Pastoral eNews, May 2013

Dear Dorothy,

Welcome: Thanks for sharing this time with us.

In our part of the world, summer is right around the corner -- the days are getting warmer and the sun is setting later. We’re blessed to be receiving plenty of rain, which has resulted in lots of greenery. Flowers are blooming and hummingbirds are returning to sip at the sugar-water feeders their admirers have put out. Families are planting garden veggies and tomatoes. We are blessed. Of course, the greatest blessing is that we are closer today than yesterday to His coming. "Surely I am coming quickly" Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" Revelation 22:20.

Verse of the Day: John 16:7,8,13: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict
the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment . . . however, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

**Good News:** "Let not your heart be troubled; you 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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:1-6.

**Answers to Difficult Questions:**

*Matthew 10:28: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

**ANSWER:** Jesus clearly teaches in this text that the soul is not naturally immortal. It can and will be destroyed in hell. But what does He mean about killing the body, but not the soul? Is it possible for the soul to exist apart from the body? Some say it is, but the Bible indicates otherwise. The Greek word "psuche" has been translated "soul" in this text, but in 40 other texts it has been translated "life." For example, Jesus said, "whosoever will lose his life (psuche) for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:25). But what of Matthew 10:28? Put the word "life" instead of "soul" and the text makes perfect sense in its consistency with the rest of the Bible. The contrast is between one who can take the physical life and Him who can take away eternal life. Proof lies in the words of Jesus: "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!" (Luke 12: 4, 5) In other words, the word "soul" here means not only life, but eternal life. Notice that Luke says everything just like Matthew except that he does not say "kills the soul." Instead he says "cast into hell." They mean the same thing. Men can only kill the body and take away the physical life. God will cast into hell and take away eternal life. Not only will their bodies be destroyed in that fire, but their lives will be snuffed out for all eternity."  

Source: *Answers to Difficult Bible Texts*, by Pastor Joe Crews.

**Fundamental Beliefs:** Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These 28 fundamental beliefs constitute the Church's understanding of the teaching of the Scripture.

Today's belief number thirteen is *"The Remnant and Its Mission."* The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it
coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Revelation 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Jude 3, 14; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Revelation 21:1-14.)

**Thought for the Day:** Often those who are in health forget the wonderful mercies continued to them day by day, year after year, and they render no tribute of praise to God for His benefits. But when sickness comes, God is remembered. When human strength fails, men feel their need of divine help. And never does our merciful God turn from the soul that in sincerity seeks Him for help. He is our refuge in sickness as in health. Source: *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 225., by Ellen White.

**Affirmation:** By the grace of God, I will overcome to the end! I will be clothed in white garments—His robe of righteousness—and Jesus will not blot my name from the Book of Life. Jesus Christ, my Savior, will give me the overcomer's reward. I will eat from the tree of life and receive hidden manna. He will write my new name on a white stone, proving my acquittal from guilt. I will be a pillar in the temple of God—having a permanent place in His presence—and Christ will inscribe God's name and His new name on me. I am overcoming Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony. I shall inherit all things, and God will be my heavenly Father throughout eternity. (Revelation 3:5; 2:7; 2:17; 2:26; 3:12; 12:11; 21:7.)

Source: *Life Affirmations From Scripture*, by Shelley Quinn.

**Become a 3ABN Prayer Warrior:**
[http://3abn.org/pastoral/prayer/warriors/](http://3abn.org/pastoral/prayer/warriors/)

If the Holy Spirit convicts you that intercessory prayer be your calling, please visit our website and follow directions, submitting the necessary information. Being a Prayer Warrior is one of the most rewarding ministries there is. When we walk the streets of gold, only then will we know the extent of our cooperative efforts with the Lord. We continually receive input from our Prayer Warriors stating how satisfying it is to work in the Lord's vineyard. What we intend to be a blessing for others is a greater blessing for us. God gets all the glory.

**Bible Topic Scriptures:** When Enemies Attack -- **Psalm 46:1-2:** "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear." **Psalm 27:1-14:** "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? When the wicked came against me...they stumbled and fell." **Isaiah 54:17:** "No weapon formed against you shall prosper...." **Psalm 91:1-16:** "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

**Need Special prayer?** [http://3abn.org/pastoral/prayer-request/](http://3abn.org/pastoral/prayer-request/)

Your 3ABN Pastoral staff is here to assist you. Every member of our team is sensitive to those in pain. I believe, over the years, we have encountered callers in just about every topic or situation one could imagine. It is only by the aid and power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to successfully do that which He has called us to do. We are eager to share words of hope and encouragement. To God be the glory!
Our sincere prayer is that God will richly bless you in all areas of your life. You are precious to us and we love you as our brothers and sisters in Christ. Remember that God's love for you is even greater. God bless.

Your loving Pastoral Staff: Grace Yost, Iris Giguere, Karen Owen, Colleen Hauser, Jim Cunnington, Devey Rodriguez, Joe O'Brien, Kevin Hart, Hal Steenson and JD Quinn.

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