"...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..."
On the cover this month is the picture of the climax of the 1954 race between Doctor Roger Bannister and school teacher John Landy. This has been called the greatest race of the 20th century. Notice the determination that can be observed in the face of Dr. Bannister as he crosses the finish line in advance of John Landy. This win brought Dr. Bannister many worldly laurels including being knighted by the Queen of England.

The question becomes, do we have the same determination as we run the Christian race in which everyone who reaches the finish line is a winner—there is no competition between runners. In my article on the Christian race, I turn to Paul and his use of the races in his day to illustrate our need to be in continual training so we don’t come up short.

In the Bible, we are often told of the few that make the final finish line, and of the many who have run but not finished. “Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.” Luke 13:23 & 24.

Ellen White comments: “This to us is a mournful statement that there are those who will fail to enter in at the strait gate because they only seek to enter in and do not strive.” IHP 263.

She further warns us: “As we near the end of time, falsehood will be so mingled with truth, that only those who have the guidance of the Holy Spirit will be able to distinguish truth from error. We need to make every effort to keep the way of the Lord. We must in no case turn from His guidance to put our trust in man.”

She goes on to encourage us: “The Lord’s angels are appointed to keep strict watch over those who put their faith in the Lord, and these angels are to be our special help in every time of need.” 7 BC 907.

Time is drawing to a close. We don’t know how much longer before Jesus comes. But we can see the signs thickening around us. The homosexual power is growing stronger. Homosexuals, rather than seeking to overcome the sin that so easily besets them, are told that they were born the way they are. Paul speaks about this sin in Romans, chapter one: “…their women departed from the Creator’s pattern for them and engaged in all kinds of unnatural acts with other women. Their men were no different. They went against the Creator’s design for them and lusted after other men.” (See verses 26 & 27 of the Clear Word, a paraphrase of the Bible by Jack J. Blanco, copyright, 1994.)

Homosexuals in the United States are seeking to become married. Many states are allowing it to happen. Jesus, in speaking of the time right before His second coming as He sat on the Mount of Olives, said, “Moral decay will be so prevalent that most people won’t even know what love is.” Matt. 24:12. “Just before the Son of Man returns in glory, the earth will be like it was in the days of Noah. Back then people were engrossed in eating, drinking, falling in love and getting married, right up to the very day Noah went into the ark. Then the flood came and they were drowned. It was the same way in the days of Lot. People were all caught up in eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting and building houses. All this was going on up to the very day that Lot left Sodom, then fire fell from heaven, destroying that city, the small ones nearby, and everyone in them. That’s how it will be when the Son of Man comes back.” (Luke 17:26-30, The Clear Word)

Are we training for the Christian race as we should be? Please consider what your life is like, dear reader. God is looking for a special people that can make up the 144,000. He is looking for a people who love to witness to others of the beautiful message we have to share. Do you spend daily time with Him? Are you memorizing Scripture? Is self being removed from your life as you grow day by day in your love for Jesus?

May the Lord be your continual guide. Remember “…they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” Galatians 5:24.

Clark Floyd
Clark Floyd, editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine, has been co-host of the radio program Bible Answers with Clark and Lee and is a licensed attorney and an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor. He has spoken internationally and makes his home in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.
Contents

September 2009 • Volume 24, Number 9

cover story

06 The Race Before Us
   Clark Floyd

features

04 The Bible Museum Opened
   A.L.O.E

09 It Couldn’t Be Done

10 Why Do I Have To Be Holy?
   Joe Olson

14 The Lord’s Vineyard
   Mrs. E. G. White

19 Without a Breath

20 Abide With Me

departments

02 Editorial

22 Historical Footnotes

23 Health Gem
   Influenza Part 4: The Facts on Tamiflu and Swine Flu Vaccine

28 News Watch

31 The People’s Page

ad features

21 Odorless Garlic

30 Acerola Chews

About Hope International:
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Come with me my Christian reader and let us examine together one of those occasions when our Lord healed one of those who had suffered disease for many years, and see if that healing may have an extra lesson for us.

**The Bed of the Paralytic**

When was a burden ever lifted more joyfully than this was, when at the Saviour's command the light bed was raised by the strong arms that had, but a few moments previously, rested in helpless weakness upon it! How joyfully did the restored paralytic make his way on his own feet through that crowd whose presence had rendered it impossible for his friends to bear him in on his bed! We know not of a single word spoken by the rejoicing pardoned believer in that hour of intense happiness, but surely the utterance of his heart must have been like that of the psalmist, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits! Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction, who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies, …. So that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's!”

We would gladly follow the restored sufferer to his home, and hear him recounting to eager listeners there what great things the Lord had done for him; describing his feelings of hope as—borne on that bed—he had approached the house in which the Master was teaching, then the fear, the anxiety, the difficulty which had followed when it was found to be useless to attempt to carry the invalid in. How grateful must he have felt to those friends whom difficulties would not daunt, especially to whoever first offered the suggestion to let him down through the roof! The sufferer could not help his friends in their labour of love, but how anxiously he had watched it, and when gently lowered down by kind hands, with what a trembling hope had he found himself in the immediate presence of the Redeemer! To hear such scenes described by those who were the immediate actors in them, may probably be one of the joys reserved for God's children in Heaven.

**What Were the Paralytic's Recollections**

How would the restored paralytic in the course of his after-life regard that bed on which he had lain perhaps for weary year after year! Would the associations connected with it be those of pain or of pleasure? Would he dwell on the long wearisome days, the dreary nights which he had spent on that bed when he had no power to lift himself from it? Would he sigh when he looked on it from the
recollection of all that he had had to endure? We cannot think this, however long, or painful, or trying, his illness may have been; it is far more likely that the sight of the bed would bring to his mind recollections on which memory would dwell with rapture.

“It was when stretched on that bed that I first looked on my Lord, and met His glance of ineffable love and compassion! It was when stretched on that bed that I heard those accents which will thrill delight through my soul to my dying day, yea, and through all eternity.--Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee!” Oh, God be praised that I ever was sick! I thank, I bless, I adore Him for the weakness, the helplessness, the disease which brought me so close to my Lord, and made me a monument thus of His everlasting mercy and grace!”

Our sufferings bring us to His feet

And thus will many a dear Christian brother or sister, long afflicted by sickness, look back on the couch of suffering when the Lord has restored health to the feeble frame, or when--through what man calls death-He has hidden the pardoned believer “arise,” never more to lie down in pain. Many will doubtless have cause to say, “It was in love and mercy that sickness and suffering were permitted to chain me down to my bed; it was from thence that I first looked through faith on my Saviour-there first I knew that my sins were indeed forgiven. My weakness made me rest in Christ’s strength--my sufferings brought me to His feet. I would not exchange the lessons learned, the privileges enjoyed on the sick-bed, for all the wealth of the world!”

The story of the paralytic man is fraught with comfort also to those in sorrow for loved ones afflicted either in body or in mind. It is terrible to watch sufferings which we cannot relieve, to seek aid from physicians but to find that their utmost skill is exerted in vain. Which of us has not known the wearing anxiety, the sickening suspense, when a precious life is at stake? Oh! let us not then rest on earth, and put down our loved burden in despair. We must go up higher, we must carry our friend upwards on the strong arms of prayer, we must lay him at the feet of the Saviour. The Son of Man hath still power to say, “Arise, take up thy bed and walk.”

Chained by the follies of the world

Still more earnest should be our efforts when the sickness of him we pray for is that of the soul--the sickness of sin. Bodily health and strength and beauty may be united with deadly spiritual paralysis. Some seem as if they would not--could not--come to the Saviour; they have no power to rise, they are chained down by the cares or pleasures and follies of the world; when others are pressing in to hear God’s Word, they remain in peril without. Let us, as it were, carry those who will not or cannot walk, let us carry the burden on our hearts. God is trying our faith and our patience. Have we clambered the outward stair, have we toiled to uncover the roof--to remove as far as we can the obstacles which divide the paralyzed soul from the Lord? And then, using the bands of love, the cords of a man, have we gently placed our burden even at the feet of our Heavenly Master? He has still power to say to the diseased and paralyzed soul, “Thy sins be forgiven thee,” and to bid it arise to walk in newness of life, to tread in the paths of holiness, to run with vigour that blessed race of which Heaven itself is the goal!
Sports Illustrated reported that the two greatest sports events of the 20th Century were the climbing of Mount Everest and the breaking of the four-minute mile. A young medical student from England, Roger Bannister, defied what experts thought would be impossible and ran a mile in 3:59.4 minutes on May 6, 1954. Two months later, a schoolteacher from Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, John Landy, also ran a mile in less than four minutes, beating the record set by Roger Bannister.

It was decided that the two must race, and thus they were pitted against each other in the Empire Games, held that same year, 1954, in Vancouver, British Columbia. This was to be the race of the century.

**THE RACE OF THE CENTURY!**

As the race began, Landy in customary fashion broke immediately to the front. The quarter mile was run in under one minute. The half mile was run in under two minutes with Landy still in the lead. At the three quarter marker, both racers were still under 3 minutes with Roger Bannister still trailing John Landy. As the two men entered the last quarter, the crowd began to roar. Landy was not quite sure where Bannister was, and for a brief moment, Landy looked back. At that moment Roger Bannister passed him to be first at the finish line. They had both run the race in under 4 minutes.

This race story is a parable of life. We as Christians are all runners. Jesus is behind the tape at the finish line. Look to Jesus, not to self. Look to Jesus, not to others. Look to Jesus, don’t look back.

**DON’T LOOK BACK!**

Paul, in the Book of Hebrews, wrote to Hebrew Christians who were tempted to look back. Some even doubted the return of Jesus. “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that
shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who drew back into perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” Hebrews 10:35-39.

Some had quit attending church and Paul counseled: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25.

**OBJECT LESSONS IN ATHLETIC GAMES**

Jesus often used familiar objects or scenes of His day to illustrate some point to lead a person to a closer walk with Him. Paul also used familiar objects and events of his day to encourage people in their Christian walk.

Paul uses the well-known athletic contests that were held periodically in Greece and in the Hellenistic world to illustrate the need of the Christian to train as enthusiastically for the race before him.

He used the athletic games held in Corinth in 1 Corinthians, chapter 9 to speak to Corinthian believers of their need to better train for their Christian walk. The most popular of these games were foot racing, boxing, wrestling and throwing the discus. Paul alludes to two of these in his discussion in Chapter 9.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (vs. 24-27)

In the Clear Word, an expanded paraphrase of the Bible, these same verses read as follows: “You know that everyone who runs in the Olympics gives it everything he has, but only one person wins the laurel wreath. That’s how you should run the gospel race, giving it everything you’ve got. In the gospel race, everyone who finishes wins. Everyone who desires to control his body disciplines himself to be temperate in everything. They do it to win that laurel wreath which will soon fade and die, while the prize we receive is the crown of eternal life which never fades.

**DON’T RUN AIMLESSLY!**

“I don’t run the gospel race aimlessly as if I don’t know where the finish line is. I don’t fight by boxing shadows; I try to make every punch count. I try to keep my body fit and under discipline so I won’t be disqualified after preaching to others about Jesus Christ.”

For his outstanding accomplishment in the area of foot racing, Doctor Roger Bannister was knighted by the Queen of England. Dear Reader, will you receive an imperishable crown for your persistence in the Christian race before you?

Paul speaks again of the Christian race in Hebrews chapter 12: “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed
about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (vs. 1 & 2)

**PUT AWAY EVERY DISTRACTION**

Ellen White comments, saying: “Envy, malice, evil thinking, evil speaking, covetousness—these are weights that the Christian must lay aside if he would run successfully the race for immortality. Every habit or practice that leads into sin and brings dishonor upon Christ must be put away, whatever the sacrifice.” AA312.

The cloud of witnesses mentioned in verse one “are the uncounted worthies of faith mentioned in chapter 11, each of whom, despite handicaps and hindrances of every kind, finished his course with joy. Their faithfulness and endurance brought them victory in the race of life.” See 7 SDABC 480.

The Greek word for “looking” in verse 2 is “aphorao”, meaning “to consider attentively”. This is the real key in winning the Christian race for each of us who has entered as a Christian runner! Our whole attention must be attentively fixed on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who is waiting for each of us at the finish line.

Ellen White has counseled: “If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image.” DA 302.

Again she says, “It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones.” DA 83.

“As the perfection of His character is dwelt upon, the soul is re-created in the image of God.” Ed.18.

**WHERE DO YOU STAND? AND WHERE WILL YOU FINISH?**

Again, Dear Reader, a portion of the race is still before each one of us. Where do we now stand in regard to our position in the race? Are we seeking for a closer walk with Jesus every step of the race? Are we determined to remain in the race no matter what happens around us? Are we going to let discouragement or fear take us from the race? Will we cross the finish line?

On that same day in 1954 at the Empire Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, another race was held, the 26 mile marathon. Jim Peters was three miles in front of every one else as he neared the end of the race. But in sight of the finish line, Jim Peters stumbled and fell, got up, and then stumbled again. He did not make it to the finish line.

Our prayer at Hope International is that each one of our readers will cross the finish line.

Clark Floyd, editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine, has been co-host of the radio program Bible Answers with Clark and Lee and is a licensed attorney and an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor. He has spoken internationally and makes his home in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.
It Couldn’t Be Done

Author Unknown

Somebody said that it couldn’t be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That “maybe it couldn’t,” but he would be one
Who wouldn’t say so till he’d tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn’t be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: “Oh, you’ll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it”;
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he’d begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn’t be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That “cannot be done” and you’ll do it.

Editor’s Note: The task of carrying the Three Angels’ Messages to the World is a monumental task, but with our God behind it, it can and will be done—have courage brethren!
Why Do I Have To Be Holy?

By Joe Olson

Leviticus 20:7, “Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.”

Leviticus 19:2, “Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.”

Leviticus 20:26, “And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.”

Numbers 15:40, “That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.”

The Hebrew word here for all of these “holy” words is: “qadosh,” which means to be sacred or morally blameless or a saint. We are called by God to be saints; pure people; holy people; morally blameless people.

Let’s see what the New Testament says…

Ephesians 1:4, “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:” Notice it says, “without blame” as well as being holy. The Greek word here for holy is “hagios” which means to be sacred or morally blameless; basically the same as what the Hebrew word meant. In other words, it is kind of like saying we should be blameless and without blame.

1 Peter 1:15-16, “But as he who hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” The word for holy is the same Greek word “hagios.”

Revelation 22:11, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” The Greek word here for holy is: “hagiazo,” which means to purify, or consecrate, or sanctify. According to what God has left recorded for our benefit, we are to be, or to become holy. And the reason He gives for commanding this is that He is the same way.

DO WE HAVE TO BE JUST LIKE GOD?

Well, just because God is holy, why does that mean we have to be the same way? What is the big deal? Why press for this ideal? And why do we have to attain to the same level? God says that we must be holy because He is. Is that it? “I’m tall, so you have to be,” or “I’m old, so you have to be” or “I’m whatever, so you have to be just like me.” What is this, “Be like me” all about? What is the point? Obviously, it is not pride or vanity, or Jesus would not have come here as a humble carpenter, He would have been some kind of philanthropic industrialist, or banker, or businessman. No, there must be another reason for this admonition.

And remember, to be “holy” is to be blameless, to be pure, sacred or a saint. It is probably not too much of a stretch to see why we would be called to be blameless. As one considers the word “blame,” one usually thinks of wrong. Something is wrong and someone gets the blame for it. So, for God to call us to be blameless is to call us to not be wrong. Isn’t that reasonable? Would you expect...
God to call us to be wrong, or to be right? We could probably avoid a lot of controversy if we just said God has called us to be right and not wrong. There would not be a lot of argument then, would there? Then why didn't God just say, “Be right, for I am right”?

**WHAT IS RIGHT, BLAMELESS, OR HOLY?**

Have you ever met people who thought they were right, when they were wrong? You have to qualify the word “right” so people know specifically what you mean. Even the word blameless does not really do it. Many people consider themselves blameless in the broadest sense of the term. “Well, I have not done anything to be blamed for,” I can hear people saying. “So, I must be blameless.”

Okay, so the words right and blameless won’t work. So, what word does God use? Holy. Be holy. The word holy encompasses the words right and blameless and a whole lot more. Being holy means being like God, for God is holy. And that seems unattainable, maybe even sacrilegious. How can we be holy? Only God is holy, isn’t He? Then why does He tell us, over and over and over again to be that way? It would seem to me that He feels that being holy is fairly important, especially considering how many times He said it. Rather than arguing about whether we are to be holy, or whether we can attain holiness, let’s just look at why we are to be holy.

Just the logic of it says this: If we are not holy, then what are we? Unholy… right? That doesn’t sound too good does it? Being unholy? We are all getting ready, or supposed to be getting ready for heaven. God made this earth and our first parents, and all was holy and good. No blame; no unholliness; no impurity. Perfect. Then Eve disobeyed and ate of the fruit of the tree they were told not to eat from, and then Adam did the same thing. Now what? Now we have blame. Now we have impurity and imperfection. And now we have a call from God to return to that state before sin. Blameless, holy, pure. For God plans to reunite us with Him.

**GOD IS GOING TO MOVE HEAVEN?**

As a matter of fact, God plans to move His city to this earth. Did you know that? God is backing up the heavenly U-Haul and loading up the city of God and moving it, literally, from its present location to this earth! Revelation 3:12, “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.” Sound too good to be true? Heaven is moving? Why here? Why to where all the sin happened? Sure, we might be forgiven for what we’ve done… but move heaven?? Would we do that? Remember God saying, “My thoughts are not your thoughts and My ways are not your ways?”

Also, remember what Jesus said about preparing a place for us? John 14:1-3, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” Most people think that means we are going to heaven, and it does… But just for a thousand years. But after that… after the thousand years… then the whole place is moving to planet earth! Revelation 21:2, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” New Jerusalem, the “holy city” or the “City of God” is now being prepared, and John, in vision, saw it coming down from heaven. Revelation 21:10, “And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,” God’s holy city is going to be here!!!
Now… do you think we need to be holy, to live in the holy city? We will live in the City of God! God Himself will dwell there. It is so pure and holy that there is no need for light, for God is the light of it. Revelation 21:23-25, “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it. And the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.” The city is so bright, so pure, and so holy that there is no need even for the sun itself!

Think that is an exaggeration? Exodus 34:28-30, “And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses’ hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.” Moses’ face was so bright, from being in the presence of God for just 40 days, that the people could not even look on him, they were so afraid. Just 40 days! Imagine 40 weeks! 40 months! 40 years! If you read on there in Exodus, the Bible says that Moses had to veil his face because he was so bright. And this was just the reflection of God’s glory and holiness!

What do you suppose would happen if one were unholy in God’s presence? What would happen if you were to be blamed and had sin in you? 2 Thessalonians 2:8, “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:” God is so pure, so holy, and so right, that anyone who is not “blameless” cannot look upon Him. Consider sin to be darkness. Darkness cannot exist in the bright light. When the bright light comes, the darkness disappears. When Jesus returns, not covering His divinity this time, but fully as bright and light as He exists with the Father in heaven, darkness… or sin, will perish.

HOLINESS AND UNHOLINESS CANNOT CO-EXIST
Still wonder why we have to be holy? Unholiness simply cannot exist with holiness. God is so pure and so holy that whatever comes in contact with Him that is not pure and holy is simply consumed as if by fire. Deuteronomy 4:24, “For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.” And lest you think that is just the Old Testament, Paul repeats the idea in Hebrews:Hebrews 12:29, “For our God is a consuming fire.” Moses, who was with God for 40 days up in the mount, who was so shiny the Israelites could not look on him, was himself not able to look at God lest he be consumed. Exodus 33:20-23, “And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.” Jesus said, “You can’t see Me and live.” Yet, very soon, we will see Jesus. How can this be? Jesus is coming and the righteous will say: Isaiah 25:9, “And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” But the wicked have entirely something else to say: Rev 6:15-17, “And the kings of the earth, and the great
men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? Notice that they say to “hide us from His face.”

What makes the difference in what you say? Why will one group say, ”He will save us,” and the other group say, “Hide us from Him and His face?” What do you suppose these people think will happen when they see God’s face, and they are not holy? After all, they are begging for mountains to fall on them. [1 Corinthians 3:13, “Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.” What “day” do you think this is referring to? “The day shall declare it…” Joel 1:15, “Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.” What destruction? Our “works” that are not pure and holy. Paul said every man’s works would be revealed by fire. In other words, every man’s life and what he has made of it.

SO, WHY NOT BE HOLY?

God has been so merciful to us. He has given us everything… He has done everything He can to reach us. He even asks us to tell Him, if we can, what else He could have done. [Isaiah 5:4, “What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?”] “What else?” God asks. “What more?” “How else?” He gave everything He had to get us back. “Although Israel had mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets,” [2 Chronicles 36:15, 16.] he had still manifested himself to them, as “the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth;” [Exodus 34:6.] notwithstanding repeated rejections, his mercy had continued its pleadings. With more than a father’s pitying love for the son of his care, God had “sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling-place.”

Why do I have to be holy? Shouldn’t the question be, “Why wouldn’t I want to be holy?” It shames me when I am tempted to ask or see how little I can do for God, instead of how much. It shames me to think I want to get by with as little as I can, and still go to heaven, when ALL heaven was poured out for me. Why do I have to be holy? Because God asks us to be - and we should want to do whatever He asks.

Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.
During the Jewish economy, at appointed times God sent prophets and messengers to receive his portion from the husbandmen. These messengers saw that everything was being appropriated to a wrong use, and the Spirit of God inspired them to warn the people of their unfaithfulness. But though the people were convicted in regard to their unrighteous course, they would not yield, but became more stubborn. Entreaties and arguments were of no avail. They hated reproof.

“When the time of the fruit drew near,” Christ said, in giving the parable of the vineyard, “he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.”

Paul records the treatment received by God’s messengers. “Women received their dead raised to life again,” he declares; “and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy); they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”

**THE SPIRIT OF GOD INSPIRED THEM TO WARN THE PEOPLE**

For centuries God looked with patience and forbearance upon the cruel treatment given to his ambassadors, at his holy law prostrate, despised, trampled underfoot. He swept away the inhabitants of the Noachian world with a flood. But when the earth was again peopled, men drew away from God, and renewed their hostility to him, manifesting bold defiance. Those whom God rescued from Egyptian bondage followed in the footsteps of those who had preceded them. Cause was followed by effect; the earth was being corrupted.

A crisis had arrived in the government of God. The earth was filled with transgression. The voices of those who had been sacrificed to human envy and hatred were crying beneath the altar for retribution. All heaven was prepared at the word of God to move to the help of his elect. One word from him, and the bolts of heaven would have fallen upon the earth, filling it with fire and flame. God had but to speak, and there would have been thunderings and lightnings and earthquakes and destruction.

**GOD’S AMAZING GRACE!**

The heavenly intelligences were prepared for a fearful manifestation of Almighty power. Every
God to punish the inhabitants of the earth. But “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” “I will send my beloved Son,” he said. “It may be they will reverence him.” Amazing grace! Christ came not to condemn the world, but to save the world. “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

The heavenly universe was amazed at God’s patience and love. To save fallen humanity the Son of God took humanity upon himself, laying aside his kingly crown and royal robe. He became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. One with God, he alone was capable of accomplishing the work of redemption, and he consented to an actual union with man. In his sinlessness, he would bear every transgression.

**CHRIST POINTS US TO THE KEY OF ALL HIS SUFFERING AND HUMILIATION – THE LOVE OF GOD**

The love that Christ manifested can not be comprehended by mortal man. It is a mystery too deep for the human mind to fathom. Christ did in reality unite the offending nature of man with his own sinless nature, because by this act of condescension he would be enabled to pour out his blessings in behalf of the fallen race. Thus he has made it possible for us to partake of his nature. By making himself an offering for sin, he opened a way whereby human beings might be made one with him. He placed himself in man’s position, becoming capable of suffering. The whole of his earthly life was a preparation for the altar.

Christ points us to the key of all his suffering and humiliation, the love of God. We read in the parable, “Last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.” Again and again the Jewish nation had apostatized. Christ came to see what he could do for his vineyard that he had not done. With his divinity clothed with humanity, he stood before the people, presenting to them their true condition.

**CHRIST CAME TO HIS OWN, BUT HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT**

How was the Son of God received?--When the husbandmen saw him, they said, within themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.” Christ came to his own, but his own received him not. They rewarded him evil for good, and hatred for love. His soul was filled with grief as he saw the backsliding of Israel. As he looked at the devoted city, and thought of the punishment to come upon it, he exclaimed, with weeping, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.”

Christ was “despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” By wicked hands he was taken and crucified. Speaking of his death, the psalmist writes: “The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears. Then the earth shook and trembled: the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.”

**THEY HAD PRONOUNCED THEIR OWN SENTENCE**

After giving the parable of the vineyard, Christ put to his hearers the question, “When the Lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those wicked husbandmen?” Among Christ’s hearers were the very men then planning how they could take his life. But so engrossed had they become...
in the narrative, that they answered, “He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.” They did not realize that by their denunciation of the husbandmen they had pronounced their own sentence. But Jesus now fastened the guilt where it belonged.

“But ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?” he asked. “Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.”

THEY WERE DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT THEIR SATANIC PURPOSE

As Christ made the application of his words, the Pharisees saw the meaning of the parable. His words struck home to their hearts, and they cried out, in dismay, “God forbid.” The Lord permitted them to see and realize their peril. They saw a true picture of their condition. They were given a vivid, momentary view of their course of action and its result. But they closed their eyes against light, and hardened their hearts against conviction. They were determined to carry out their satanic purpose.

“And whosoever shall fall on this stone,” Christ continued, “shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.” Those who remain impenitent will understand the meaning of the wrath of the Lamb. The punishment that was to fall upon the Jewish people would be all the more terrible because of the poor return they had made for God’s great mercy and love. Not long after this parable was given, the Son of God stood in Pilate’s judgment hall, before a human tribunal, and there he was condemned by false witnesses. Though declared innocent by a heathen judge, he was delivered into the hands of the cruelest power that earth can produce—a mob inspired by Satan.

ONE DAY THEY WILL SEE THE RESULT OF THEIR IMPENITENCE

“What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?” God asks. “Wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes brought it forth wild grapes?” When God called for fruit in its season, the Jewish people were surprised that he expected anything of the kind. They professed to be the most pious people on the earth. They had been employed as guardians and almoners of truth, and they should have used the Lord’s goods to bless and benefit the world. But they abused the messengers sent to them; and when God sent his Son, the heir to the inheritance, they lifted him upon the cross of Calvary. One day they will see the result of their impenitence. No longer will be heard the pleadings of infinite love; but the wrath of the Lamb, the power they defied, will fall upon them as a rock, grinding them to powder.

“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.” But that which would have been their greatest blessing became their condemnation, because they were disobedient, unthankful, unholy.

The Lord declared that he required his husbandmen to give him the returns of his vineyard. Men are not to use their possessions as their own, but only as intrusted to them. The Lord’s portion is to be faithfully returned to him. “All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord. And if a man will at all redeem aught of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord. He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.”

THAT WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN THEIR GREATEST BLESSING BECAME THEIR CONDEMNATION, BECAUSE THEY WERE DISOBEDIENT, UNTHANKFUL, UNHOLY

The statutes regarding the Lord’s portion were often repeated that the people might not forget them. They were
His vineyard was to be faithfully cultivated, so that a large income could be returned to him in tithes and offerings. A portion was to be set apart for the sustenance of the ministry, and was to be used for no other purpose. Gifts and offerings were to be made to relieve the necessity of the church. Means was to be appropriated for the relief of the poor and suffering.

The history of the children of Israel shows us the many privileges they enjoyed. And the richest blessings were in store for them if they kept the Lord's commandments. “Know therefore,” God declared, “that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.” “Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.” “What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?”

IF WE COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS GOD HAS MADE, WE SHALL SECURE OUR ELECTION TO SALVATION

Shall we profit by the teaching of the parable of the vineyard? “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Christ has a church in every age. Obedience to the commandments of God gives us a right to the privileges of this church. There are those in the church who are made no better by their connection with it. They themselves break the terms of their election. If we comply with the conditions God has made, we shall secure our election to salvation. Perfect obedience to his commandments is the evidence that we love God.

THE LESSON IS FOR US...

“I had planted thee a noble vine,” God declares, “wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?” The lesson is for us. Paul declares, “And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well, because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear.” This message comes to all who share the privileges once given to ancient Israel. “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.” “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.” -RH, July 17, 1900

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.
Various reports persisted in Ellen White’s day as to the cause of her visions. In the early days, one Dr. Brown, a spiritualist physician of Parkville, Michigan, stated freely that according to the reports coming to him concerning Mrs. White, she was experiencing a form of spiritualistic mediumship. He hoped he might have the opportunity of examining her while she was in vision, and declared he could control her visions.

The occasion presented itself on January 12, 1861, when Mrs. White spoke at a meeting in Parkville. At the close of the service, she was taken in vision. Responding to her husband’s invitation, Dr. Brown was invited in and was given permission to examine her. An eyewitness to this examination subsequently related what had happened.

**AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT**

“Before he had half completed his examination, he turned deathly pale, and shook like an aspen leaf. Elder White said, ‘Will the doctor report her condition?’ He replied, ‘She does not breathe,’ and rapidly made his way to the door. Those at the door who knew of his boasting, said, ‘Go back, and do as you said you would; bring that woman out of the vision.’ In great agitation he grasped the knob of the door, but was not permitted to open it until inquiry was made by those near the door, ‘Doctor, what is it?’ He replied, ‘God only knows; let me out of this house!’”

It was left to George I. Butler, a contemporary of Ellen White and a religious co-worker of James White, to put into words what so many of those who knew Ellen White believed.

**VISIONS WERE WITNESSED BY MANY**

In the Review and Herald of June 9, 1874, he summarized all that had been presented to the critics by her supporters.

“All we ask is that people shall be reasonable,” he implored in his article. “We are prepared to support by hundreds of living truthful witnesses all that we shall claim, so far as facts are concerned, of the manifestation itself, for this thing has not been done in a corner. For nearly thirty years past these visions have been given with greater or less frequency, and have been witnessed by many, often times by unbelievers as well as those believing them. They generally, but not always, occur in the midst of earnest seasons of religious interest while the Spirit of God is especially present, if those can tell who are in attendance. The time Mrs. White is in this condition has varied from fifteen minutes to one hundred and eighty. During this time the heart and pulse continue to beat, the eyes are always wide open, and seem to be gazing at some far distant object, and are never fixed on any person or thing in the room. They are always directed upward. They display a pleasant expression. There is no ghastly look or any resemblance of fainting. The brightest light may be suddenly brought near her eyes, or feints made as if to thrust something into the eyes, and there is never the slightest wink or change of expression on that account;
and it is sometimes hours and even days after she comes out of this condition before she recovers her natural sight. She says it seems to her that she comes back into a dark world, yet her eyesight is in nowise injured by her visions.

MANY WITNESSES WERE UNBELIEVERS IN THE VISIONS

“While she is in vision,” he continued, “her breathing entirely ceases. No breath ever escapes her nostrils or lips when in this condition. This has been proved by many witnesses, among them physicians of skill, and themselves unbelievers in the visions, on some occasions being appointed by a public congregation for the purpose. It has been proved many times by tightly holding the nostrils and mouth with the hand and by putting a looking glass before them so close that any escape of the moisture of the breath would be detected. In this condition she often speaks words and short sentences, yet not the slightest breath escapes. When she goes into this condition, there is no appearance of swooning or faintness, her face retains its natural color, and the blood circulates as usual. Often she loses her strength temporarily and reclines or sits; but at other times she stands up. She moves her arms gracefully, and often her face is lighted up with radiance as though the glory of Heaven rested upon her. She is utterly unconscious of everything going on around her, while she is in vision, having no knowledge whatever of what is said and done in her presence. A person may pinch her flesh, and do things which could cause great and sudden pain in her ordinary condition, and she will not notice it by the slightest tremor.

THEY COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY DECEPTION

Peculiar circumstances in the lives of individuals, whom she never before had seen in the flesh, and secrets hidden from the nearest acquaintances, have been made known by her when she had no personal knowledge of the parties other than by vision. Often she has been in an audience where she was wholly unacquainted with the individuals composing it, when she would get up and point out person

NOTHING FANATICAL IN HER APPEARANCE

“There are none of the disgusting grimaces or contentions which usually attend spiritualist mediums, but calm, dignified, and impressive, her very appearance strikes the beholder with reverence and solemnity. There is nothing fanatical in her appearance. When she comes out of this condition she speaks and writes from time to time what she has seen while in vision; and the supernatural character of these visions is seen even more clearly in what she thus reveals than in her appearance and condition while in vision, for many things have thus been related which it was impossible for her to know in any other way.

Editor’s note: This testimony was taken from the book, Ellen G. White, Prophet of Destiny by Rene Noorbergen published by Teach Services, and available through the Hope International Book Store. We are in a time when the prophetic ability of Ellen White is being denied by some of our own pastors and church members, a time of the “final deception”. With the evidence available of her prophetic ability, what a price these scoffers are going to have to pay for leading any one away from God’s prophet!
Abide With Me

By Mrs. L. D. Avery-Stuttle

Bide Thou with me! The hour is late,
Fast locked and closed the city's gate,
The solemn night-bird sounds her call,
The watchmen guard the massive wall;
But if thou guard not hill and plain,
The watchmen waketh but in vain.

So, bide with me: when thou art near,
I know no danger, doubt, nor fear;
E'en sorrow, with her mantle gray,
And grief and anguish, flee away.
O my Beloved! On thy breast
Hold thou me in thine arms to rest.

I will not—will not—let thee go!
Too well thy blessed peace I know.
I do not say, "Be thou my guest,
Abide one blessed hour," lest
When that sweet hour had passed away,
Behold, my Lord had gone for aye.

And so I plead, Abide with me!
How can I live apart from thee?
To walk with thee as Enoch walked,
To talk with thee as Moses talked,
To live and move and breathe in thee,—
O blessed Christ! Abide with me.

What, my Beloved! Dost thou wait?
And have my sins fast barred the gate?
Those sins which have my soul undone,
I loathe, abhor them every one.
Thy pierced feet stand at my door;
'Come in, and bide forevermore.'

He came: his voice was music sweet;
I bowed me at his blessed feet.
My sins, which seemed like scarlet flame,
White as the driven snow became.
He healed my soul, he set me free;
And lo! He doth abide with me.
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1. Which of the following is not one of the three distinct groups in which Arthur White categorized how his mother received her visions?
   a. Visions given in public and accompanied by marked physical phenomena.
   b. Visions given at the request of Ellen White for specific information about an individual.
   c. Visions given during a period of prayer or writing, unaccompanied by physical phenomena.
   d. Visions given during the quiet hours of the night, often referred to as “prophetic dreams.”

2. Which one of the following men was not present on January 3, 1875 to have prayer for Ellen White who was deathly sick from the influenza and pneumonia?
   a. James White
   b. Uriah Smith
   c. J. H. Waggoner
   d. A. T. Jones

3. When Ellen White joined the prayer circle above in question #2 in a hoarse, labored voice, what was the result?
   a. Ellen White’s voice broke clear and musical and she was in vision.
   b. Her condition did not seem to improve.
   c. Ellen White remained very quiet, but she seemed to improve.
   d. She thanked the men for their prayers and returned to bed.

4. The Michigan volume of the American Biographical History stated of Ellen White:
   a. She is definitely a prophetess.
   b. She has written more books than any other lady.
   c. When speaking in the open air, she has frequently been distinctly heard at the distance of a mile.
   d. Her discourses are always humorous and fun to listen to.

5. David Arnold, a contemporary of Ellen White, lists all but which one of the following in regard to city living?
   a. Visions given in public and accompanied by marked physical phenomena.
   b. Visions given at the request of Ellen White for specific information about an individual.
   c. Visions given during a period of prayer or writing, unaccompanied by physical phenomena.
   d. Visions given during the quiet hours of the night, often referred to as “prophetic dreams.”

6. Which of the following was not present during Ellen White’s visions?
   a. Her eyes were open.
   b. There was no breath.
   c. There were graceful movements of the shoulders, arms and hands expressive of what she saw.
   d. There was great fear among the people present.

7. Ellen White said all but which of the following in regard to city living?
   a. In the future the condition of things in the cities will grow more and more objectionable.
   b. The physical surroundings in the cities are often a peril to health.
   c. The smoke and dust of the cities are very objectionable.
   d. As long as you do not have children, it is fine to live in the cities.

8. Ellen White did all of her writing
   a. by typewriter
   b. by dictation
   c. by hand
   d. through her aides

9. Ellen White had how many children die before adulthood?
   a. 1
   b. 2
   c. 3
   d. 4

10. One of Ellen White’s sons died at which of the following ages?
    a. 1
    b. 2
    c. 3
    d. 4

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Answers: 1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. a 6.
Influenza Part 4: The Facts on Tamiflu and Swine Flu Vaccine

Last month I mentioned several natural ways you can boost your immune system to get ready for this coming flu season (and possibly the Swine Flu), but you’re still concerned. You say, all of that is wonderful, but why not at least try Tamiflu? What about a swine flu vaccine? If one is offered, should I take it? Ok, let’s take a better look at this “wonder” drug, Tamiflu:

“UNUSUAL” BEHAVIOR

“First approved by the FDA in 1999, Tamiflu was touted as a drug that could significantly reduce the length and severity of influenza. These claims even prompted the U.S. government to purchase 20 million doses of Tamiflu—at a cost of $2 billion—in the event that a bird flu pandemic occurred. The Pentagon followed, paying a whopping $58 million in July, 2005, for treatments of U.S. troops around the world. However, problems with Tamiflu began to surface in 2004. It was thought that the drug... was causing some of its users to manifest very unusual behavior. For example, during the 2004 and 2005 flu seasons, two teenage boys committed suicide within hours of taking Tamiflu. The 17-year-old jumped in front of a large truck on a busy road after walking outside his house barefoot and in pajamas during a snowstorm. The 14-year-old jumped to his death from the balcony of a ninth-floor flat. Later, a teenage girl was narrowly prevented from jumping to her death from a window within days of starting a course of the flu drug. By November, 2005, it had been reported that 12 Japanese children had died while on the drug and that others had experienced hallucinations, encephalitis, and other symptoms.” (1)

NO WARNING FROM THE FDA

“Despite these alarming reports, the FDA voted not to issue a warning about the drug's potential for causing abnormal behavior. Instead, the FDA chose to warn of Tamiflu’s potential for producing skin rashes. It wasn’t until reports surfaced of more than 100 new cases of delirium, hallucinations, and other abnormal psychiatric behavior in children treated with Tamiflu that the FDA changed course and added a warning label in November 2006.” (1)

Read this part carefully: “Over the years, the FDA has been accused of causing high drug prices, keeping life-saving drugs off the market, allowing unsafe drugs on the market because of pressure from pharmaceutical companies and censoring health information about nutritional supplements and foods. One such critic is Dr. David Graham, Associate Director for Science and Medicine and a senior drug safety researcher at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the FDA). In his estimation, the FDA is “responsible for 140,000 heart attacks and 60,000 dead Americans. That’s as many people as were killed in the Vietnam War.” His words offer an insider's perspective on the fatal role he believes the FDA played in thousands of heart attacks and deaths caused by the pain medication Vioxx—a medication the FDA approved and initially failed to warn of its potential effects. Indeed, the Vioxx debacle was brought to America's attention when Congress was presented with evidence showing that among the estimated 20 million users of Vioxx, hundreds of thousands had died or suffered heart attacks as a result of taking the drug... Yet as Graham has pointed out, “Rarely will they keep a drug from being marketed or pull a drug off the market.”... The pharmaceutical companies also bear the responsibility—and the blame—for unsafe drugs being approved and
put out on the market. “The FDA assumes the drug is safe and now it’s up to the company to prove that the drug isn’t safe,” remarked Graham. “Well, that’s a no-brainer. What company on earth is going to try to prove that [their] drug isn’t safe?” It should come as no surprise that the pharmaceutical companies have the federal government in their hip pocket.

AMERICANS AND CONGRESS SHOULD BE SCREAMING BLOODY MURDER

According to a 2005 report from the Center for Public Integrity, “The pharmaceutical and health products industry has spent more than $800 million in federal lobbying and campaign donations at the federal and state levels in the past seven years.” In fact, no other industry has spent more money to sway public policy during that period… With an estimated 200,000-plus people dying every year from prescription drugs, Graham believes “Americans and Congress should be screaming bloody murder. They should be beating on the doors of the FDA demanding change.” (1)

With the deaths of the children in Japan, it should come as no surprise that there are physicians beginning to stand up in protest. “The anti-Tamiflu forces in Japan are led by Dr. Rokuro Hama, an epidemiologist and internal medicine specialist who heads the Japan Institute of Pharmacovigilance, a medical industry watchdog. Hama believes that Tamiflu can directly cause temporary neurological disorders in a small percentage of users — especially young people. That can lead to abnormal behavior, such as a seemingly happy, healthy teenager suddenly deciding to leap off a high-rise apartment building. “There is no possibility whatsoever” that there could be another cause behind the Tamiflu deaths, says Hama. “Ultimately it should be taken off the market.” ” (2)

WHAT DOES TAMIFLU ACTUALLY DO?

If it wasn’t bad enough that Tamiflu causes deadly side effects and it is still on the market, 3 cases of swine flu have now proven resistant to Tamiflu (3) (4) – with more cases suspected resistant, yet it is still being recommended for almost everyone as a preventative or in case of actual swine flu infection. And for the people it does “work” for, what does it actually do?

According to Roche’s (the manufacturer of Tamiflu) own website it says if the Tamiflu is taken within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms: it may be able to reduce the length of illness by about a day. Keep in mind, along with the “normal” potential side effects like nausea, fever, vomiting (sounds kind of like the flu, doesn’t it?), Tamiflu carries a couple serious/life-threatening potential side effects as well: hepatitis and Stevens-Johnson syndrome (a life-threatening condition in which the skin blisters and sloughs off – has been called a type of “flesh eating” disease).

So if you’re asking me… I would rather have one extra day of the flu than to suffer potentially life-threatening side effects. Plus, whenever I’m considering taking a drug, the questions I like to ask are: 1. Who is saying that the drug (Tamiflu, swine flu vaccine, or fill-in-the-blank) works? And, 2. Can you trust that person/establishment?

DO YOUR HOMEWORK AND MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION

So, who is saying (and will be saying) that Tamiflu and the swine flu vaccination work? Why, the companies selling them, of course! Can we trust them? Well, in the past, drugs have been “proven” safe and effective, only later to show that they were not only ineffective, but also completely unsafe, with some being downright deadly. So do your homework and make an informed decision. Don’t just take a drug “because the doctor says it’s okay”. The doctor said it was okay to take Vioxx, and you see how that turned out! The doctor usually only tells you whatever the drug representative from the drug manufacturer has told him. Think about it, take some time to research if you need to, and make your own informed decision as to what drugs you will take.

As far as the vaccine is concerned, I would suggest that you look at history
and the facts and make that choice yourself. Keep in mind: vaccines are only useful against the specific viral strain that was available at the time of their manufacture. But influenza viruses mutate quickly, and as the WHO has already said, the real concern with H1N1 swine flu is that it will combine with seasonal flu (or heaven forbid, the Avian flu) in the fall, creating a new, deadly strain that will, of course, be immune to all available vaccines. If they are worried about the strains mixing in the fall, how would it even be possible to have a vaccine ready now?

Previous Flu Vaccines:

- **1918 Swine Flu** – An H1N1 virus – Doctors recommended “vaccines” (who knows what was in them, yet they were still given) – They were completely ineffective. (5) The virus killed between 30-100 million people worldwide.

- **1976 Swine Flu** – “In February 1976, an outbreak of swine flu struck Fort Dix Army base in New Jersey, killing a 19-year-old private and infecting hundreds of soldiers. Concerned that the U.S. was on the verge of a devastating epidemic, President Gerald Ford ordered a nationwide vaccination program at a cost of $135 million (some $500 million in today’s money). Within weeks, reports surfaced of people developing Guillain-Barré syndrome, a paralyzing nerve disease that can be caused by the vaccine. By April, more than 30 people had died of the condition. Facing protests, federal officials abruptly canceled the program on Dec. 16. The epidemic failed to materialize.” (6)

- **July 2005** – People can now file a claim for side effects from flu shot: “Flu vaccination can cause serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions, stroke, brain damage, encephalopathy, and/or coma. As of July 1, 2005, people who think that they have been injured by the flu shot can file a claim for compensation from the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP).” (7)

- **Avian Flu February 2009** – In what was called a “serious error”, drug manufacturer Baxter International Inc. sends out Avian Flu vaccines that are tainted with live Avian flu virus. (8)

**THE FDA DOES NOT TEST DRUGS**

Remember, drug companies are cleverly disguised marketing machines. It is their job to sell, not heal. And if you think the FDA is watching out for you, think again. According to the FDA’s own website, the “FDA does not develop, manufacture or test drugs. Drug manufacturers submit reports of a drug’s studies so that the Center can evaluate its data.” (9) So, the drug company gives the FDA the data that supports the drug (after all, they are trying to get it approved to sell), and the FDA just reviews it. If information is omitted, the FDA may pass a dangerous drug unknowingly. Don’t let the commercials, news stories, or advertisements fool you. Do your homework, and be informed, so if need be, you will be able to stand up and refuse to be drugged, even if everyone around you is giving in, convinced that they need it!

Before you say, “But my doctor said...”, let’s look at what “doctors” have recommended in the past:

**Cocaine:**

**Lloyd Cocaine Toothache Drops Ad:** “‘Instantaneous Cure! Price 15 Cents. For sale by all Druggists. Cocaine is the new anesthetic now used so extensively throughout Europe and this country by Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists. This preparation of Toothache Drops contains Cocaine, and its wonderful properties are fully demonstrated by the many recommendations it is daily receiving. Take no other except Cocaine Toothache Drops. Prepared by the Lloyd Manufacturing Co., 219 Hudson Ave., Albany, N.Y.’ In the US, cocaine was sold over the counter until 1914, and was commonly found in products like toothache drops, dandruff remedies, and medicinal tonics.” (10)
Heroin:

Smith Glyco-Heroin Ad:
“A mixture of heroin and glycerin. ‘No other preparation has had its therapeutic value more thoroughly defined or better established.’” (10)

More thoroughly defined or better established? Just like Vioxx and Tamiflu are safe…

Bayer Heroin Ad:
“Heroin. The sedative for coughs. You will have to call for them. Order a supply from your Jobber.’ From 1898 through to 1910, heroin was marketed as a cough suppressant by trusted companies like Bayer -- alongside the company’s other new product, Aspirin.” (10)

“By 1899, Bayer was producing a ton of heroin a year, and exporting the drug to 23 countries. The country where it really took off was the US, where there was already a large population of morphine addicts, a craze for patent medicines, and a relatively lax regulatory framework. Manufacturers of cough syrup were soon lacing their products with Bayer heroin. “It possesses many advantages over morphine,” wrote the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal in 1900. “It’s not hypnotic, and there’s no danger of acquiring a habit.” But worrying rumors were surfacing. As early as 1899, researchers began to report patients developing “tolerance” to the drug, while a German researcher denounced it as “an extremely dangerous poison”. By 1902 - when heroin sales were accounting for roughly five percent of Bayer’s net profits - French and American researchers were reporting cases of “heroinism” and addiction.” (11)

“The bandwagon took time to stop. Between 1899 and 1905, at least 180 clinical works on heroin were published around the world, and most were favorable, if cautious. In 1906, the American Medical Association approved heroin for medical use, though with strong reservations about a “habit” that was “readily formed”. (11)

Finally, in 1924, the Heroin Act makes manufacture and possession of heroin illegal. Unfortunately, by that year, “98 percent of New York’s drug addicts were thought to be heroin addicts.” (11)

Morphine:

Mrs. Winslow’s Soothing Syrup Ad:
“Contained 65 mg of morphine per fluid ounce. ‘For children teething.’” (10) [Note: Average dose is 10 mg for a 140 lb. adult.] “In non-tolerant adults, doses greater than 100 mg administered orally are toxic”. (20)

Quaaludes:

Quaalude-300 (Brand name for the now-illegal sedative methaqualone.) Ad:
“Now the physician has one more tired, sleepy and apprehensive patient to contend with.” (10)

Cigarettes:

Dr. Batty’s Asthma Cigarettes Ad:
“For the temporary relief of paroxysms of asthma.

Effectively treats: asthma, hay fever, foul breath, all diseases of the throat, head colds, canker sores, and bronchial irritations. Not recommended for children under 6.” (10)

Children under 6?! That means they were recommended for children over 6! Helps with foul breath, diseases of the throat, and asthma? He was “batty”, along with all the other health practitioners recommending “cigarette treatment”.

Chloroform:

Kimball White Pine and Tar Cough Syrup with Chloroform
Until 1976, chloroform was used in consumer products like cough syrup, toothpastes, ointments and other pharmaceuticals. (10)

Marijuana:

Cosadein Ad:
“A valuable brain tonic, and a cure for all nervous affections -- sick head-ache, neuralgia, hysteria, melancholy.” This cough remedy contained, among other things, codeine, chloroform, and cannabis (marijuana). (10)

As you’re deciding about what treatment you will take, keep in mind that “medicine” changes over the years and the drugs that doctors once confidently stood behind have ended up being disastrous and deadly. And, remember, not all doctors are recommending vaccines anyway.
There are many doctors who boldly oppose the use of vaccines, whether for the flu or other:

“Take the profit out of the manufacture and administration of serums and vaccines and they would soon be condemned even by those who are now using them.”
- George Starr White M.D. (21)

“The only safe vaccine is a vaccine that is never used.”
- James A. Shannon, M.D. (21)

Swine Flu 2009 Vaccine Timeline:
• **April 27:** Drug companies say it will take 6-8 months to develop an effective vaccine. (13)
• **April 30:** “There is no vaccine currently that exactly matches the swine flu. The seasonal flu vaccine is not effective against swine flu, said Richard Besser, acting head of the CDC.” (14)
• **May 6:** The Obama administration is considering an unprecedented fall vaccination campaign that could entail giving Americans three flu shots” (15) Drug companies (who happen to stand to profit from the sales of vaccines) are pushing for this, even though: 1. This has never been done. 2. An effective vaccine has not even been produced. 3. Possible side effects of doing this are not even known at this point.
• **June 12:** Miraculously only one and a half months later: “Swiss pharmaceuticals company Novartis AG said Friday it has successfully produced a first batch of swine flu vaccine weeks ahead of expectations… The announcement comes a day after the World Health Organization declared swine flu… a pandemic.” (16) Wow! Is that perfect timing or what? Does this sound a bit fishy to you?
• **June 13:** “Specialty drug maker Baxter International Inc. (see Avian Flu bullet point above) says it’s in “full scale” production of a swine flu vaccine that will be commercially available in July.” (17)
• **June 27:** “According to officials, an unprecedented 600 million doses of swine flu vaccine may be given this fall even though officials have not yet developed a way to administer such a large number of shots… Tracking the vaccination side effects will also prove to be a difficult task. If both the swine flu vaccination, and the seasonal flu shot are given at the same time, it will likely cause issues determining which side effects are from which vaccination. This issue previously arose in 1976, when officials vaccinated for swine flu. Over 500 of those receiving the vaccinations came down with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a paralyzing autoimmune disorder. Researchers still do not know what caused the side effect.” (18)
• **Fall/Winter 2009 – What will you choose?**

1. I know time has passed and we seem to be in a lull from the swine flu - especially in the media. This was to be expected. Don’t let your guard down and forget about the deadly potential of this bug. According to Michael T. Osterholm, Director, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, “An influenza pandemic of even moderate impact will result in the biggest single human disaster ever - far greater than AIDS, 9/11, all wars in the 20th century, and the recent tsunami combined. It has the potential to redirect world history as the Black Death redirected European history in the 14th century.” (19)
1. A Sect Leader’s Suspicious Death—Time, August 17, 2009—The World section, page 12

Mohammed Yusuf, leader of the radical Boko Haram sect, was shot while in police custody on July 30, as security forces moved to squash a five-day uprising by the militant Islamic group. Boko Haram members attacked police stations, churches, schools, and private homes, killing nearly 800 people in an effort to overthrow the government and impose a stricter version of Islamic law in Africa’s most populous nation, Nigeria. Human-rights groups say the leader may have been executed to deter other militants.

End time perspective: “The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation. The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world, represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening. Even now, in the present century, and in professedly Christian lands, there are crimes daily perpetrated, as black and terrible as those for which the old-world sinners were destroyed.” ChS 53

2. Israel—Taking Down Lieberman—Time, August 17, 2009—The World section, page 12

After a lengthy corruption probe, Israeli police recommended that the state charge Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman with a battery of crimes, including bribery, fraud, money-laundering and obstruction of justice.

End time perspective: “The record of the corruption in our cities cannot be traced by human pen. Political strife, bribery, fraud, are seen on every hand. Men seem determined to rule or ruin. They are ready to ill-treat and even to kill those who will not be ruled by them. Who can doubt but that the evils which existed before the Flood exist today? . . . 3MR 38


Yet another reason to turn off the tube: the more TV time kids log, a study found, the higher their blood pressure is regardless of weight—a spike not seen in connection with other sedentary behaviors like computer use. Researchers say the culprit may be showtime snacking, overstimulation and subsequent sleep loss or exposure to junk-food commercials.

End time perspective 1: “It is a law of the mind that it gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is trained to dwell. If occupied with commonplace matters only, it will become dwarfed and enfeebled. If never required to grapple with difficult problems, it will after a time almost lose the power of growth.” 2MCP 418

End time perspective 2: “The mind, the soul, is built up by that upon which it feeds; and it rests with us to determine upon what it shall be fed. It is within the power of everyone to choose the topics that shall occupy the thoughts and shape the character.” Ed 126


Fighting AIDS just got tougher. Unlike the three previous known strains of HIV, which have been
linked to Chimpanzees, a new variant—discovered in a 62-year-old Cameroonian woman who tested positive in 2004—appears to have come from gorillas. Researchers say the new strain may be difficult to detect using conventional tests but expect current treatments to remain effective.

End time perspective: “The patriarchs from Adam to Noah, with but few exceptions, lived nearly a thousand years. Since the days of Noah, the length of life has been tapering. Those suffering with disease were brought to Christ for him to heal, from every town, city, and village; for they were afflicted with all manner of diseases. And disease has been steadily on the increase through successive generations since that period. Because of the continued violation of the laws of life, mortality has increased to a fearful extent.” CE 10

A panel of federal judges has ordered California to cut its prison population by more than a quarter, ruling that medical care in the overcrowded facilities is so poor that it violates convict’s constitutional rights. Over the next two years, the cash-strapped state must find a way to trim more than 40,000 inmates from its total of about 150,000 (the system is designed for 84,000). Attorney general Jerry Brown said he will appeal the 184-page order.

End time perspective: “Our ancestors have bequeathed to us customs and appetites which are filling the world with disease. The sins of the parents, through perverted appetite, are with fearful power visited upon the children to the third and fourth generations. The bad eating of many generations, the gluttonous and self-indulgent habits of the people, are filling our poorhouses, our prisons, and our insane asylums. Intemperance, in drinking tea and coffee, wine, beer, rum, and brandy, and the use of tobacco, opium, and other narcotics, has resulted in great mental and physical degeneracy, and this degeneracy is constantly increasing.” CH 49

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Through July 353 Americans were confirmed to have died from the new flu out of an estimated 1 Million infected. With the exception of certain populations—including pregnant women, children with chronic diseases and people with respiratory ailments—Hini tends to be no worse than the seasonal flu. A few days in bed and lots of liquids, and most patients get better. The bad news is HiNi is highly contagious and, unlike many other flus, is particularly hard on children and teens.

End time perspective: “Healthful Eating Is Not a Sacrifice.—While the children should be taught to control the appetite, and to eat with reference to health, let it be made plain that they are denying themselves only that which would do them harm. They give up hurtful things for something better. Let the table be made inviting and attractive as it is supplied with the good things which God has so bountifully bestowed.” CG 385
REFERENCES

5. The American Experience: Influenza 1918, PBS Program Transcript
12. Camel Cigarette Ad Circa 1946
21. “Swine Flu Expose”, Eleanor M. McBean, Ph.D., N.D.
"The remnant church is called to go through an experience similar to that of the Jews; and the True Witness, who walks up and down in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, has a solemn message to bear to His people. He says, 'I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent' (Rev. 2:4, 5). The love of God has been waning in the church, and as a result, the love of self has sprung up into new activity. With the loss of love for God there has come the loss of love for the brethren. The church may meet all the description that is given of the Ephesian church, and yet fail in vital godliness. Of them Jesus said, 'I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love' (Rev. 2:2-4)." 1SM 387

"Jerusalem is a representation of what the church will be if it refuses to walk in the light that God has given. Jerusalem was favored of God as the depositary of sacred trusts. But her people perverted the truth, and despised all entreaties and warnings. They would not respect His counsels. The temple courts were polluted with merchandise and robbery. Selfishness and love of mammon, envy and strife, were cherished. Everyone sought for gain from his quarter. Christ turned from them, saying: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem," how can I give thee up? "How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" Matthew 23:37. So Christ sorrows and weeps over our churches, over our institutions of learning, that have failed to meet the demand of God."

"I have been shown that the spirit of the world is fast leavening the church. You are following the same path as did ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God's peculiar people. You are having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Your concord with unbelievers has provoked the Lord's displeasure. You know not the things that belong to your peace, and they are fast being hid from your eyes. Your neglect to follow the light will place you in a more unfavorable position than the Jews upon whom Christ pronounced a woe." 5T 75

"I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. But few know what our churches are to experience. I saw that at present we are under divine forbearance, but no one can say how long this will continue. No one knows how great the mercy that has been exercised toward us. But few are heartily devoted to God. There are only a few who, like the stars in a tempestuous night, shine here and there among the clouds." 5T 76

"I was pointed back to ancient Israel. But two of the adults of the vast army that left Egypt entered the land of Canaan. Their dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness because of their transgressions. Modern Israel are in greater danger of forgetting God and being led into idolatry than were His ancient people. Many idols are worshiped, even by professed Sabbathkeepers. God especially charged His ancient people to guard against idolatry, for if they should be led away from serving the living God, His curse would rest upon them, while if they would love Him with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their might, He would abundantly bless them in basket and in store, and would remove sickness from the midst of them. "A blessing or a curse is now before the people of God--a blessing if they come out from the world and are separate, and walk in the path of humble obedience; and a curse if they unite with the idolatrous, who trample upon the high claims of heaven. The sins and iniquities of rebellious Israel are recorded and the picture presented before us as a warning that if we imitate their example of transgression and depart from God we shall fall as surely as did they. 'Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.'" 1 T 609

"We want to understand the time in which we live. We do not half understand it. We do not half take it in. My heart trembles in me when I think of what a foe we have to meet, and how poorly we are prepared to meet him. The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ--how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God's servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth."

1SM 406
“God expects personal service from everyone to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be home missionaries in their families and neighborhoods. There are many ways in which church members may give the message to those around them. One of the most successful is by living helpful, unselfish, Christian lives. Those who are fighting the battle of life at great odds may be refreshed and strengthened by little attentions which cost nothing. Kindly words simply spoken, little attentions simply bestowed, will sweep away the clouds of temptation and doubt that gather over the soul. The true heart expression of Christlike sympathy, given in simplicity, has power to open the door of hearts that need the simple, delicate touch of the spirit of Christ.” - Testimonies Volume 9, Page 30

Testimonies for the Church is available from Hope International Bookstore