Our Firm Foundation

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Editorial

Clark Floyd

“John Huss of Bohemia was of humble birth, and was early left an orphan by the death of his father. His pious mother, regarding education and the fear of God as the most valuable of possessions, sought to secure this heritage for her son. Huss studied at the provincial school, and then repaired to the university at Prague, receiving admission as a charity scholar. He was accompanied on the journey to Prague by his mother; widowed and poor, she had no gifts of worldly wealth to bestow upon her son, but as they drew near to the great city, she knelted down beside the fatherless youth and invoked for him the blessing of their Father in heaven. Little did that mother realize how her prayer was to be answered.

“T at the university, Huss soon distinguished himself by his untiring application and rapid progress, while his blameless life and gentle, winning deportment gained him universal esteem. He was a sincere adherent of the Roman Church and an earnest seeker for the spiritual blessings which it professes to bestow.... A tter completing his college course, he entered the priesthood. In a few years the humble charity scholar had become the pride of his country, and his name was renowned throughout Europe.” GC 98, 99.

One of the great influences on Huss that opened to him the errors in the Roman Church were two pictures drawn on a wall in Prague open to the public view—“One represented the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, ‘meek, and sitting upon an ass’ (Matthew 21:5), and followed by His disciples in travel-worn garments and with naked feet. The other picture portrayed a pontifical procession—the pope arrayed in his rich robes and triple crown, mounted upon a horse magnificently adorned, preceded by trumpeters and followed by cardinals and prelates in dazzling array. Here was a sermon which arrested the attention of all classes. Crowds came to gaze upon the drawings. No one could fail to read the moral, and many were deeply impressed by the contrast between the meekness and humility of Christ the Master, and the pride and arrogance of the pope.” GC 100.

“The pictures made a deep impression on the mind of Huss and led him to a closer study of the Bible and of Wycliffe's writings... he saw more clearly the true character of the papacy, and with greater zeal denounced the pride, the ambition, and the corruption of the hierarchy.” GC 100.

In 1993 I made one of my several trips to the Czech Republic for a camp meeting to be held there. On this occasion one of the Czech brothers presented a book to me recounting the history of Huss and the Reformation in that area of Europe. The cover for this month’s magazine was taken from two pictures in that book, obtained for the book from the national museum in Prague.

Our lead article by Ellen White states that “the claim of the Papacy to superiority and supremacy was conceded by emperors and kings, although God had sanctioned no such concession, and raised up men to dispute the claim, and to break the Romish yoke from the church of God.”

Today there is a resurgence of the Catholic Church, a healing of the deadly wound. We are again seeing national leaders, including our own presidents, giving obeisance to the Pope of Rome. At the same time we see the name Protestant no longer being valid among many Christians—they have lost sight of their heritage. The lack of understanding of Scripture among Christians of other faiths today is illustrated in the articles “The Thing That Hath Been” and “The Two Covenants”.

As we near the second coming of Jesus, we need to become better Bible students and prayer warriors. There is a world out there that needs to be warned, and I believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is God’s chosen means to carry this great warning to the rest of the world. The question is: “Are we ready? Do we understand the Scriptures as we should?” Brothers and Sisters, do you have the ability, through means of the Bible, without the Spirit of Prophecy, to make clear that Literal Israel is not God’s chosen people at this time in history, to show that the Roman Church is the antichrist of the Bible, to show that Christ’s second coming is open and not secret, and to warn that there is no second chance? Can you do this in the love of the Lord?
Our Mission:
It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of Our Firm Foundation to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world. —Editor

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There are many objects of deep interest for the students of Scripture, the accounts of which have been “written for our learning,” objects which we are intended to contemplate with earnest attention, and from which we may draw rich spiritual lessons.

Forbidden Fruit

Can this object, so small, so beautiful, be yet through its effects more deadly than any weapon of war ever forged for man’s destruction, more deadly than the poison-flask, the dagger, or the thunderbolt! It lies before us fresh and fair as when, nearly six thousand years ago, it hung amongst the green foliage of Paradise, more beautiful than any fragrant peach on which the last ripening sunbeam glows in a now fallen world. On the fruit of Eden, which could so lightly yield to Eve’s touch, and be marked by the soft pressure of her fingers, we see not the trail of the serpent; it is goodly to look upon, and what mortal dare say that had he been in the place of our first parents, the fair but fatal fruit would have hung untasted on the bough?

the poisonous nature of little sins

In looking on it, how awful a lesson we learn of the poisonous nature of what we dare to call little sins! Who amongst us, beholding Eve in her beauty plucking the fruit which tempted her eye, would not have been ready to have echoed the first lie ever breathed on our planet, “thou shalt not surely die”. Bright, guileless, and, until now, sinless being; God will not severely judge thee, He has threatened, but He will not perform.

grasping forbidden pleasure = grasping forbidden fruit

Is not the same deluding idea at the bottom of all our carelessness, our neglect of duty, our grasping at forbidden pleasure? Thou shalt not surely die has been the whisper of the Tempter from Eve’s time till now. Let us answer him by pointing to that fruit. Was not the death of myriads enclosed as it were, in its rind? Could the stain left by its fatal juice be washed out by floods of tears or rivers of blood? Had not sin but that one sin of plucking it been ever committed upon earth, could that sin have been atoned for by anything less that the sacrifice of an Incarnate God?

Ambitiously aiming at gaining knowledge

Sin stands not alone by itself: as the seed is contained in the fruit, so one transgression is the parent of many. Coveting what God had witheld, longing for a luxury forbidden, ambitiously aiming at gaining knowledge which should make her independent as a God, Eve at once received into her heart the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. They came as guests— to remain as tyrants. When we feel their influence within our selves, when covetousness, love of pleasure, or pride of intellect would draw us from our lowly allegiance to God, from our simple obedience to His word, let us look on the forbidden fruit and tremble— let us look on it, and watch and pray.

The fruit of knowledge still, Plucked by pride, may death distil.

we are putting forth our hand to pluck the forbidden fruit

When we make of intellect an idol; when we exalt reason above revelation, and would draw down God’s hidden mysteries to the level of our finite comprehension, we are putting forth our hand, like Eve, to pluck and taste the forbidden fruit; forgetful of the warning of the Saviour: “He that receiveth not the kingdom of heaven as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”
TRUST IN GOD, AND DO THE RIGHT

By Norman M’Leod

Courage, brother, do not stumble,
Though thy path be dark as night;
There’s a star to guide the humble;
Trust in God, and do the right.

Let the road be rough and dreary,
And its end far out of sight,
Foot it bravely! Strong, or weary,
Trust in God, and do the right.

Perish policy and cunning!
Perish all that fears the light!
Whether losing, whether winning,
Trust in God, and do the right.

Trust no party, sect, or faction;
Trust no leaders in the fight;
But in every word and action,
Trust in God, and do the right.

Trust no lovely forms of passion:
Friends may look like angels bright;
Trust no custom, school, or fashion,
Trust in God, and do the right.

Simple rule, and safest guiding,
Inward peace, and inward might,
Star upon our path abiding,
Trust in God, and do the right.

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight:
Cease from man, and look above thee,
Trust in God, and do the right.
There is great need that all who claim to be Bible Christians should take the Scriptures as they read. There is need of arriving at right conclusions as to what the Scriptures mean in their reference to the man of sin, who thought to change times and laws. He had no real power to change the time and the law of God, but he thought himself able to do this work; for he "opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." He is an imitator of the first great rebel, the originator of sin. In heaven Satan thought to change the laws of God, and for this purpose he changed his character and his position in the heavenly courts, and influenced others until they united with him in the work of rebellion against God; but he did not succeed in changing the law of God. God did not alter or change his form of government to suit Satan's ideas, but made it manifest that the foundation of his government in heaven and earth is as unchangeable as is the throne itself.

**PROTESTANTS DO NOT SEARCH THEIR BIBLES AS THEY SHOULD**

When Satan could not induce all the angels to revolt against the law of God, he made the earth the scene of his rebellion, and through the man of sin seeks to carry out his diabolical purpose. Through the Papacy, the Roman power, the man of sin, the purpose of Satan is carried out among men; the law and the time of God are set aside. In this we see that Protestantism is giving encouragement to popery; and false systems of worship, against which our fathers manfully opposed themselves, imperiling even property and life, are fostered and cherished and encouraged to extend and gain wide influence. Protestants do not search their Bibles as they should, and do not heed the warning that has been given concerning the work of the man of sin. The Roman Church claims that the pope is invested with supreme authority over all bishops and pastors, and this claim of supremacy was once denied by Protestants. They took the position that the Bible, and the Bible alone, constituted the rule of faith and doctrine, that the word of God is the only unerring guide for human souls, and that it is unnecessary and harmful to take the words of priests and prelates instead of the word of God.

**THE BIBLE PLAINLY REVEALS THE ERRORS OF THE ROMAN SYSTEM**

To the Romanist the Bible is a forbidden book, because it plainly reveals the errors of the Roman system; and whoever searches the Bible with an enlightened understanding, cannot long be in harmony with Romanism. He who searches the Bible to understand the truth, will find no authority in the word of God for the assumption of power on the part of popes and cardinals. There is no word of God that sanctions their assumed superiority or supremacy over their people, as there is no word to sanction the claim that Lucifer made in heaven of superiority over Christ.
The claim of the Papacy to superiority is made under the influence of the first great usurper, who so persistently urged his right to supremacy over the host of God. Through the Dark Ages,—that long night of ignorance and superstition,—the claim of the Papacy to superiority and supremacy was conceded by emperors and kings, although God had sanctioned no such concession, and raised up men to dispute the claim, and to break the Romish yoke from the church of God. Through his appointed agencies God summoned the church to reassert her independence, and in the strength of God she stood forth in the liberty wherewith Christ had made her free. She broke away from the papal yoke, and with the word of God in her hand, met the giant evil of Romanism, even as David met Goliath in the name of heaven, using his sling and a few pebblestones. The defier of Israel was slain before the man of faith; and while men cling to the word of the Lord, they cannot affiliate with the great system of error.

THE WORD OF GOD IS IRRECONCILABLY SEPARATED FROM ROME

The Lord has pronounced a curse upon those who take from or add to the Scriptures. The great I AM has decided what shall constitute the rule of faith and doctrine, and he has designed that the Bible shall be a household book. The church that holds to the word of God is irreconcilably separated from Rome. Protestants were once thus apart from this great church of apostasy, but they have approached more nearly to her, and are still in the path of reconciliation to the Church of Rome. Rome never changes. Her principles have not altered in the least. She has not lessened the breach between herself and Protestants; they have done all the advancing. But what does this argue for the Protestantism of this day? It is the rejection of Bible truth which makes men approach to infidelity. It is a backsliding church that lessens the distance between itself and the Papacy.

SHALL WE AGAIN PLACE OURSELVES IN BONDAGE TO THIS ANTICHRISTIAN POWER?

It is souls like Luther, Cranmer, Ridley, Hooper, and the thousands of noble men who were martyrs for the truth's sake, who are the true Protestants. They stood as faithful sentinels of truth, declaring that Protestantism is incapable of union with Romanism, but must be as far separated from the principles of the Papacy as is the east from the west. Such advocates of truth could no more harmonize with “the man of sin” than could Christ and his apostles. In earlier ages
the righteous felt that it was impossible to affiliate with Rome, and, though their antagonism to this system of error was maintained at risk of property and life, yet they had courage to maintain their separation, and manfully struggled for the truth. Bible truth was dearer to them than wealth, honor, or even life itself. They could not endure to see the truth buried under a mass of superstition and lying sophistry. They took the word of God in their hands, and raised the standard of truth before the people, boldly declaring that which God had revealed unto them through diligent searching of the Bible. They died the cruelest of deaths for their fidelity to God, but by their blood they purchased for us liberties and privileges that many who claim to be Protestants are easily yielding up to the power of evil. But shall we yield up these dearly bought privileges? Shall we offer insult to the God of heaven, and, after he has freed us from the Romish yoke, again place ourselves in bondage to this antichristian power? Shall we prove our degeneracy by signing away our religious liberty, our right to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience?

THE ROMAN POWER IS THE PREDICTED APOSTASY OF THE LAST DAYS

The voice of Luther, that echoed in mountains and valleys, that shook Europe as with an earthquake, summoned forth an army of noble apostles of Jesus, and the truth they advocated could not be silenced by fagots, by tortures, by dungeons, by death; and still the voices of the noble army of martyrs are telling us that the

Roman power is the predicted apostasy of the last days, the mystery of iniquity which Paul saw beginning to work even in his day. Roman Catholicism is rapidly gaining ground. Popery is on the increase, and those who have turned their ears away from hearing the truth are listening to her delusive fables. Papal chapels, papal colleges, nunneries, and monasteries are on the increase, and the Protestant world seems to be asleep.

PROTESTANTS HAVE TURNED AWAY THEIR EARS FROM HEARING THE TRUTH

Protestants are losing the mark of distinction that distinguished them from the world, and they are lessening the distance between themselves and the Roman power. They have turned away their ears from hearing the truth; they have been unwilling to accept light which God shed upon their pathway, and are therefore going into darkness. They speak with contempt of the idea that there will be a revival of the past cruel persecution on the part of Romanists and those who affiliate with them. They do not recognize the fact that the word of God fully predicts such a revival, and will not concede that the people of God in the last days shall suffer persecution, although the Bible says, “The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

THEY GO NOT AFTER THE PATTERN OF JESUS CHRIST

Popery is the religion of human nature, and the mass of humanity love a doctrine that permits them to commit sin, and yet frees them from its consequences. People must have some form
of religion, and this religion, formed by human device, and yet claiming divine authority, suits the carnal mind. Men who think themselves wise and intelligent turn away in pride from the standard of righteousness, the ten commandments, and do not think it is in harmony with their dignity to inquire into the ways of God. Therefore they go into false ways, into forbidden paths, become self-sufficient, self inflated, after the pattern of the pope, not after the pattern of Jesus Christ. They must have the form of religion that has the least requirement of spirituality and self-denial, and as unsanctified human wisdom will not lead them to loathe popery, they are naturally drawn toward its provisions and doctrines. They do not want to walk in the ways of the Lord. They are altogether too much enlightened to seek God prayerfully and humbly, with an intelligent knowledge of his word. Not caring to know the ways of the Lord, their minds are all open to delusions, all ready to accept and believe a lie. They are willing to have the most unreasonable, most inconsistent falsehoods palmed off upon them as truth.

SATAN'S MASTERPIECE OF DECEPTION IS POPERY

Satan's masterpiece of deception is popery; and while it has been demonstrated that a day of great intellectual darkness was favorable to Romanism, it will also be demonstrated that a day of great intellectual light is also favorable to its power; for the minds of men are concentrated on their own superiority, and do not like to retain God in their knowledge. Rome claims infallibility, and Protestants are following in the same line. They do not desire to search for truth and go on from light to a greater light. They wall themselves in with prejudice, and seem willing to be deceived and to deceive others.

THE BIBLE, AND THE BIBLE ALONE

But though the attitude of the churches is discouraging, yet there is no need of being disheartened; for God has a people who will preserve their fidelity to his truth, who will make the Bible, and the Bible alone, their rule of faith and doctrine, who will elevate the standard, and hold aloft the banner on which is inscribed, "The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." They will value a pure gospel, and make the Bible the foundation of their faith and doctrine.

For such a time as this, when men are casting aside the law of the Lord of hosts, the prayer of David is applicable,--"It is time for thee, Lord, to work; for they have made void thy law." We are coming to a time when almost universal scorn will be heaped upon the law of God, and God's commandment-keeping people will be severely tried; but will they lose their respect for the law of Jehovah because others do not see and realize its binding claims? Let God's commandment-keeping people, like David, reverence God's law in proportion as men cast it aside and heap upon it disrespect and contempt. - {ST, February 19, 1894}

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.
There has been a lot of controversy over the years about the two covenants. The “old” covenant; the “new” covenant... You hear people say, “Oh, I’m under the new covenant,” or, “Oh, that was under the old covenant, and we don’t have to do that anymore”, whatever “that” is. And these statements usually apply to the words “law” and “grace”. It is usually reckoned that the Old Testament was the covenant of law, and the New Testament is the covenant of grace. Here is one of the verses that is used to support this concept, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” John 1:17. It does sound as if John the Baptist is saying the law was then, but now we are under grace.

Yet Paul says this... “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.” Romans 3:31. Paul does not seem to think that one did away with the other.

The Hebrew word in the Old Testament for covenant is “b-riyth”, pronounced “ber-eeth”, and means a treaty, or a compact, or an agreement, or association between two parties. The first time this word was used was in Genesis 6:18 between God and Noah, “But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons’ wives with thee.” The world had become so wicked that God had to destroy it, but He found a faithful man who He could use to continue His special relationship between Himself and man.

As we have talked about so many times, man only has two choices... serve God, or serve the devil. Almost everyone, across the board, had chosen the devil. And I am sure, just like today, most people did not feel like they were serving the devil; they were just doing what they wanted to do. But God says that you can only serve one of two masters, and if you do not serve God, then there is only one other master that everyone falls under... the devil.

Noah chose to serve God. God said, “I will establish my covenant,” agreement, compact, or treaty, “with...
After Noah, God made a covenant with Abram. “In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.” Genesis 15:18. God changed Abram’s name to Abraham and said that the covenant that He would make with him would be an “everlasting” one. “And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.” Genesis 17:7.

Covenants To Serve God

Noah and Abraham had each made a covenant with God. They “agreed” to serve Him, to obey Him, to be faithful to Him, and He agreed to be their God and to protect them, to watch over them and to save them. They agreed to be His people, and He agreed to be their God. This was the “covenant” that they made with each other.

Abraham was from the Old Testament, yet God said that the covenant between Him and Abraham and his seed would be an everlasting one. Noah was faithful and obedient, yet the Bible says that “… Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:8.

Abraham was faithful, and obedient as well. Abraham is called the Father of the Faithful. “Now ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.” Galatians 3:7. These are Old Testament men, and yet the words used about them are ‘faith’ and ‘grace’.

Faith And Obedience

Then there is the famous “faith” chapter in Hebrews with Old Testament references… “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.” Hebrews 11:1,2. “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous…” “By faith Enoch was translated…” “By faith Isaac was born…” “By faith Jacob… ” “By faith Joseph… ” Hebrews 11:4,5. “Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed…” Hebrews 11:11. “These all died in faith…” Hebrews 11:13. “By faith Isaac… ” Hebrews 11:20. “By faith Jacob… ” Hebrews 11:21. “By faith Joseph…” Hebrews 11:22. It sounds to me like faith was an integral part of the Old Testament people’s lives… doesn’t it to you? It doesn’t say, “By obedience” they received these things… or, “By the law”. It says it was “By faith”.

Now let’s go to the New Testament for a few examples… Here is this same Paul, who mentioned all of the Old Testament examples of faith, writing this… “For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.” 2 Corinthians 2:9. Obedient???? I thought the New Testament was all about faith!

Through the preaching of Christ, people were becoming obedient, both in words and in deeds! One might get the distinct impression, by these verses, that the Old Testament was all about faith, and the New Testament was about obedience. So, which “covenant” was who under? The covenant of obedience? Or the covenant of grace?

Now… let’s go to the place where most people find the difficulty, or see an apparent contradiction, and see if God can clear things up for us… the book of Hebrews. Let’s set the stage for the writing of this letter to the Hebrews. First off, let’s keep in mind to whom this letter was written - the Hebrews. In other words, the Jews. A nother way to look at it is, “all the people who have been involved in the sacrificial system.”

Which Covenant Applies?

Paul, making a point to the Romans in his letter, said this… “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed.” Romans 15:18.

The Sacrificial Lamb Only Represented Jesus

a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.” Acts 6:7. Luke says that as the word of God increased, more people became obedient… That doesn’t sound like “obedience, only grace” to me.
The people Paul is dealing with are those who have been killing lambs for hundreds and hundreds of years. Those lambs were supposed to represent something. Remember the words of John the Baptist? “And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!” John 1:34-36.

All through the Old Testament, the people were taught to look forward to Jesus' coming, and the taking away of our sins, by this sacrificial system. They were supposed to understand that sin causes death... the death of the lamb... which represented Jesus Christ. Their “faith” was supposed to be in what the system represented... Jesus Christ... not in the system itself. There was no virtue or forgiveness in killing an animal. The faith was not supposed to be in the animal, but in what the animal represented. Does that make sense to you?

The Entire System Pointed To Christ

The priests, who brought the blood of the lambs into the temple, represented Jesus, who brought His own blood into the heavenly temple to plead before the Father, to forgive us for our sins, because He has died for us. And the Hebrew priests, who represented Jesus, killed Jesus, because they had lost all understanding of what the sanctuary services represented.

Paul is trying to bring their understanding back in line with what the sanctuary service actually represented and was for. “Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.” Hebrews 8:1-5.

“Those things were all examples!” Paul is telling them. “These things all pointed to the true, or real Lamb of God. These things were just symbols of Jesus,” is what he was trying to convey.

Only The Blood Of Jesus

Now this next verse will make perfect sense to you. Now, taken in context, we can fully understand what
Paul meant by what he said here...
“But now hath he [Jesus] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” Hebrews 8:6. Paul said that Jesus obtained a more excellent ministry... More excellent than whose? Than the priests before Him. Why was His “ministry” better, or more excellent than that of the priests before Him?

Remember, this was written to the Jews! Paul is making the point that the priests could only offer “symbolic” blood, blood of lambs and such. But Jesus Christ offered His own blood, the blood of God. The blood of lambs did nothing for the sinner. Only the blood of Jesus Christ could cleanse, could forgive, could make new. The “better” covenant was the one that was ratified or made of effect, by the blood of God Himself, and not a lamb that was an example of what was to come.

Why Keep Sacrificing Lambs?

Of course, the “better” one would be the actual one that is in charge, or who owns the company or the actual president. No one would question that. And that is what Paul is trying to convey. Paul doesn’t actually come right out and say it, but the definite inference is... why keep sacrificing lambs when the real Lamb of God has been sacrificed now? There is now no more need for the sacrificial system! The One that the entire system was based on has come! Once we grasp whom Paul was speaking to, and why, what he says makes perfect sense.

Now, let’s look at the next verse...
“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.” Hebrews 8:7. In other words, if the blood of sacrificial animals was all we needed, then why did the Messiah need to come to offer His own blood? Even though they had the concept that the Messiah was supposed to come at some point, they had gotten so caught up in the examples of the sacrificial system, that they could not see the Messiah when He was standing right there in front of them.

The Better Promises

It’s kind of like a contract made between two companies... Which one do you think would have more force - one signed by the representatives of the company presidents, or one signed by the presidents themselves? When the president of the United States makes a statement, which one has more force - one made by his representative, say, as secretary, or one he makes himself? The “better promises” here represent the same idea... The promise of eternal life is based on the blood of Jesus Christ, shed for our sins... right?

Please keep in mind he is talking to the Jewish mind here. The first promise was based upon the blood of Christ as well, but was just a representation of that blood... represented by the blood of lambs. Just like with the president of a company, or the president of the U.S. - which would have a greater impact, or which one would be “better” - the representatives... or the one the representatives represent?

God Found Fault With Them

Now let’s look at the next verse... “For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the

The Sacrificial System Had Come To An End

They had been dealing with the secretary of the president of the United States for so long, that when the president actually came there to meet them, they didn’t even recognize him. Does that make sense? Paul was trying, very, very, tactfully to say that the priests no longer had jobs, in the regular sense of what they were used to. He was telling them that the sanctuary and all its services related to the sacrificial system had now come to an end. You have to try and put yourself in the position of these Jews, and recognize how corrupted their thinking had become, to understand how hard Paul’s job was. They had lost so much of what the system pointed to, that when Jesus came, He had to cleanse the temple because they were more concerned with doing business in it than praying in it.
Now let's look at why God found fault with the Jews... "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord." Hebrews 8:9. God said they "continued not" in His covenant. So, He was going to make a "new" one. We have already determined that there is no other way to heaven except by Jesus. We have already determined, by Paul's own words, that the Old Testament people were saved by faith and not by works. So, what is "new" about this "new covenant"? "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." Hebrews 8:10. The "new covenant" that God will make, will be one that affects the heart and mind. His "new" agreement will be one that is a heart work, a mental willingness and acceptance of His laws and ways and will. God's plan for our salvation will involve a change of our hearts and spirits.

Now here is the real question that begs to be answered... Was this "new covenant" for God... or for us? Did God need a new plan, or did we? Did God break His covenant or agreement with man, or was it man who broke his part of the agreement? You see, when the Israelites were given God's commandments and the terms of the covenant, they said... "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD." Exodus 19:8. It is important to recognize the emphasis here... "And all the Lord hath spoken... We will do." They understood that they needed to obey God's law... but what they didn't understand was how they were to keep it.

"In their bondage the people had to a great extent lost the knowledge of God and of the principles of the Abrahamic covenant. . . . Living in the midst of idolatry and corruption, they had no true conception of the holiness of God, of the exceeding sinfulness of their own hearts, their utter inability, in themselves, to render obedience to God's law, and their need of a Saviour. . . . God brought them to Sinai; He manifested His glory; He gave them His law, with the promise of great blessings on condition of obedience. . . . The people did not realize... that without Christ it was impossible for them to keep God's law... Feeling that they were able to establish their own...
righteousness, they declared, “All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.”” God’s Amazing Grace 135.

Obedience Comes Only Through Faith In God

The only way to obey God, to love God, to follow God, is through faith in God... in His Son, Jesus Christ. The Israelites, as a nation, did not understand this yet. A dam understood it, Abraham understood it, Noah understood it, and many, many others did as well. But after years and years of slavery, they had lost sight of that essential truth. So, when they agreed to join in a covenant with God, they did not grasp that the only way they could “keep” their end of the bargain, was by the power of Christ. Only after they came to this realization, that they were totally incapable of doing God’s will on their own, were they ready to ask Jesus to help them.

They needed Jesus in their hearts and minds. It would be the only way that they could keep the covenant, or agreement, with God. How long did it take for them to realize their complete inability to obey God on their own? Less than 40 days... They were at the foot of Mount Sinai, while Moses was in the clouds with God, receiving the Ten Commandments, while the mountain is shaking, while lightening is flashing about... when they began to sin. They broke the covenant while Moses was in the act of receiving the laws from God. They couldn’t keep them in their own strength. Now what? What can we do? What can God do?

Those” Days

What happens after “those” days... “those” days being the days when you finally realize that you cannot keep God’s covenant, God’s laws, God’s will, in your own strength? What will God do after “those” days? “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.” Hebrews 8:10.

All people need to come to the point where they understand that they cannot fulfill the covenant relationship with God, without God’s power. When they do... then they will ask God to come into their hearts... to help them obey. And, as Paul said in Philippians... Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13. Jesus Himself, answering the question of His disciples about who could be saved, said this... “A nd he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” Luke 18:27.

There have never been two covenants, or two ways to heaven. There has ever been just one... Jesus Christ. Man has tried, since Cain, to establish his own righteousness. We have said, “We will do it.” But we can’t. Only God can... though us... if we will let Him.

God Never Had Two Covenants

God never had two covenants. Man has had two... his way... and God’s way. Once we realize that we cannot keep God’s covenant ourselves, then we can do it God’s way... though His Son, Jesus. There was the sacrificial system that pointed to Christ, and then there was Christ Himself, but it was always Christ.

OLD TESTAMENT - NEW TESTAMENT = SAME JESUS.
SAME GOD - SAME LAW - SAME WAY TO HEAVEN = SAME SAVIOUR.
OLD COVENANT = OUR WAY, WHICH WAS NEVER HIS COVENANT.
NEW COVENANT = HIS WAY, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN.

He just waits for us to recognize our need of doing it His way.

Joe Olson serves as the executive director and chairman of the board of Hope International. He also travels as an international speaker.
Our Firm Foundation

THE THING THAT HATH BEEN

By Clark Floyd

King Solomon was one of the wisest men who has ever lived. Not only did he write the Book of Proverbs, but he also supplied us with Ecclesiastes. In this book, he has more than once told us that history would repeat itself.

“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.” Ecc.1:9. In effect he has given us the same message three times in this one verse. But then he repeats the same idea in the following verse. “Is there anything whereof it may be said, see, this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before us.” Ecc.1:10. He follows up once more in Ecc.3:15, “That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.” Again, he has repeated three times.

PROPHECIES HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD

“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... We have not to battle with man, as it may appear. 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.” ST, November 8, 1899.

The message that history repeats itself is particularly true in regard to many aspects of the first and second comings. The majority of those who should be God’s representative people have misunderstood the prophecies surrounding both comings.

BELIEVING POPULAR DELUSION

God’s chosen people, the Jewish nation, had lost sight of the messages contained in their own sanctuary service and Scriptures. Thus the multitude of the people, including the scholars and leaders, missed their Messiah. They missed the Lamb of God, the One who came to die for their sins. They were looking for a military leader who would lead their nation to rule the world. This was true even of Jesus’ own disciples. “For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of Man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day. But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.” Mark 9:31, 32.

Ellen White states: “He prayed for His disciples. They were to be grievously tried. Their long-cherished hopes, based on a popular delusion, were to be disappointed, in a most painful and humiliating manner. In the place of His exaltation to the throne of David they were to witness His crucifixion.” DA 379.

THE EXACT TIME OF THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH WAS REVEALED

Some folks were finally awakened to the true meaning of Scripture after the resurrection, after the encounters with Christ on the Road to Emmaus, in the upper room, and Paul on the Road to Damascus. Others were awakened as the Spirit was poured out at Pentecost.

In a few verses at the end of Daniel 9, after Daniel’s prayer, much prophetic information was given in verses 24-27. The exact time for the coming of the Messiah was given in verse 25: “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem (457 B.C.) unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks.” (69 weeks=483 years=27 A.D.)

THE CRUCIFIXION WAS PROPHESIED

In verse 26 we are told, “Messiah shall be cut off (killed) after threescore and two weeks” (the time in verse 25). Then in verse 27, it states that “he (Messiah) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (34 A.D.): and in the midst of the week (31 A.D.) he (Messiah) shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.” (The true Lamb would die as a sacrifice eliminating the need for any more animal sacrifices pointing to Him.)
Back in verse 24, a probationary period is given for the Jewish people as a nation: “Seventy weeks are determined upon the people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity...”

The true meaning for the Sanctuary System was forgotten

The Jewish leadership and the ones that gleaned their spiritual understanding of the Scriptures from them misapplied or misunderstood those prophetic Scriptures that clearly pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. They had lost the spiritual meanings behind the Sanctuary System. And thereby they were unable to discern these important Scriptures in Daniel 9 that spoke of their own close of probation as well as the death of the Messiah. Thereby, they missed understanding the truth about Jesus, some to their eternal loss, and others to their great disappointment.

At the first coming there was a close of probation in the Nation of Israel, to arrive at wrong conclusions. They have lost the understanding of the early Protestant Reformers. The early Reformers clearly saw that all the prophecies concerning the antiChrist power perfectly fit the Catholic Church.

In this new age of believers, they see a single individual down at the end of time as antiChrist. Our new believers, 94 % of the modern Christian world, fail to recognize the close of probation on the Nation of Israel in Daniel 9:24. They fail to see the two Israels, one after the flesh, and the other the Israel of God, after the Spirit. They look to literal Israel in Palestine for the fulfillment of end time prophecies. They totally fail to understand the Sanctuary System and that we are now in the Great Day of Atonement. They split Daniel 9 into a gap, failing to recognize that “confirming the covenant with many for one week” was referring to Christ’s giving the nation of Israel seven years from the time of H is being anointed as Messiah to the stoning of Steven—the last seven years of probation. They treat the sacrifice and oblation that was to cease as an act of the antiChrist at the end of time rather than the end of the Sacrificial system.

Misapplying Scriptures

Now as we approach the time of the second coming of Christ, we again have a majority of the Christian believers misapplying the Scriptures, especially those dealing with Israel, the antiChrist, and the second coming. In many ways they have turned from the faith and understanding of their fathers, just as National Israel did. They misapply the prophecies of Daniel 9, to arrive at wrong conclusions. They have lost the understanding of the early Protestant Reformers. The early Reformers clearly saw that all the prophecies concerning the antiChrist power perfectly fit the Catholic Church.

Several cases in point are the 17 years of probation and the 3½ years of probation. These are all important Scriptures in Daniel 9 that they were unable to discern these prophecies. Pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. They split Daniel 9 into a gap, failing to recognize the close of probation that determines their victory or defeat. They totally fail to understand the Scriptures from their enemies and converted by sight to Christ, and the failure to be aware of the workings of antiChrist, especially in the passing of a national Sunday law.

Are We Prepared?

How about us? Will we be able to carry forward with the Three Angels’ Messages under these circumstances? Yes! But only in the power of God and the Loud Cry—a cry that will be greater than that at Pentecost.

Are we preparing ourselves with daily prayer, daily surrender, and daily study of the Scriptures? Is the Lord All in All to each of us?

“Day by day God instructs His children. By the circumstances of the daily life He is preparing them to act their part upon that wider stage to which His providence has appointed them. It is the issue of the daily test that determines their victory or defeat in life’s great crisis.” DA 382.

“He is my Refuge and My Fortess: My God; In Him will I Trust.”

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.
A Christian Similitude - From The Bible Looking Glass, 1914 edition

By John W. Barber

As there is a Christian Church among men, so the great Adversary of God and mankind has his church, or synagogue, in the world. It, however, stands on a different foundation; its form is different, and is also constructed of different materials. Among the prominent pillars, or columns, are the Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eye, Pride of Life, Self-will, etc. Hatred of the truth may be considered as the foundation of this synagogue; on this are the columns raised. The roof, or covering, of the structure is Selfishness; this is surmounted by a terrestrial globe, emblematical of the nature of the building, showing that it is erected for no other object than what relates to this world. The Synagogue of Satan stands on the sandy foundation of Unbelief. A flood and tempest has arisen. The surges beat upon the sandy foundation; it wears away; the pillars tremble and fall; the building cracks in pieces, tumbles into ruin, and the overflowing flood will soon sweep the last vestige away.

He that doeth evil, hateth the light
A hatred of Christian Truth lies at the foundation of the unbelief of the unregenerate heart. He that doeth evil, hateth the light, and will not come to it lest his deeds should be reproved. He shuns the places where the truth is exhibited, and prefers to visit those where his sins are not condemned, but rather palliated. He loves that system that make slight of sin, and that indicates it will be well with him hereafter, however he may live in this world. From desiring and hoping these things, he begins to believe them, and to disbelieve the doctrines which he hates. Upon this foundation he rears a superstructure, which may be well termed a Synagogue of Satan.

Sensual desire
The Lust of the Flesh may be considered as one of the prominent pillars in the Synagogue of Satan. This may, in a primary sense, be considered “sensual desire,” seeking happiness in debauchery, delicious food, strong drink, and gratification of beastly desires, apparently wishing for nothing better, saying unto the Almighty, “Depart from us, for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.”

An elegant course in self-indulgence
Genteel Epicurism, or Sensuality, may also be included under this head: an elegant course of self indulgence which does not particularly disorder the head and stomach, nor blemish our reputation among men, yet keeps us at a distance from true religion. This species of idolatry is not confined to the rich and great. In this, also, “the toe of the peasant treads upon the heel of the courtier.” Thousands in low, as well as in high life, sacrifice to this idol, seeking their happiness (although in a more humble manner) in gratifying their outward senses. It is true their meat and drink, and the objects which gratify their own senses, are of a coarser kind; but still they make up all the happiness they either have or seek, and usurp the hearts which are due to God.

The desire of novelty
Lust of the Eye is defined as “inordinate desires after finery of every kind: gaudy dress, splendid houses, superb furniture, expensive equipage, trappings and decorations of all sorts.” We may also understand “the desire of the eye to mean the seeking of our happiness in gratifying our imagination, (which is chiefly
done by means of the eyes) by grand new or beautiful objects. The desire of novelty to most men is natural as the desire for food and drink. Persons of wealth have great temptations to make idols of these things. How strongly and continually are they drawn to seek happiness in beautiful houses, elegant furniture and equipage, costly paintings, and delightful grounds and gardens!

Seeking happiness instead of God
How are rich men, of a more elevated turn of mind, tempted to seek happiness, as their varied tastes lead, in poetry, history, music, philosophy, or curious arts and sciences! Now, although it is certain all these have their use, and therefore may be innocently pursued, yet the seeking of happiness in any of them, instead of God, is manifestly idolatry; and, therefore, were it only on this account that riches furnish him with the means of indulging all these desires, it might be well asked, “Is not the life of a rich man, above most others, a temptation of happiness in the praise and plaudits earth, drawing to worship worldly things, and thus making a worshiper in the Synagogue of Satan?

Pursuing praise and plaudits
The Pride of Life is defined “Hunting for glory.” As persons, and men of the middle classes of society, in many instances, we see those who possess a little more wealth than their neighbors look down upon them with contempt, and on this account will not associate with them. The poorer classes, also, have this Pride of Life, when they look down upon those whom they consider as below them; for instance those who have a skin different than their own. There are also different classes among men who will not associate with others of their race. A mong heathen nations how strong is the prejudice of caste, destroying the fraternal feelings. All these distinctions among men tend to foster the Pride of Life, which thus becomes one of the principal pillars in the Synagogue of Satan.

The basest kind of idolatry
A varice, the love of money, is another pillar. One who is properly a miser, loves and seeks money for its own sake. He looks no further, but places his happiness in the acquiring or possessing of it. This is a species of idolatry different from the preceding, and is of the basest kind. To seek happiness either in gratifying this, or any other of the desires here mentioned, is to renounce God as the Supreme Good, and set up an idol in the Synagogue of Satan.

The roof of Satan’s Synagogue
Selfishness is represented in the engraving as the roof or covering of the Synagogue. It forms a prominent part of the structure, covering the whole. Some writers contend that all sin may be comprehended under it. This vice consists in aiming at our own interest and gratification only, in every thing we do. It shows itself in avarice, oppression, neglect, and contempt of the rights of others; rebellion, sedition, immoderate attempts to gain fame, power, pleasure, money, and frequently by gross acts of lying and injustice. By and under its power innumerable sins are committed, as perjury, hypocrisy, falsehood, idolatry, persecution, and murder itself.

Prejudice of caste
The Pride of Life is seen among all classes and conditions of men. In the middle classes of society, in many instances, we see those who possess a little more wealth than their neighbors look down upon them with contempt, from the priests of Baal down to the present time, there has been an unbroken succession of ministrations to the present time. Instead of leading men to the worship of the true and living God, many teachers have held up demons for admiration and worship. Even in modern times, oppression, rapine, war, revenge, and bloodshed have been advocated by those professing to belong to the Christian Church, but who are, in reality, of the Synagogue of Satan.

An apostate angel and a roaring lion
Satan, the Chief Ruler, or Master, of the Synagogue here described, receives his name from a Hebrew word signifying adversary or enemy. It appears he and his company were cast out of heaven on account of their pride and rebellion. By his envy and malice, sin, death, and all other evils came into the world, and by the permission of God he exercises a kind of government over his subordinates who are apostate angels like himself. He is the Father of Liars, and puts his spirit into the mouth of false prophets, seducers and heretics. He reigns in the hearts of the children of disobedience, and tempts men to evil; inspires them with evil designs, as he did David, when he suggested to him to number his people; to Judas to betray his Lord and Master; and to Ananias and Sapphira to conceal the price of their field. He is also represented as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may tempt, deceive, and devour. For this purpose he erects synagogues, inspires messengers and teachers to set forth his false doctrines, calls light darkness, and darkness light, and, in short, uses his utmost skill to rob God of his glory, and men of their souls.
Have you ever heard of Gossip Town,
On the shore of Falsehood Bay,
Where Old Dame Rumor, with rustling gown,
Is going the livelong day?
It isn’t far to Gossip Town
For people who want to go;
The Idleness train will take you down
In just an hour or so.

The principal street is called They-Say,
And I’ve-Heard is the public well,
And the breezes that blow from Falsehood Bay
Are laden with Don’t-you-Tell.
In the midst of the town is Telltale Park;
You’re never quite safe while there,
For its owner is Madam Suspicious Remark,
Who lives on the street Don’t Care.

Just back of the Park is Slanderers’ Row;
‘Twas there that Good-Name died,
Pierced by a shaft from Jealousy’s bow,
In the hands of Envious Pride.
From Gossip Town Peace long since fled,
But Trouble and Grief and Woe,
And Sorrow and Care, you’ll meet instead,
If ever you chance to go.
1. Who was the sister of Elder J.N. Loughborough that was elected to a major position in the General Conference of Seventh day Adventists in 1877?
   a. Mrs. S.M.I. Henry
   b. Mrs. John Couch
   c. Mrs. Minerva Jane Chapman
   d. Mrs. Rachel Oakes

2. To which position in the General Conference was the lady in question #1 elected?
   a. Treasurer
   b. Secretary
   c. Youth Leader
   d. General Accountant

3. What other position or positions did the lady in question #1 hold along with her position in the General Conference?
   a. Editor of the Youth Instructor
   b. Secretary of the Publishing Association
   c. Treasurer of the Tract and Missionary Society
   d. All of the above

4. Which of the following was the architect and builder that designed and constructed some of the main buildings at Battle Creek, Walla Walla and Union Colleges?
   a. James Rankin
   b. William Conqueror Sisley
   c. John Newton
   d. Samuel Bell

5. Who was the first dean of women (“preceptress”) at Battle Creek College?
   a. Ida Rankin
   b. Mary Bell
   c. Maud Sisley
   d. Maria L. Huntley

6. How many of the 9 appointed members of the Foreign Mission Board set up by the General Conference in 1879 were women?
   a. 7
   b. 5
   c. 3
   d. 2

7. Who founded Riverside Sanitarium, a Seventh day Adventist institution entirely for Black people?
   a. Mrs. Drillard
   b. Irma Magan
   c. Mary Rankin
   d. Maria Huntley

8. Which one of the following became one of the first SDA workers in India?
   a. Kate Lindsay
   b. Maud Sisley
   c. Georgia Anna Burrus
   d. Nelly Starr

9. What convicted the lady in number 8 to remain in the mission field in spite of her great homesickness?
   a. One of her close friends persuaded her
   b. The watch she had dropped began running again after prayer to God.
   c. She met a young man that attracted her
   d. She just determined that she must stay

10. Who was the first black Seventh day Adventist to India?
    a. Anna Knight
    b. Elizabeth Cooper
    c. Cora Palmer
    d. Rebecca Samson

Answers:  1.  c; 2.  a;  3.  d;  4.  b;  5.  a;  6.  c;  7.  a;  8.  c;  9.  b;  10.  a

From:  Tell It To The World by C. Mervyn Maxwell, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1976
Massive Brain Drugging of Children Now Underway

FROM THE DESK OF DR. OLSON

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Dear Reader,

As you may know, judging from all the ads on television, and perhaps from personal experience (either you, a loved one, or a friend), depression is becoming overwhelmingly prevalent. Today you will learn that not only is it affecting adults, but children are also being diagnosed at an unprecedented rate. And diagnosis usually leads to only one thing: medication. These medications that alter the mental state can cause serious problems later in life, so take note of what is going on around you and be prepared in case you or someone you love is affected. (Stay tuned after the article for natural ways to treat depression.)

Dr. Olson comes from a long line of health professionals including MDs, naturopaths, and osteopaths. Having always 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.

Friday, August 07, 2009 - Byron Richards, CCN

Get ready for generation Z (Z for zombie). The brains of a generation of children are now being fried by fraudulent brain drugs. Antidepressants are now the number one prescription in America – and our children are the target market.

If you want to save money on health care, especially health care fraud, then ban psychiatrists from getting reimbursement for any services on children and do not provide reimbursement for any psych drugs on any person below age 18. Pay only for cognitive therapy and other stress management assistance, which is equal to, or better than, drug treatment for even severe depression.

Criminal activity of drug companies

The FDA and the Justice Department turn the other cheek as they allow the rampant off-label and inappropriate use of brain medication on our children. The marketing of these medications is based on criminal activity of the drug companies that sell them, something that is well documented and certainly not my imagination. (1)

Even government programs intentionally expand coverage in this area, under the ruse of expanding health care to children (what a shameful joke).

The whole industry is built on blatant fraud. It has been clearly
exposed that these medications are no better than placebo except in the worst-case depression issues (and even then they readily backfire and may cause suicidal thinking to manifest or become worse).

Here are the facts:

Antidepressant use has doubled in the past 10 years and now includes 10% of the population. The fastest growing user group is children. In addition to antidepressants, the widespread off label use of extremely expensive antipsychotic medication grew by 62% in this patient population (a very dangerous drug cocktail). At the same time, the use of psychotherapy to help these patients decreased by 62%.

As a society we are relying on pills to control problems. In other words, we, as a society, need our heads examined, and not by psychiatric butchers.

Individuals on antidepressants and anti-psychotics become docile and easier to control – until they explode in a mass murder rage. I do understand the economics of the situation, i.e., Big Pharma owns both sides of the political aisle. This is why the Bush administration adamantly pushed this agenda and the Obama administration has picked up right where the Bush people left off.

I'm just another conspiracy theorist. By the way, antidepressants are now strongly linked to heart disease. So maybe the plot isn't quite as serious - just one to create more future customers for the Big Pharma sickness industry who will also benefit quite nicely from their antipsychotics turning kids obese and diabetic.


A docile population is easy to control

Or maybe it is something a little more sinister. Brain meds make a population docile and controllable, turning the zest for life to ashes. A free people on antidepressants won't have very many objections to anything, and won't be free for very long. There is a reason Hitler had a fascination with the mental health control of his population. In addition to his well-documented and abhorrent use of psychiatrists to carry on human experiments, he was the first to realize that adding fluoride to the water supply could really help settle everyone down. And now we see union thugs beating people up at health care rallies. Maybe it really is time that Mein Kampf becomes required reading for all Americans so that the strategies and brutality of a madman can be clearly understood (after all, it was the last time citizens were beat up at town hall meetings by government-associated thugs). Yes, I know -

More from Dr. Olson:

So what do you do if you are suffering from depression and have nowhere to turn? Thankfully, there are a variety of natural ways to effectively reverse depression, so often you can avoid pharmaceutical drugs. It is becoming clearer and clearer that antidepressants are far from benign drugs. And unfortunately, the combination of depression and medication, as well as still being very much trial and error, has some unique worries due to the nature of the condition itself. Consider how anti-depressants are prescribed: Since no one anti-depressant has proven more beneficial than another, often the mode of prescription rests solely...
on which one causes the least side effects. Side effects, depressing in themselves, which include: dry mouth, urinary retention, blurred vision, constipation, sedation (which can interfere with driving or operating machinery), sleep disruption, weight gain, headache, nausea, gastrointestinal disturbance, diarrhea, abdominal pain, inability to achieve an erection, loss of libido, agitation, anxiety, and most recently publicized: an INCREASE in suicide risk.

And they don't even work!

If that's not bad enough, turns out, they don't even work! “Mainstream media is now widely reporting that antidepressants do not work – and it's about time. The frenzy was set off by a new study that included all the negative antidepressant studies that the drug companies kept out of the scientific literature, but were reviewed by the inept FDA when the drugs were originally approved. The conclusion is that for mild to moderate depression antidepressants work no better than placebo. In severe depression the drugs work only slightly better than placebo. In no case does antidepressant use reach a level of statistical significance in being able to show that they work.” (5)

Ok, you know to avoid the drugs if possible, but what next? What can you do to improve your condition? First, and most importantly, is diet.

Foods to Eat

Diet therapy for depression includes adding foods that are high in nutrients that help improve mental health, such as: flaxseed and olive oil, leafy vegetables, brazil nuts, avocados, artichokes, broccoli, corn, kale, peas, potatoes, spinach, summer and winter squash, and sweet potatoes, bananas, blackberries, kiwi, oranges, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Eat a good diet balanced with complex carbohydrates from sources like whole grains, vegetables, and legumes. Carbohydrate-rich foods raise brain levels of tryptophan and therefore serotonin, which can lead to feelings of wellbeing. It is no coincidence that people often crave carbohydrate rich foods when they are feeling sad. This is particularly common in those suffering from SAD and PMS. So don't shun carbs - just make smart choices. Limit sugary foods and opt for smart carbs, such as whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and legumes, which all contribute healthy carbohydrates as well as fiber.

On the other hand, eating junk food reduces the levels of these hormones in our brains - increasing our stress and tension, and reducing our joy and alertness.

Soy products, beans, nuts (walnuts are excellent), and seeds are excellent sources of protein, which will boost your energy levels.

B-Vitamins

Deficiencies of folic acid and B12 cause defects in red blood cell
production and function, which can lead to a reduction in the amount of oxygen reaching the brain. This can lead to fatigue, depression, and mental problems. In addition, a direct symptom of vitamin B12 deficiency is depression. In depressed patients with documented vitamin B12 deficiency, intravenous administration of the vitamin has resulted in dramatic improvement. Interesting to note is that researchers report that these symptoms may occur when vitamin B12 levels are just slightly lower than normal and are considerably above the levels normally associated with anemia. So if your doctor says that you are just slightly low and that it is not affecting you, but you feel it might be, get another opinion.

Vitamin B6, or pyridoxine, works with enzymes that affect mood. Consequently, vitamin B6 deficiency might result in depression. Depression is a relatively common side effect of oral contraceptives. Why? Oral contraceptive use has been linked with low vitamin B6 levels. Of 22 women with depression associated with oral contraceptive use, 50% of them had vitamin B6 deficiency.

Folic acid deficiency can cause many mental health problems including: depression, insomnia, anorexia, forgetfulness, hyperirritability, apathy, fatigue and anxiety. Supplementing the diet can improve and possibly completely reverse symptoms.

**Food to Avoid**

Many depressed people have hidden food allergies. Any food is a potential allergen, but wheat is the product most often linked to depression. Dramatically reduce your intake of hydrogenated and saturated fats, which only increase fatigue and sluggishness. Caffeine and refined sugar may make you feel temporarily better, but your body soon “crashes” from the high, leaving you even more exhausted or irritable. This is partly due to the fact that they deplete vital nutrients from your system. Plus, diets high in sugar have proven to aggravate depression. Alcohol in itself is a depressant, which includes wine, beer, and liquor. Eliminate these substances from your diet. While it may seem that you are cutting out foods that you “want”, when you give your body the food that it needs, you will soon see a dramatic difference in the way you feel.

**Supplements**

If you feel that you need something in addition to your diet, there are many helpful nutritional supplements that can improve your symptoms without the risk of side effects related to conventional antidepressants. First of all, vitamin and mineral deficiencies can directly cause depression, and simply correcting those deficiencies, often relieves depression. Interestingly enough, even if a deficiency cannot be demonstrated, nutritional supplementation may still improve symptoms in selected groups of depressed patients.

In addition to nutritional supplements, there are a variety of herbal supplements that help fight and reverse depression. Here are the natural products that I recommend for helping battle depression:

**Products that provide the nutrients essential for proper brain function:**

**Mega-Multi** - This is a high potency multi-vitamin that provides a powerful base of nutrients involved with brain function.

**B-complex** - The B vitamins, especially B12, folic acid, and B6 are intricately involved in neurotransmitter metabolism. Patients with depression have shown oftentimes to have a much lower level of B-vitamins in their body than non-depressed patients, and supplementing with B-complex has shown to improve and sometimes even completely eliminate symptoms of depression.
Our Firm Foundation

Flaxseed Oil – Studies show that a deficiency of essential fatty acids is directly linked with depression. Depressed patients have much lower blood levels of omega 3 fatty acids compared with non-depressed patients. Flaxseed can also help improve neurotransmitter function.

C-Blast – Vitamin C is used in the body to help convert amino acids to serotonin. So for people with depression associated with low levels of serotonin it may be helpful.

Ginkgo Biloba – Ginkgo improves blood flow to the brain and enhances neurotransmitter activity.

Products specifically designed help treat depression:

Sunny Day – This product was specifically formulated to help treat depression. Packed with vitamins and nutrients essential to mental functioning and health, it also has minerals and herbs that help to calm the mind, energize the body, and relieve depression.

St. John’s Wort – Saint John’s Wort has been shown in numerous studies to be effective for mild to moderate depression. A review of twenty-three randomized clinical studies involving 1,700 people found that Saint-John’s Wort was JUST AS EFFECTIVE as pharmaceutical therapy for mild to moderate depression.

Soothe – For insomnia or anxiety that accompanies or causes depression, Soothe with valerian root (Valeriana officinalis) can help.

Liver Support – If you think your problem may be a problem of toxicity, our Liver Support will help to begin the cleansing and healing for your body.

Green Clay – This product also helps detoxify the body, but has the added benefit of enhancing mineral absorption, which is often lacking in depressed patients.

Free health counseling!

In addition to diet and supplementation, there are a variety of other natural therapies that you can do to boost mood and fight depression. This includes: fasting, detoxification, exercise, sunlight, stress management, rest, and a healthy relationship with God.

If you would like more information on those therapies, please read the April 2009 article, entitled: Depression & You.

If you feel like you might need help, but don’t know where to start, call us. We offer FREE health counseling with trained professionals who can help you with your personalized health plan. Call us today, at 309-343-5853.
Did you know that the vitamin and dietary supplement industry is a multi-billion dollar industry? And the companies that produce the vitamins and supplements are trying to make every cent count. Anything they can do to shave a penny off their cost, they do. Unfortunately, quite often it’s the customer who suffers. One major cost-cutting method used today is simply using synthetic ingredients rather than whole-food based ingredients.

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Do you even need vitamins and minerals?

• According to Dr. Robert Fletcher and Dr. Kathleen Fairfield of Harvard University, it now appears that people who get enough vitamins may have a lower risk of some common chronic illnesses, such as cancer, heart disease and osteoporosis.

• It is bad news to learn from our leading authorities that 99 percent of the American people are deficient in minerals. A marked deficiency in any one of the more important minerals results in disease. Any upset of the balance or considerable lack of one or another element, however microscopic the body requirement may be, and we sicken, suffer, and shorten our lives.

*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.
1. Earthquake Shakes Sumatra—
   Time, October 12, 2009, pages 10 & 11—The World

   A 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck Padang, a city of 900,000 on the northwest island of Sumatra, cutting power and telephone lines and trapping thousands of people underneath collapsed buildings. The initial death toll of 75 is expected to rise as victims are pulled from rubble. Aftershocks triggered landslides and were felt as far away as Malaysia and Singapore. Hours earlier, a quake in the Pacific had sent a tsunami crashing into Samoa and American Samoa, killing at least 100.

   Torrential rains brought on by Typhoon Ketsana ravaged the Philippine capital, causing flooding that killed at least 250 people, displaced thousands and submerged buildings beneath up to 20 ft. of water.

   End time perspective #1: “Even now he (Satan) is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous.” CH 461

2. Chicago—Death After School—
   Time, October 12, 2009, page 11—The World

   Four Chicago teens have been arrested in the murder of Derrion Albert, a 16-year-old who was beaten to death on Sept. 24 after he stumbled onto a brawl between rival gangs on his way home from school. The
attack, captured by a cell-phone camera, has ignited outrage in a city that witnessed the murders of 34 public-school students last year.

**End time perspective #1:**
“...These cities are filled with wickedness of every kind,—with strikes and murders and suicides. Satan is in them, controlling men in their work of destruction. Under his influence they kill for the sake of killing, and this they will do more and more....

“If we place ourselves under objectionable influences, can we expect God to work a miracle to undo the results of our wrong course? --No, indeed. Get out of the cities as soon as possible, and purchase a little piece of land, where you can have a garden, where your children can watch the flowers growing, and learn from them lessons of simplicity and purity.”—General Conference Bulletin, March 30, 1903.

**End time perspective #2:**
“The terrible reports we hear of murders and robberies, of railway accidents and deeds of violence, tell the story that the end of all things is at hand. Now, just now, we need to be preparing for the Lord’s second coming.”—LDE 23 3

**3. A Window on the War—Time, October 12, 2009, page 32, by Peter Bergen**

The war in Afghanistan is at a crossroads. President Obama will soon decide whether to commit more American troops to a conflict that’s already on the verge of becoming the longest military action in American history—or perhaps begin to dial back our commitment there. It’s been more than eight years since the war began.

**End time perspective:** “The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment. . . .” —Mar 25

**4. Harry Potter author was touchy subject in Bush White House—Gatecrasher, September 30, 2009**

“We’re guessing George W. Bush isn’t a fan of J. K. Rowling. His one time speechwriter, Matt Latimer, whose new memoir tells all about Dubya, is claiming that certain unnamed people in the White House... objected to giving the author J. K. Rowling a presidential medal because the Harry Potter books encouraged witchcraft.”

**End time perspective:** “It is fondly supposed that heathen superstitions have disappeared before the civilization of the twentieth century. But the word of God and the stern testimony of facts declare that sorcery is practiced in this age as verily as in the days of the old-time magicians. The ancient system of magic is, in reality, the same as what is now known as modern spiritualism. Satan is finding access to thousands of minds by presenting himself under the guise of departed friends. The Scriptures declare that ‘the dead know not anything.’ Ecclesiastes 9:5. Their thoughts, their love, their hatred, have perished. The dead do not hold communion with the living. But true to his early cunning, Satan employs this device in order to gain control of minds.”—AA 289
Would you like to find an inexpensive, yet effective product that could: instantly relieve the pain of burns and stings, fade age spots and scars, remove cysts and warts, and heal wounds and ulcerations both internally and externally?

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*Prices listed above do not include shipping and handling or sales tax*

*These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to prevent, diagnose, treat, or cure any disease.*
Editor’s note: Some more of the favorite quotes from Ellen White and the Bible from Roger Bough:

**CHRIST, MY EXAMPLE**

“His life testifies that it is possible for us also to obey the law of God.... He exercised in His own behalf no power that is not freely offered to us.” DA 24

“... His example declares that our only hope of eternal life (pleasing Him) is through bringing the appetites and passions into subjection to the will of God.” CD 151

“His hours of happiness were found when alone with nature and with God. Wherever it was His privilege, He turned aside from the scene of His labor, to go into the fields, to meditate in the green valleys, to hold communion with God on the mountainside or amid the trees of the forest. The early morning often found Him in some secluded place, meditating, searching the Scriptures, or in prayer. From these quiet hours He would return to His home to take up His duties again, and to give an example of patient toil.” DA 90

“In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong.” DA 429

“As one with us, a sharer in our needs and weaknesses, He was wholly dependent upon God, and in the secret place of prayer He sought divine strength, that He might go forth braced for duty and trial. In a world of sin Jesus endured struggles and torture of soul. In communion with God He could unburden the sorrows that were crushing Him. Here He found comfort and joy.” DA 362

“In Christ, the cry of humanity reached the Father of infinite pity. As a man He supplicated the throne of God till He is humanity was charged with a heavenly current that should connect humanity with divinity. Through continual communion He received life from God, that He might impart life to the world. His experience is to be ours.” DA 363

“Jesus lived the law in the sight of heaven, in the sight of unfallen worlds, and in the sight of sinful men. Before angels, men, and demons, He had spoken, unchallenged, words that from any other lips would have been blasphemy: ‘I do always those things that please Him.’ DA 467

**THE BIBLE, STRENGTH OF OUR FAITH**

“I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Ps. 40:8

“Lay up these My words in your heart and in your soul,” He had commanded Him chosen people, “and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deuteronomy 11:18, 19

“A s those who have been cleansed and sanctified through a knowledge of Bible truth engage heartily in the work of soulsaving, they will become indeed a savor of life unto life. As daily they drink of the inexhaustible fountain of grace and knowledge, they will find that their own hearts are filled to overflowing with the Spirit of their Master.” PK 233-234

**FIDELITY TO HIM**

“Those who have been made free in Christ through a knowledge of precious truth, are regarded by the Lord Jesus as His chosen ones, favored above all other people on the face of the earth; and He is counting on them to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into marvelous light.” PK 716-717

“So the Lord calls upon us for confession of His goodness. ‘Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.’” Isa. 43:12. DA 347

“Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven’s chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls.” DA 347

“We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’” Ps. 46:10. Here alone can true rest be found. At this is the effectual preparation for all who labor for God. Amid the hurrying throng, and the strain of life’s intense activities, the soul that is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. The life will breathe out fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men’s hearts.” DA 363
Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts. (Jer. 15:16)

The promises of God stood out clear and distinct, as though placed in letters of gold. Why, oh, why are they not appreciated? Why is not the heart filled with thanksgiving and praise? Why are your tongues so silent? The talent of speech is misappropriated. Let the talent of choice words be given to God in thanksgiving and rejoicing, and this will glorify His name. Surrender self entirely to God. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts; and be ye thankful. (Col. 3:15)

Excerpt from That I May Know Him by Ellen G. White
Available at the Hope International Bookstore for $11.99