them in the name of Jesus, which they ascribe to the power of God. The plaintive plea, “Have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils?” is proof positive that their miracles had been done by some other power than that of Christ, albeit in His name. If Jesus never knew them, who else could work such miracles? Only Satan. The Bible speaks of “the spirits of devils, working miracles,” in Revelation 16:14.

By the way, what did Jesus mean when He said, “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity?” How does one really come to “know” the Lord? The beloved John tells us, “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” 1 Jn 2:4. “Whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.” 1 Jn 3:6. Again and again, over and over, we see that knowing Him means we obey Him! Biblically, it is impossible to be a true child of God while refusing to obey the commandments of God. Willful disobedience cuts off the relationship, and drives away the Holy Spirit by which we are sealed, and effectively removed the individual from the position of grace.

It is time we look past the stimulating music, the spellbinding oratory, and even the exciting witnessing programs, and apply the test that was set up by the great Author of all truth, Jesus Christ Himself. Christ has established the standard of measurement. And nothing less than a “faith which worketh by love” will be accepted. Gal 5:6. Jesus has made it exceedingly clear that the original requirements of God have remained unchanged. The condition of obedience, which would have kept man in Eden, becomes the condition for his restoration to Eden. “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.” Rev 22:14.

Men have sought out many inventions. They have taken a common workday, upon which God has placed no sanctity, and have clothed it with sacred prerogatives. They have
declared it to be a holy day, but this does not give it a vestige of sanctity. They dishonor God by accepting human institutions and presenting to the world, as the Christian Sabbath, a day which has no “thus saith the Lord” for its authority.

Sanctification is claimed by professed Christians who ignore God’s holy rest day for a spurious Sabbath. But God declares that the sanctification coming from Him is bestowed on those only who honor Him by obeying His commands. “And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.” Acts 5:23. The sanctification claimed by those who continue in transgression is a spurious sanctification. Thus the religious world is deceived by Satan, the enemy of God and man. 2 Cor 11:13–15.

Every man in God’s world is under the laws of His government. God has placed the Sabbath in the bosom of the Decalogue, and has made it the criterion of obedience. Through it we may learn of His power, as displayed in His works and His Word.

You can worship any false god you like and still keep the other nine commandments, but in order to worship the true Creator-God, you must keep the fourth commandment.

The Sabbath is to be remembered and observed as the memorial of the Creator’s work. All who keep the seventh day signify by this act that they are worshipers of the Creator-God. You can worship any false god you like, and still keep the other nine commandments. Thus the Sabbath is a sign of allegiance to God. “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.” Is 8:16. “Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify them.” Eze 20:12. “And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.” Eze 20:20.

The Seal of God in the New Testament

The seal of God is also found in the New Testament: “God (His name) that made (His title: Creator) the world and all things therein, seeing that he is LORD of heaven and earth (His jurisdiction). . . .” Acts 17:24. “Fear God (His name), and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made (His title: Creator) heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters (His jurisdiction).” Rev 14:7.

The seventh-day Sabbath is the seal of the living God; it is His “mark” of authority. Ex 31:13, 16–18. Those who desire to have the Seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Thus the distinction is drawn between the loyal and the disloyal, who have accepted a man-made institution in place of the true Sabbath, and will in the end receive the “seal/mark of the beast.” Rev 14:9–12.

Opposition or Allegiance to The Seal of God

Men could not place themselves more decidedly in opposition to God’s work, and to His law, than by upholding a day that is without one evidence of sanctity, and professing to worship Him on that day. Those who have corrupted the law by substituting a false Sabbath for the holy Sabbath of God, and who compel the observance of this false Sabbath, exalt themselves above God and honor the spurious above the genuine.

The seventh-day Sabbath (Ex 20:8–11) was not introduced as a new institution, but as having been founded at creation. Gen 2:1–3. This commandment contains the “seal” or “mark” of the Living God. Rev 7:1–3. Only within the Sabbath commandment are found the name (Lord thy God), position (Creator), and the jurisdiction (heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is) of the One who gave the law. Ex 20:8–11.

Similarly, the seal of the Living God is found at the beginning of creation: “In the beginning God (His name) created (His title: Creator) the heaven and the earth (His jurisdiction). Gen 1:1. The Sabbath is a memorial to the living God, a sign of His creation which points to God as the Maker of heaven and earth, and distinguishes the true God from all false gods.

Final Sabbath Controversy

“In the last conflict, the Sabbath will be the special point of controversy throughout all Christendom. Secular rulers and religious leaders will unite to enforce the observance of Sunday; and as milder measures fail, the most oppressive laws will be enacted. It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church, and a law of the land, ought not to be tolerated.” Maranatha, 188; Rev 13:15.

“Those who live during the last days of this earth’s history will know what it means to be persecuted for the truth’s sake. In the courts injustice will prevail. The judges will refuse to listen to the reasons of those who are loyal to the ten commandments of God, because they know that arguments in favor of the fourth commandment are unanswerable.” Last Day Events, 146.

And “not having a ‘thus saith the Scriptures’ to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack.” Testimonies 5:450.

“They will say, ‘We have a law, and by our law he ought to die! God’s law means nothing to them! ‘Our law,’ with them, is supreme. Those who respect this human law will be favored, but those who will not bow to the idol
Men could not place themselves more decidedly in opposition to God’s work, and to His law, than by upholding a day that is without one evidence of sanctity, and professing to worship Him on that day.

Sabbath will have no favors shown them.” Last Day Events, 146.


“The season of distress that is before God’s people will call for a faith that will not falter. God’s children must make it manifest that He is the only object of their worship, and that no consideration, not even that of life itself, can induce them to make the least concession to false worship.” Maranatha, 214; Rev 12:11.

“Not Under the Law, But Under Grace”

Now I know that about this time, some of you are thinking, “Pastor Steve, we don’t need to obey the law any more. We are living under grace, and not under the laws.” Please let me remind you of two things. First, the definition of grace: receiving what we don’t deserve. And second, the definition of sin: “sin is the transgression [breaking] of the law.” 1 Jn 3:4.

Yes, we are under grace, and I thank our precious Saviour every day for it. But let’s not be confused about it. We are now no longer under the condemnation of the law because of God’s grace, but grace does not cancel out the law! “For sin [the breaking of God’s law—1 Jn 3:4] shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin [break the law], because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.” Rom 6:14–15. “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.” Rom 3:31.

Grace, my friends, is like a governor’s pardon to a prisoner. It sets him free from the “chain of events” that “bound” him into prison. Why?
Because the governor believes (a) that the prisoner is a changed man (through whatever resources he used), and (b) that the prisoner deserves a second chance because the prisoner learned his lesson and can be trusted to keep the laws of the land.

The governor’s pardon forgives him; however, it does not give him freedom to break one single law on the statute books. The forgiven person, living under grace—whether by governor’s pardon or God’s—is under double obligation to keep the law. A person who refuses to keep God’s law, saying that he is living under grace, is mistaken. He is living under disgrace.

“We Worship Whom We Obey”

“By the observance of Sunday, upon which Satan has placed the unction of his authority and power, he receives homage regardless of whom people claim to worship. And regardless of whom people claim to worship, by worshipping on Sunday, they are honoring and worshiping Satan and the pope of Rome, by whom Satan has Sunday to be exalted and enforced.” Quote from a high priest of the Church of Satan.

The strategy of enticing the Protestant churches to join hands with the papacy is plainly evident, in that there is no other point of mutual agreement, other than Sunday observance, where they all agree, and strongly support the attempt to substitute another day for the seventh-day Sabbath, which our Creator Himself set apart as a sanctified day of rest and worship.

You see, Satan hates the fourth commandment more than all the others because it is the only one that tells us who God really is: the Creator of “heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is.” Ex 20:11. You can worship any god you like, and still keep the other nine (not kill, steal, lie, etc.), but to keep the fourth commandment, you must worship the Creator of the universe, who Himself rested on the seventh day, and commanded His people to do the same, in a love relationship with Himself. Jn 14:15.

All ten of God’s commandments either stand or fall together because it’s a sweet love relationship between you and God. If you break one commandment, you break them all. James 2:10–11. It’s either all or nothing; the choice is yours.

Well, dear reader, you now have the most important choice of your whole life in front of you! What are you going to do? Your eternal destiny hangs in the balance. You have a heaven to win, and a hell to shun. Choose wisely. “Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.” “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” 1 Cor 15:34; Rev 14:12.

Obedience becomes a joy when you’re walking with Jesus, for “love is the fulfilling of the law.” Rom 13:10.

Concluded.
Shops Must Close Sundays

Croatia: “Parliament passed a law Tuesday, forcing shops to close on Sundays—a concession to the Catholic Church, which has fought for years for Sundays to be devoted to family or mass.” Detroit Free Press, July 16, 2008, 4A.

End-time perspective: “As the movement for Sunday enforcement gains favor, he [the papist] rejoices, feeling assured that it will eventually bring the whole Protestant world under the banner of Rome.

“Romanists declare that ‘the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) Church.’” GC88 448.

Fructose–Gout Link

“Consumption of soft drinks containing fructose may underlie the sharp increase in gout in American adults that has occurred in recent decades, Dr. Hyon K. Choi said at the annual meeting of the British Society for Rheumatology.” Family Practice News, July 2008.

End-time perspective: “Many are living in violation of the laws of health, and are ignorant of the relation their habits of eating, drinking, and working sustain to their health.” CD 304.

Interest in Agriculture Surges

“The global food crisis means that countries across Asia are making agriculture a higher priority and taking steps to grow more crops within their own borders. ‘People suddenly care about agriculture,’ says Neil McCulloch, director for economics programs at the Asia Foundation office in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. ‘It takes a crisis to make everyone wake up and realize agriculture has been neglected.’” Paul Wiseman, USA Today, June 30, 2008.

End-time perspective: “No line of manual training is of more value than agriculture. A greater effort should be made to create and to encourage an interest in agricultural pursuits. Let the teacher call attention to what the Bible says about agriculture; that it was God’s plan for man to till the earth; that the first man, the ruler of the whole world, was given a garden to cultivate; and that many of the world’s greatest men, its real nobility, have been tillers of the soil.” CG 356.

One Leads to Another

“Until 1992, when California’s magnitude 7.3 Landers earthquake set off small jolts as far away as Yellowstone National Park, scientists did not believe large earthquakes sparked smaller tremors at distant locations. Now, a definitive study shows large earthquakes routinely trigger smaller jolts worldwide, including on the opposite side of the planet and in areas not prone to quakes.” ScienceDaily, May 26, 2008.

End-time perspective: “The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God’s purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.” ChS 52, 53.
Recession Only Mental?
“It’s hard to believe Phil Gramm said the U.S. is only in a ‘mental recession.’ These are times of tremendous economic anxiety: consumer confidence is sagging, banking and housing sectors are verging on panic, and the Bush Administration is scrambling to soothe markets.” “Briefing,” Time, July 28, 2008, 13.

End-time perspective: “The monied men, because they have the power, control the market. They purchase at low rates all they can obtain, and then sell at greatly increased prices. This means starvation to the poorer classes, and will result in a civil war. There will be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.” 5MR 305.

Busy Teens Pay Health Price
“Despite warnings by experts, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, which in 2006 issued a report about the perils of ‘pressure-filled intense preparation for a high-achieving adulthood,’ there are few indications that high school students will face an altered landscape anytime soon.” Sandra G. Boodman, The Washington Post, July 15, 2008.

End-time perspective: “A student may devote all his powers to acquire knowledge; but unless he has a knowledge of God, unless he obeys the laws that govern his own being, he will destroy himself. By wrong habits he loses the power of self-appreciation; he loses self-control. He cannot reason correctly about matters that concern him most deeply.” 2MCP 401.

Venezuela Wants Weapons
“Venezuelan President Hugo Chevez arrived in Moscow Tuesday to discuss a deal to spend billions on Russian weapons.” The World, Monday, July 21, 2008, A7.

End-time perspective: “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Matthew 24:4–8.

Dangerous Drivers
“Hundreds of thousands of tractor trailer and bus drivers in the United States carry commercial drivers licenses despite also qualifying for full federal disability payments, and some of these drivers have suffered seizures, heart attacks or unconscious spells, according to a new U.S. safety study obtained by the Associated Press.” Hope Yen and Frank Bass, AOL News, July 22, 2008.

End-time perspective: “Healthful living must be made a family matter. Parents should awake to their God-given responsibilities. Let them study the principles of health reform and teach their children that the path of self-denial is the only path of safety. The mass of the inhabitants of the world by their disregard of physical law are destroying their power of self-control and unfitness themselves to appreciate eternal realities. Willingly ignorant of their own structure, they lead their children in the path of self-indulgence, thus preparing the way for them to suffer the penalty of the transgression of nature’s laws.” CG 104.

Shocked by Insensitivity
“Italian newspapers, an archbishop and civil liberties campaigners expressed shock and revulsion on Monday after photographs were published of sunbathers apparently enjoying a day at the beach just meters from where the bodies of two drowned Roma girls were laid out on the sand.” CNN.com/Europe, July 21, 2008.

End-time perspective: “Our great adversary has agents that are constantly hunting for an opportunity to destroy souls, as a lion hunts his prey…. One safeguard removed from conscience, the indulgence of one evil habit, a single neglect of the high claims of duty, may be the beginning of a course of deception that will pass you into the ranks of those who are serving Satan, while you are all the time professing to love God and His cause. A moment of thoughtlessness, a single misstep, may turn the whole current of your lives in the wrong direction. And you may never know what caused your ruin until the sentence is pronounced, ‘Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.’” 5T 397–8.

Autism Said to be Brattiness
“Michael Savage, the incendiary radio host who last week charac-
Killing the Children

“A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the right of a pro-life group to display photos showing the bodies of babies dismembered during abortions. . . .” Lynn Vincent, World, July 26/Aug. 2, 2008.

End-time perspective: “Parents must govern their children, correct their passions, and subdue them, or God will surely destroy the children in the day of His fierce anger, and the parents who have not controlled their children will not be blameless.” Counsels for the Church, 190.

terized nearly every child with autism as ‘a brat who hasn’t been told to cut the act out,’ said in a telephone interview on Monday that he stood by his remarks and had no intention of apologizing to those advocates and parents who have called for his firing over the matter.” Jacques Steinberg, New York Times, July 22, 2008.

End-time perspective: “Courtesy is one of the graces of the Spirit. It is an attribute of Heaven…. If we are to be the companions of angels, we too must be refined and courteous…. Those who profess to be followers of Christ and are at the same time rough, unkind, and un courteous in words and deportment have not learned of Jesus…. Sincerity and uprightness will not atone for a lack of kindness and courtesy. The Christian is to be sympathetic as well as true, pitiful and courteous as well as upright and honest….” HP 180.

Urban Agriculture

“...New York City is part of an urban agricultural boom in the U.S., where rising food and fuel prices are making city farming seem less and less outlandish. In July volunteers began transforming the front lawn of San Francisco’s city hall into the first edible offerings on that site since 1943, when civilians across the country were encouraged to aid the war effort by growing victory gardens.... To demonstrate how much food can be grown in a small space, a 2006 pilot project on a sub-acre lot on the outskirts of Philadelphia hauled in $67,000 from crops like salad greens and baby vegetables.... The trend toward city farming is already big in Canada and Europe and is gaining ground in the U.S. amid escalating concerns about the environment, pesticides and food safety in general....” Lisa McLaughlin, Time, Aug. 4, 2008.

End-time perspective: “If possible, the home should be out of the city, where the children can have ground to cultivate. Let them each have a piece of ground of their own; and as you teach them how to make a garden, how to prepare the soil for seed, and the importance of keeping all the weeds pulled out, teach them also how important it is to keep unsightly, injurious practices out of the life. Teach them to keep down wrong habits as they keep down the weeds in their gardens. It will take time to teach these lessons, but it will pay, greatly pay.” AH 146.

Islamic Conversion Plan

“An on-line group devoted to the spread of Islam... has figured out a way to convert America and the West in general: Promote the Shiite practice of mutah (temporary marriage).

“...Many in Shiite Islam... allow temporary marriages that exist only for a predetermined time period, which may be for less than a day.... This allows some pious Shiite men to have one-night stands, keep mistresses, and frequent prostitutes.... The larger part of Islam, the Sunnis, reject this practice....” Gene Veith, World, July 26/ Aug. 2, 2008.

End-time perspective: “If persons living in the light of the third angel’s message purpose to leave one companion for the sake of uniting with someone else, it is our duty to warn and reprove and discipline.

“If persons before embracing the message have entangled themselves, and afterward have repented, confessed their sins, received forgiveness of God, and won the confidence of their brethren, it is better for both ministers and laymen to leave them alone, enjoying the forgiveness and justification which have been wrought through Christ, without undertaking to rear up existing relations. February 21, 1927.” Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, 220.

State-Defined Marriage

“Voters in four states will go to the polls Nov. 4 and weigh in on marriage-related ballot measures.... Residents in Florida and Arizona will vote on whether to join 27 other states in approving state constitutional amendments defining marriage as between one man and one woman. . . .” Lynn Vincent, World, July 26/Aug. 2, 2008.

End-time perspective: Encouraging Adventist votes in favor of prohibition, Ellen White wrote, “In our favored land, every voter has some voice in determining what laws shall control the nation. Should not that influence and that vote be case on the side of temperance and virtue?” RH, Oct. 15, 1914.
Insane Doctors Recommend Statins for Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics has now lost all credibility—actively promoting the use of statin drugs for children as low as eight years of age. This is beyond disgusting; it is a crime. The inept FDA is nowhere to be found as drug-pushing of inappropriate medication is rapidly becoming as large a public health problem as street drugs are.

Having good cholesterol numbers because you are healthy is not remote-
ly the same as having good cholesterol numbers because you are being drugged. The idea that this scam will be pushed on children — wasting tens of billions of taxpayer dollars per year — is simply beyond comprehension.

**The medical profession, on the subject of preventive health, is an utter failure.**

Statins are fatigue-producing drugs that activate genes that damage your muscles — including your heart. Giving these dangerous drugs to children while they are in the process of growing is inhumane and must be stopped immediately. The medical profession, on the subject of preventive health, is an utter failure. The fact doctors have no clue how to make children healthy is a testament to their ineptitude.

Use doctors only for acute problems needing emergency assistance. Never use them for anything else; they are nothing more than part of the Big Pharma drug cartel. Get your preventive advice and assistance someplace else.

*Byron J. Richards is a board-certified clinical nutritionist and author of Fight for Your Health and The Leptin Diet. He is the founder and director of Wellness Resources, Inc.: www.wellnessresources.com.*

Doctor Olson says:

The level pharmaceutical companies will sink to just to promote their products and make money never ceases to amaze me. After having medicated all of the adults that they can get their hands on, they have now turned on the children.


If your child is not feeling well, doesn’t have the energy he/she should, is gaining weight, or any other type of problem, first look to diet and lifestyle. Is he/she living off junk food and staying up till all hours of the night watching TV or playing video games? Are there problems in the home that could be giving undue stress to the child? Is the child active? Does he/she spend plenty of time outside in the fresh air and sunshine? Does the child drink pure, clean water, or sugar-filled juices

Whether it be an adult or a child, using pharmaceuticals should be a last resort (barring obvious needs such as emergency or serious injury). Often, when nature is allowed to take her course and the body is allowed to restore itself, complete healing will occur.

... First look to diet and lifestyle.

If you would like counseling concerning the drugs you are taking, wanting to stop taking, or simply would like to start a more healthful preventative diet and lifestyle for you OR your child, please call us today. We offer FREE health counseling and have health counselors standing by to answer your questions.

*Dr. Olson comes from a long line of health professionals including MDs, naturopaths, and osteopaths. Having early wanted to help people, especially in the area of health, she was a missionary to Belize and Korea. A national speaker, an RN for years, a certified herbologist and a naturopathic doctor, Dr. Olson is utilizing this experience and wealth of knowledge for the benefit of people all over the world.*
Do your children eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables? Do you want to make sure they are getting the best nutrition possible? What about you? Do you wonder, “Where has all my energy and mental clarity gone?” Have you lost your spunk and vigor? Are you tired, listless, or unable to lose weight? Increase and sustain your energy levels all day long, with no more ups and downs, by taking Living Green Energy.

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“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.”

1. In what month and year was the National Religious Liberty Association formally organized?
   a. December 1888
   b. July 1889
   c. October 1895
   d. August 1901

2. Its purpose was to preserve the U.S. Constitution and to oppose which organization trying to change or amend it?
   b. National Constitutional Reform Asso.
   c. Constitutional Amendment Org.
   d. Constitutional Reform Org.

3. Who was the first president of the National Religious Liberty Association?
   a. James White
   b. A. Slocum
   c. A. T. Jones
   d. Thomas Breckenridge

4. That organization also took responsibility for
   a. Widows and orphans in all states.
   b. Indigents in the nation.
   c. American senior citizen rights.
   d. The persecuted of all races and creeds.

5. Within 4 months of the association’s organization, newspapers in America were favorable toward its positions and purposes, largely because of what recent event in American history?
   a. The Civil War.
   b. The health reform movement.
   c. The temperance movement.
   d. The introduction of the Blair Bill in Congress.

6. The new organization met its first test 7 months later, in 1890, when a bill was introduced to Congress which purported
   a. To prevent Sunday labor in the District of Columbia.
   b. To prevent Sunday labor at businesses of 20 employees or more.
   c. To prevent Sunday labor in the nation from 6 am to 6 pm.
   d. To prevent Sunday labor in government buildings.

7. This bill was proposed by ____ and became known by his name.
   a. Senator Blair.
   b. Senator Fitch.
   c. Representative Breckenridge.
   d. Representative Prescott.

8. The bill’s apparent purpose was to
   a. Reduce energy costs.
   b. Protect workers’ rights.
   c. Make businesses more efficient.
   d. A and B.

9. The other appeal of the proposed bill which made it more likely to be well received was
   a. Its broad application.
   b. Its uncomplicated nature.
   c. Its religious intention.
   d. Legislators wanted the time away from work.

10. An exemption clause in the bill was included, apparently to
    a. Appeal to Catholic legislators.
    b. Satisfy religious liberty proponents.
    c. Relieve concerns about infringement of religious freedom.
    d. B and C.

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Letters to The Editor

Praise God for your DVD ministry! I have been repeatedly blessed by the monthly sermons sent to my doorstep. One in particular has had a profound and thought-provoking influence on me. I can only say it was like the Lord speaking to me directly to get my house (body) in order. The DVD “Caffeine and Mind Control” informed me of many things of which I was ignorant. Although I drink neither coffee nor tea, I do have a weakness for chocolate and was shocked to discover how much caffeine was in chocolate—particularly dark chocolate, my favorite! . . . I wanted to encourage you to continue the work the Lord has given you to do and to send an offering to help you in that work. Again, I thank you and praise God for all that you do! I hope others are as blessed as I have been and continue to be.

CA, Oregon

First, I would like to thank you for your hard work in putting out a top-quality magazine. I look forward to receiving my magazine and reading the informative and inspirational articles each month. I would really miss my subscription to Our Firm Foundation. . . . I pray God continues to bless your ministry!

AW, Texas

We do so love and look forward to the monthly DVD you send to us. We are enclosing $20.00 cash. This is tithe money. Please keep doing God’s bidding and let His people know whatever it is we need to know. Keep the faith, and may God keep you safe is our prayer.

R&G, Connecticut

We are constantly praying for all of you in God’s service—praying you will all remain faithful to your calling. We all can use all the encouragement we can receive these days to do all to the glory of God. We sure need focus these days. We surely appreciate your DVDs, CDs and letters of encouraging connections. . . . Remember, our Father works in multiplication! Always be of good courage. Our Master is Leader! All of our love and prayers!

D&C, Maine

I just want to thank you for your great sacrifice of bearing in mind the salvation of others. May the Lord bless you indeed.

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MN, Zimbabwe

It would be extremely ungrateful of me not to write and express my undying thanks for the April edition of Our Firm Foundation that you have sent to me. I assure you that it has been a tremendous blessing and eye-opener to me and those I’ve shared it with. It seems to me that I am now learning the gospel of Jesus Christ. I wish that I had known about Hope International before. Your message has brought hope to my heart, and though I grew up in an Adventist home and church, the personal gospel is now coming home to me. May our God continue to richly bless your ministry. I hope to soon be able to subscribe to your magazine. Until then I would be eternally grateful if you would continue to send me each month’s edition. I assure you that they will result in the saving of precious souls for the kingdom. Again, God’s richest blessings on all of you at Hope International.

RO, Trinidad, West Indies

One of Hope’s staff recommended Living Green Energy and told me what foods to eat for a thyroid problem that I have. I just returned from the doctor’s office and the doctor said that my thyroid is normal! Praise God!

IJ, Hawaii

I just want to thank you for your great sacrifice of bearing in mind the salvation of others. May the Lord bless you indeed.

I received plenty of books by E. G. White and your Firm Foundation magazines. I am enjoying reading the sweet heavenly stories.

MN, Zimbabwe
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