

Sabbath Remnant VOICE

Nov-Dec 2014

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

OUR NAME HAS CHANGED!

**Our magazine is now the Sabbath Remnant Voice
produced by the Sabbath Remnant Publishing Association
but most important is that there is now a world-wide organization called the
Sabbath Remnant Alliance
World-wide meetings are continuing and a constitution is being developed.**

Gospel Order **Acts of the Apostles pages 88-90**

“The disciples of Jesus had reached a crisis in their experience. Under the wise leadership of the apostles, who labored unitedly in the power of the Holy Spirit, the work committed to the gospel messengers was developing rapidly. The church was continually enlarging, and this growth in membership brought increasingly heavy burdens upon those in charge. No one man, or even one set of men, could continue to bear these burdens alone, without imperiling the future prosperity of the church. There was necessity for a further distribution of the responsibilities which had been borne so faithfully by a few during the earlier days of the church. The apostles must now take an important step in the perfecting of **gospel order** in the church by laying upon others some of the burdens thus far borne by themselves.

Summoning a meeting of the believers, the apostles were led by the Holy Spirit to outline a plan for the better organization of all the working forces of the church. The time had come, the apostles stated, when the spiritual leaders having the oversight of the church should be relieved from the task of distributing to the poor and from similar burdens, so that they might be free to carry forward the work of preaching the gospel. “Wherefore, brethren,” they said, “look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” This advice was followed, and by prayer and the laying on of hands, seven chosen men were solemnly set apart for their duties as deacons.

The appointment of the seven to take the oversight of special lines of work, proved a great blessing to the church. These officers gave careful consideration to individual needs as well as to the general financial interests of the church, and by their prudent management and their godly example they were an important aid to their fellow officers in binding together the various interests of the church into a united whole.

That this step was in the order of God, is revealed in the immediate results for good that were seen. “The word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were

obedient to the faith.” This ingathering of souls was due both to the greater freedom secured by the apostles and to the zeal and power shown by the seven deacons. The fact that these brethren had been ordained for the special work of looking after the needs of the poor, did not exclude them from teaching the faith. On the contrary, they were fully qualified to instruct others in the truth, and they engaged in the work with great earnestness and success.

To the early church had been entrusted a constantly enlarging work--that of establishing centers of light and blessing wherever there were honest souls willing to give themselves to the service of Christ. The proclamation of the gospel was to be world-wide in its extent, and the messengers of the cross could not hope to fulfill their important mission unless they should remain united in the bonds of Christian unity, and thus reveal to the world that they were one with Christ in God. Had not their divine Leader prayed to the Father, “Keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are”? And had He not declared of His disciples, “The world hath hated them, because they are not of the world”? Had He not pleaded with the Father that they might be “made perfect in one,” “that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me”? John 17:11, 14, 23, 21. Their spiritual life and power was dependent on a close connection with the One by whom they had been commissioned to preach the gospel.

Only as they were united with Christ could the disciples hope to have the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit and the co-operation of angels of heaven. With the help of these divine agencies they would present before the world a united front and would be victorious in the conflict they were compelled to wage unceasingly against the powers of darkness. As they should continue to labor unitedly, heavenly messengers would go before them, opening the way; hearts would be prepared for the reception of truth, and many would be won to Christ. So long as they remained united, the church would go forth “fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.” Song of Solomon 6:10. Nothing could withstand her onward progress. The church would advance from victory to victory, gloriously fulfilling her divine mission of proclaiming the gospel to the world.”

Editorial—The Whole Armour

Ephesians 6:10-17 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For 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]. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your **loins girt about with truth**, and having on the **breastplate of righteousness**; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the **shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.”

What kind of armour are each of us wearing now? Is it this precious armour that the Lord has prepared for us, or some makeshift covering we have fashioned ourselves? We need protection for the

spiritual battle that we face every day, just as warriors of old needed strong attire made from leather or metal to help them survive the attacks of the enemy. When Paul wrote that letter to the Ephesians, he used those armaments as the example of the spiritual armour that Christians are to wear.

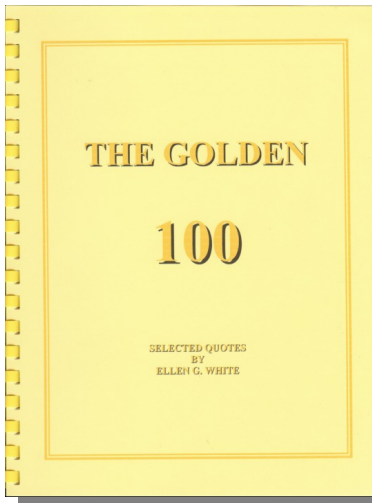
Firstly, we are to have our “loins girt about with truth.” This means that the very core of our being should be a foundation of truth. Our life should reflect the character of Christ to others, so that we can be a living example and take the gospel with us wherever we go. This ties in with the footwear Paul mentioned, too. Sharing the truth with others is what it means to have our feet “shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”

When we put on the “breastplate of righteousness” we are protecting our very life. A breastplate is a covering that shields our heart. It is a symbol for Christ’s righteousness. Christ is our only sure defense against the wiles of the devil. The “shield of faith” is also essential in this fight. A shield is made of strong metal or

wood to deflect the weapons of the enemy, and so it can be very heavy. We must trust in the Lord to give each one of us the strength to carry and to hold onto that shield.

Next we have the “helmet of salvation.” A helmet is a piece of armor that protects the head, and no soldier would ever enter battle without one. Salvation can only be obtained by accepting Christ’s sacrifice for us. Without Christ’s sacrifice, we cannot be saved from death. Keeping this hope of salvation foremost in our minds, it becomes our helmet, protecting our thoughts and feelings from the devil’s barrages of temptation and discouragement.

The final piece of equipment we are to carry into battle is the “sword of the Spirit.” The Bible is said to be “sharper than a two-edged sword.” When we use the Bible as our foundation of knowledge, we have the best “sword” the Lord can provide. Nothing can withstand its ability to cut through error and discern the truth. Sister White uses the word “panoply” to describe this whole armour. Webster’s

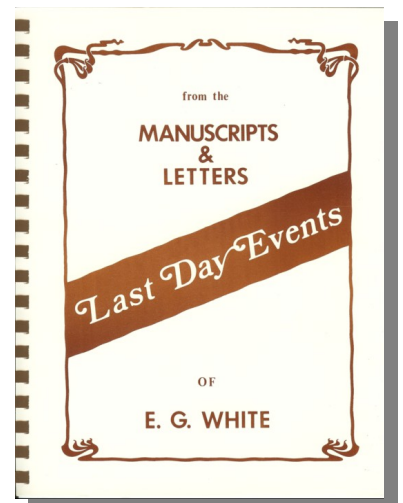


THE GOLDEN 100

The SRPA has a book available entitled “The Golden 100.” It consists of 100 selected quotes by Ellen G. White. Its focus is on the apostasy in the SDA church and defining our position as the Remnant people of God. It is spiral bound, is about thirty pages, and is formatted with a 16 point font, so it will make a handy reference for mission workers in the field. We are asking a suggested donation of \$7.50 for each copy.

LAST DAY EVENTS
(non-conference edition)

In this spiral bound book you will find over 200 pages of unpublished letters and manuscripts of E.G. White concerning the last days. **English & Spanish** versions available! Suggested donation of \$13.00 per copy.



<p>Sabbath Remnant VOICE Vol. 9, No. 6, November-December 2014. Published by the Sabbath Remnant Publishing Association, P. O. Box 1794, Willits, California 95490. Phone 8SRPA 36213 (877 723-6213) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above address. Return postage paid. SUBSCRIPTIONS are by donation only. Send questions about your subscription to the above address. Printed in USA. Web: www.srvoice.org E-mail: sreditor@sr-pa.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">IN THIS ISSUE</p> <p>Announcement and Quote on Gospel Order.....1 Editorial—The Whole Armour.....2 Children’s Story-Heart Murder.....3 Health Nugget—What is Broccoli Good For?.....4 Recipe—Asian Jicama Salad.....5 Marriage- Monogamy Polygamy Part 2.....6 Letters— Uganda & Kenya.8 The Return of the Exiles Part 9-Joshua and the Angel.....10 Early Writings-Gospel Order.....11</p>
--	--

1828 dictionary defines panoply as “complete armour of defense.” When you check the word out on the CD-ROM it is mentioned 61 times. The first quote that comes up is this one: “Wickedness is reaching a height never before attained, and yet many ministers of the gospel are crying, ‘Peace and safety.’ But God’s faithful messengers are to go steadily

forward with their work. Clothed with the **panoply** of heaven, they are to advance fearlessly and victoriously, never ceasing their warfare until every soul within their reach shall have received the message of truth for this time.” AA 220:1

“Panoply” could also mean that the Lord places a protection around us that nothing can penetrate except by His will.

Isn’t that a wonderfully reassuring promise? Have you ever prayed to the Lord to place His panoply around you? With such divine protection, what is there that we should ever fear? Brothers and Sisters, choose to live each day for God, wear that whole armour He has designed, and pray that the Lord’s panoply will always be around you.

Children’s Story—*Heart Murder*

Heart Murder

THE *Children’s Friend* tells the story of a little girl who went to bed with a heavy heart, and whose sobs brought her mother to her side, seeking to know what ailed her. “My child,” said her mother, tenderly, stooping down to her bedside. “What troubles you? Tell me.”

“Oh, mother, I am so glad you have come!” cried Alice, uncovering her head and seizing her mother’s hand; “I can’t go to sleep.”

“Do tell me what’s the matter with my dear daughter.”

“Oh! mother, I killed cousin Ruth in my heart today, I did!” and tears flowed afresh. “She got angry, and I wished her dead. I can’t ask God’s forgiveness till I am friends with Ruth. He won’t hear me; for my heart had anger and hatred in it. Oh, mother!” and the poor child wept as though her heart would break.

Her mother tried to comfort her, but there lay the cold, heavy weight of sin upon her bosom, and she could take no comfort. “Oh! if I could only see Ruth, and ask her forgiveness, then I could pray and go to sleep,” she said piteously. “Mother, can’t I go to Ruth’s house? Her mother thought a moment. She felt that to help her child to feel and act right in this respect was important. “Yes, my child, you shall go,” she said.

Alice’s father was called, who, wrapping his weeping child in a blanket, carried her

into the next house, where her cousin Ruth lived. She was taken to Ruth’s bedside. It was a melting scene to witness the confession, the entreaty for forgiveness, and the kiss of reconciliation. Then Alice wiped away her tears, and laying her head on her father’s shoulder, she asked to be carried home.

Once more in her own chamber, Alice knelt down and prayed to God to forgive her for the sin of hating Ruth. “Give me love in my heart.” she cried earnestly, “because ‘God is love;’ and because it was love which made Jesus die on the cross for us! and oh! keep me from hating and killing anybody in my heart.”

So did little Alice pray. Sin and conscience, love and hatred, had been fighting in her heart. But love gained the victory.

The Youth’s Instructor Sept 15, 1870

The Beggar Boy and the Flowers.

“Go away, you beggar boy! You’ve no right to be looking at our flowers!” shouted a little fellow from the garden where he was standing.

The poor boy’s face reddened with anger at the rude language, and he was about to answer defiantly, when a little girl sprang out from an arbor near, and looking at both, said to her brother:

“How could you speak so, Herbert? I’m sure his looking at the flowers won’t hurt us.”

And then, to soothe the wounded feelings of the stranger, she said:

“Little boy, I’ll pick you some flowers if you will wait a moment;” and she immediately gathered a pretty nosegay, and handed it through the railing. His face brightened with surprise and pleasure, as he earnestly thanked her.

Twelve years after this, the girl had grown to be a woman. One bright afternoon, she was walking with her husband in the garden, when she noticed a young man in a workman’s dress, leaning against the railing, and looking attentively at her and at the flowers. Approaching him she said: “Are you fond of flowers, sir? It will give me great pleasure to gather you some.”

The young workman looked into her fair face, and then said: “Twelve years ago, I stood here a ragged beggar boy, and you showed me the same kindness. The bright flowers and your pleasant words made a new boy of me; ah! they made a man of me, too. Your face, madam, has been a light to me in many dark hours of my life; and now, thank God, though that boy is still a humble, hardworking man, he is an honest and a grateful one.”

Tears stood in the eyes of the lady as, turning to her husband, she said: “God put it in my young heart to do that little kindness, and see what a great reward it has brought!”

The Youth’s Instructor August 15, 1870

“Those who are brought in controversy with the enemies of truth have to meet, not only men, but Satan and his agents. Let them remember the Saviour’s words, “Behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.” Luke 10:3. Let them rest in the love of God, and the spirit will be kept calm, even under personal abuse.

The Lord will clothe them with a divine panoply.

His Holy Spirit will influence the mind and heart, so that their voices shall not catch the notes of the baying of the wolves.” Desire of Ages page 353.3

Health Nugget—What Is Broccoli Good For?

Broccoli and Beyond

Botanical name: *Brassica*

As the leading member of the cruciferous family of vegetables, the word “broccoli” means “branch” or “arm” for the cross-shaped stems, like mini trees bearing the blossoms. Cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and kale also are crucifers.

A popular food of the ancient Romans, broccoli once grew wild on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Its use can be traced to 16th century France and England in the 1700s, with commercial growth beginning in the U.S. in the 1920s.

Broccoli has branched out, so to speak, to a number of its closest relatives: Broccoli raab doesn’t have the tree-like “heads” we’re used to, but resembles broccoli florets on long, thin stems. Its cousin, broccoli rapini, has fewer florets and a mustard-like flavor. Broccoflower, a cross between broccoli and cauliflower, is pale green with densely packed heads like cauliflower, but tastes like broccoli. Chinese broccoli has broad, glossy, blue-green leaves with long, crisp, thick stems and a small head. If you run across Broccolini (baby broccoli), it’s a trademarked name for a broccoli and Chinese kale hybrid, with a long, juicy stem topped with tiny florets.

Health Benefits of Broccoli

Eaten raw, broccoli has a number of nutritional elements. It’s important to note that broccoli is best when eaten raw, because cooking and processing destroys some of its antioxidants. It has twice the vitamin C of an orange, almost as much calcium as whole milk (with a better rate of absorption), and contains anti-cancer

and anti-viral properties with its selenium content.

Broccoli Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: One bunch (608 grams) of Broccoli

Amt. Per Serving

Calories	-----	205
Fat	-----	2.2g
Sodium	-----	201mg
Carbohydrates	-----	40g
Dietary Fiber	-----	16g
Sugar	-----	10g
Protein	-----	17g

Mercola.com offers a number of important articles on the health benefits of broccoli. Here are just a few:

[How Broccoli Fights Cancer](#)
[Broccoli Reverses Diabetes Damage](#)
[Broccoli Component Limits Breast Cancer Stem Cells](#)

Studies Done on Broccoli

Eating broccoli and broccoli sprouts may enhance your body’s ability to detoxify after exposure to food- and air-borne carcinogens and oxidants, thanks to the phytochemical sulforaphane, according to a recent study.¹

Broccoli is widely studied for its apparent ability to fight and even prevent many different cancers and other ills of the body. However, the bioavailability (ability to be absorbed into the system) of isothiocyanates (a phytochemical, or plant chemicals) from fresh broccoli is approximately three times greater than that of cooked broccoli.²

A study conducted on a group of 10 smokers and 10 nonsmokers ingesting broccoli indicated the importance of

consuming cruciferous vegetables to protect cells against DNA damage.³

Broccoli Fun Facts

In “A Treatise on Gardening by a Citizen of Virginia,” penned in 1775, John Randolph described broccoli this way: “The stems will eat like asparagus, and the heads like cauliflower.”

Summary

Broccoli doesn’t just taste good. It’s been proven over and over to contain amazing compounds that heal the body and prevent cell damage. While tests indicate that eating it raw is the way to get the most out of it nutritionally, “tender-crisp” cooking to a bright green color still has very good-for-you attributes. This may be why broccoli has been around and all over the world for the last 2,000 years.

Other sources:

<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Broccoli>
<http://nutritiondata.self.com/facts/vegetables-and-vegetable-products/2356/2>
<http://www.uamshealth.com/?id=10425&sid=1>

References:

¹ Keap1-Nrf2 Signaling: A Target for Cancer Prevention by Sulforaphane, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2275258>, July 2012
² Disposition of glucosinolates and sulforaphane in humans after ingestion of steamed and fresh broccoli, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1152559>, July 2012
³ Effect of broccoli intake on markers related to oxidative stress and cancer risk in healthy smokers and nonsmokers, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1923503>, July 2012

**“This world is to the Christian a land of strangers and enemies.
Unless he shall take for his defense the divine panoply
and wield the sword of the Spirit
he will become the prey of the powers of darkness.
The faith of all will be tested. All will be tried as gold is tried in the fire.”**

5T 104.2

RECIPE—Asian Jicama Salad

Ingredients:

1 cup Jicama (cut into 1 inch sticks)
1 cup Snow Peas (cut into ¼ inch pieces)
1 cup Napa Cabbage (torn into salad-size pieces)
2 Carrots
¼ cup Sesame Seeds (toasted)
2 Tbsp Lemon Juice
2 Tbsp Soy Sauce (Bragg's liquid Aminos)
4 tsp Honey (or 2 tsp sugar)
1 tsp Sesame Oil
1-2 Tbsp Water

Peel jicama root and cut into matchstick shapes. Tear cabbage into salad-sized pieces (substitute romaine lettuce if preferred or even spinach, but I find the cabbage holds up better in the dressing). Slice snow peas into ¼ inch pieces. Coarsely shred carrots. Combine all in a bowl and mix.

In a smaller bowl, add lemon juice, soy sauce, honey, sesame oil, and water (start with 1 Tbsp of water and add another if desired). Mix ingredients.

Combine dressing and vegetables and toss thoroughly. Serve as a side dish to add Asian flair to any meal

Who would like to share your favorite vegan recipe? Send it to

sreditor@sr-pa.org

More on Gospel Order

Acts of the Apostles Page 185-187

“As an important factor in the spiritual growth of the new converts the apostles were careful to surround them with the safeguards of gospel order. Churches were duly organized in all places in Lycaonia and Pisidia where there were believers. Officers were appointed in each church, and proper order and system were established for the conduct of all the affairs pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the believers.

“This was in harmony with the gospel plan of uniting in one body all believers in Christ, and this plan Paul was careful to follow throughout his ministry. Those who in -186- any place were by his labor led to accept Christ as the Saviour were at the proper time organized into a church. Even when the believers were but few in number, this was done. The Christians were thus taught to help one another, remembering the promise, “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20.

“And Paul did not forget the churches thus established. The care of these churches rested on his mind as an ever-increasing burden. However small a company might be, it was nevertheless the object of his constant solicitude. He watched over the smaller churches tenderly, realizing that they were in need of special care in order that the members might be thoroughly established in the truth and taught to put forth earnest, unselfish efforts for those around them.

“In all their missionary endeavors Paul and Barnabas sought to follow Christ's example of willing sacrifice and faithful, earnest labor for souls. Wide-awake, zealous, untiring, they did not consult inclination or personal ease, but with prayerful anxiety and unceasing activity they sowed the seed of truth. And with the sowing of the seed, the apostles were careful to give to all who took their stand for the gospel, practical instruction that was of untold value. This spirit of earnestness and godly fear made upon the minds of the new disciples a lasting impression regarding the importance of the gospel message.

“When men of promise and ability were converted, as in the case of Timothy, Paul and Barnabas sought earnestly -187- to show them the necessity of laboring in the vineyard. And when the apostles left for another place, the faith of these men did not fail, but rather increased. They had been faithfully instructed in the way of the Lord, and had been taught how to labor unselfishly, earnestly, perseveringly, for the salvation of their fellow men. This careful training of new converts was an important factor in the remarkable success that attended Paul and Barnabas as they preached the gospel in heathen lands.

“The first missionary journey was fast drawing to a close. Commending the newly organized churches to the Lord, the apostles went to Pamphylia, “and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia, and thence sailed to Antioch.”

MARRIAGE: MONOGAMY AND POLYGAMY -Part 2

UNHAPPY MARRIAGE RELATION

Those who enter the marriage relation while unconverted should not after conversion leave their unbelieving companions. Whatever their religious character may be, they must remain faithful, kind, and true toward them; yet they should acknowledge the claims of God above any earthly relationship, serving him with fidelity, even though inconvenience, trials, and persecutions may arise for the sake of Christ and the truth. This persevering fidelity to truth and duty may be a sanctifying influence upon the unbelieving companion. But marriages formed understandingly with unbelievers are forbidden by the word of God. The suit may be urged by the unbeliever, and inclination may plead that it be accepted; and inclination frequently triumphs; but Satan has the victory; temptation has not been resisted, and in nine cases out of ten both parties are lost to Christ. {ST, April 10, 1879 par. 11}

LABAN DECEIVES JACOB

Jacob was not happy in his marriage relation, although his wives were sisters. He formed the contract with Laban for his daughter Rachel, whom he loved, but after he had served seven years for her, Laban, wishing to retain his faithful services a greater length of time, deceived him, and gave him Leah. When Jacob realized the deception that had been practiced upon him, and that Leah had acted her part in deceiving him, he could not love her, and he reproved his father-in-law for thus trifling with his affections. Laban entreated him not to put away Leah, for this was considered a great disgrace, not only to the wife, but to the whole family. Jacob was placed in a most trying position; but he decided still to retain Leah, and also to marry her sister. Yet Leah was loved in a much less degree than Rachel.

{ST, April 24, 1879 par. 4}

“And Laban had two daughters: the name

of the elder [was] Leah, and the name of the younger [was] Rachel. Leah [was] tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, [It is] better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him [but] a few days, for the love he had to her. And Jacob said unto Laban, Give [me] my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid [for] an handmaid. And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it [was] Leah: and he said to Laban, What [is] this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfill her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also. And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid. And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years. And when the LORD saw that Leah [was] hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel [was] barren. And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I [was] hated,

he hath therefore given me this [son] also: and she called his name Simeon. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.”

Genesis 29:16-35

EXTREME POLYGAMY

“And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, [Am] I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb? And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her. And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her. And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan. And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son. And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali. When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife. And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son. And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name Gad. And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son. And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher. And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes. And she said

unto her; [Is it] a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes. And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night. And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar. And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son. And Leah said, God hath endued me [with] a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun. And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah. And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.”

Genesis 30:1-24.

COVENANT AGAINST POLYGAMY

“And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, [These] daughters [are] my daughters, and [these] children [are] my children, and [these] cattle [are] my cattle, and all that thou seest [is] mine: and what can I do this day unto these my daughters, or unto their children which they have born? Now therefore come thou, let us make a covenant, I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee. And Jacob took a stone, and set it up [for] a pillar. And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap. And Laban called it Jegarsahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed. And Laban said, This heap [is] a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed; And Mizpah; for he said, The LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another. If thou shalt afflict my daughters, or if thou shalt

take [other] wives beside my daughters, no man [is] with us; see, God [is] witness betwixt me and thee. And Laban said to Jacob, Behold this heap, and behold [this] pillar, which I have cast betwixt me and thee; This heap [be] witness, and [this] pillar [be] witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap and this pillar unto me, for harm. The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac. Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount. And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place.”

Genesis 31:43-55.

Laban then assured Jacob that he had an interest for his daughters and their children, and he could not harm them. “Now, therefore,” he said. “come thou, let us make a covenant, I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee.” To this, Jacob consented, and a pile of stones was thrown up as a visible token of the compact. {ST, May 1, 1879 par. 9}

And Laban said, “The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another. If thou shalt afflict my daughters, or if thou shalt take other wives besides my daughters; no man is with us, see, God is witness between me and thee.” **Laban understood the wrong of polygamy, although it was through his artifice alone that Jacob had taken two wives. He well knew that it was the jealousy of Leah and Rachel that led them to give their maids to Jacob, which confused the family relation, and increased the unhappiness of his daughters.** And now as they are journeying to a distant country, and their interest is to be entirely separate from his own, he would guard their happiness as far as possible. {ST, May 1, 1879 par. 10}

Jacob made a solemn covenant before the Lord, that he should not take other wives. “And Laban said to Jacob, Behold this heap, and behold this pillar, which I have cast betwixt me and thee; this heap be witness, and this pillar be

witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap and this pillar unto me, for harm. The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. **And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.**” {ST, May 1, 1879 par. 11}

CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

“To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin [is] ever before me.” Psalm 51:1-3.

ONCE RIGHTEOUS NOT ALWAYS RIGHTEOUS

“Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his [righteousness] in the day that he sinneth. When I shall say to the righteous, [that] he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it. Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; [If] the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.” Ezekiel 33:12-16.

Evil associates include more than the immoral and profane. Connection with one who is known to be irreligious is contrary to God's order, and cannot fail to draw the soul away from Him. **Those who have not the fear of God before them, who are not**

seeking to live in obedience to him, although they may be moral, intellectual, apparently refined, fashionable, wealthy, are not the ones for Christians to form a marriage alliance with. However agreeable their society may be, however entertaining their conversation, the word of God is plain upon the point; the Christian should not connect with them.

{ST, April 10, 1879 par. 10}

THE POWER OF GOD

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith (in Jesus) unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” Peter 1:5.

We are sustained every moment by God's care, and upheld by His power. He spreads our tables with food. He gives us peaceful and refreshing sleep. Weekly He brings to us the Sabbath, that we may rest from our temporal labors, and worship Him in His own house. He has given us His word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. In its sacred pages we find the counsels of wisdom; and as oft as we lift our hearts to Him in penitence and faith, He grants us the blessings of His grace.

{CS 18.1}.

— katiba edward

“In the religion of Christ there is a regenerating influence that transforms the entire being, lifting man above every debasing, groveling vice, and raising the thoughts and desires toward God and heaven.

Linked to the Infinite One, man is made partaker of the divine nature.

Upon him the shafts of evil have no effect; for he is clothed with the panoply of Christ's righteousness.”

Counsel To Parents

Teachers and Students Page 51.4

Letters-- Uganda

Uganda

November 2014

Heb. 6:10-11.

Christian greetings from the Remnant families, presbyters, pastors, and spiritual guides composing of God's church in Africa [Uganda]. ‘And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.’ ^{1Cor. 12:6} Many of them have not had opportunity to share what I entirely have shared with the other Remnant churches in the Diaspora via LTBL online church! Brethren! Living in the *Last Times*; whereby we know that – ‘we are not to draw back unto perdition’; but we are to continue to look for Him to cause us escape all the things portraying Babylon's characters while we intently occupy for Him the Gospel fields, which are ready for harvest. **Amen; and Amen!**

I have made a number of travels to meet some of our Gospel ministers and discuss the issue of name ‘SDR’ which we had earlier adopted in August 2006 but, was trademarked by N__ P__ of SDRCC in Indiana - May 12, 2012 thus putting all under the direct command of N__. We feel as Remnant churches that trademark the folk of the Most High will deny Christ the rightful influence amongst His people and another Beast would be formed! Therefore I have been obliged to attend the World Wide Meetings to see how our dear brethren in the diaspora can continue to pass on the ‘Present Truth’ without uncalled persecution from the USA Federal laws! The Lord God Michael has been so merciful that none has been persecuted and glorious to us for agreeably accepting to take on another name as he continues to show us the right way to follow! While the Remnant churches or families are ready to take on another name; those who are less privileged to get to internet for a live discussion have to get the procession of what we have unitedly agreed. Therefore, I did take on the mantle to get many of our brethren here at home [Uganda] understand the situation. B__ S__, S__ G__, N__ P__, K__ A__, K__ E__, G__ J__ are presbyters and K__ & J__ as Ministers of the Present Truth had to be informed physically. This entirely took most of my time travelling to meet them

where possible and making cell-phone calls to update them as I spent most of nights preparing for tracts which we shall use in street preaching in some of our towns for a specific period of time. I believe God Michael has blessed us that we now have a name!

I have taken initiatives to also inform some of the brethren in Kenya and Tanzania on telephone calls and all seemed to agree to take on another name as long as it will be in line with the Bible and SOP. ‘Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them;’ ^{Mt 7:20} If they God's true Church and the True Witness to the Laodiceans but not the Trade Mark. Thank you for all the support for cause of Christ especially your involvement in all matters arising!

God bless you

N J

December 2014

Heb. 6:10-11.

Dear ones, God longs to work through those whom He has given capabilities for great things desiring that Christ like characters be acknowledged to shine light to the world. But in order that this may be, God demands that every intellect and physical capability be offered as a consecrated oblation to Him. The treasures he has given will be required to manifest empathy, compassion, and love for their fellow men bringing them in harmony with the character of God who gave His only begotten Son to die for salvation of mankind. As ministers for Christ's sake, we must begin the work for ourselves and cleanse the soul temple to explore very possible talent and gift God has put in these last days. In the crisis and just at the right moment, men are to stand in places to act their part as witness to confirm the truth they comprehend to accomplish the purpose of God. Our standard measure is ‘Here are they that keep commandments of God and the faith of Jesus’. This is the *Object* influence of every *Ministry/church* which he has placed in the holy writ to help us lean on to build God's true church.

Some of us are established in the faith and doctrine but nevertheless have I overlooked the idea of organizing the work which is among us. I have made several

travels organizing our churches according to the Gospel Order under the name SDR but that now God's flock has been brought under the bondage of trade mark owned by N. P. displayed to be following the truck of Romanism/Papacy; we are compelled to let our brethren know the dangers that are before us! We therefore need to do more than I had thought we have done! I was encouraged to travel to different churches meeting with our members and individual persons whom we are in agreement with to brief them over our next step. I have told them that we did agree to take on another identity other than going to courts of law as carry on the message of mercy to the world. This is being done through the different ministries and coming together at LTBL online church where everyone has been welcome for contributions towards the formation of a new identity.

For a couple of months past, we have participated in a series of world Wide Meetings to avert the afflictions of the Federal Laws of the state which would come to God's elect/church by ensuring that another identity is chosen before the world to enable our fellow brethren freely pass out the 'Present Truth – Last Message of Mercy to the aged world. I believe that our almighty caring God Michael has led us in the right path and now we have allied ourselves as united Seventh day Remnant families or churches in the world. We have agreed not to trade mark the name chosen during the process of organizing the work to bring unity amongst ourselves.

On 1st Dec. 2014, I met with bro. M__ of B__ – K__ to discuss a number of issues including the work in H__. We agreed to close this year with a reaping crusade to usher in a new Christian community under the new organization. Bros. B__, S__, G__, K__ and others are involved in this work which started as street preaching. I have taken on the work of producing tracts and booklets to ease the process approaching people within the area and I believe that God has assigned every man his task in the great plan of salvation.

The time is now that we must come out to pin theories, principles and practices which are not sustained in the Bible and cling to the truth setting all men free from the bondage of Babylon. Nothing is to keep a servant of God from a fellow man and each person is to keep his lamp burning to illuminating all our religious influence and knowing that greatest work is before us. God wants you and me to stand at your post as faithful sentinel and give the enemy no chance. We need to counsel together at every step with true men of interest for His

cause. We have put concerted action to get the church on a fresh standing with a special message for now – 'Caught Unprepared' a situation which has been over looked in reckoning the prophetic history as we close this year and the prints out of booklets & tracts given to daring souls remain the silent messenger left behind.

In respect of each standing in his lot and in his place and doing his work; being honored as 'ye are all brethren' I have mobilized some of our church members for street preaching to sample at least two towns here in Uganda and one at ago for some time. These are H__ in Western and thereafter K__ in the north east. Bro M__ of B__ is leading the work in H__ town for a period of three months which started within November 2014 and in January 2015, we hope to conduct baptism. We have done this because of the need to plant a Sabbath school services thus a home church there. We also wanted get natives speaking the local languages to manage this work after our departure to another place. This is the first kind of the program in our working and thanks are to J & L for standing behind it.

Thank you for standing with us for this great work without which little would be accomplished through our efforts. God bless you.

N J

Dear brother

I want to thank you so much for your concern to my help. Brother Isaack forwarded me an email from brother J__ showing that there is help they want to sent to me. I heard that he is your father in law. Praise God, you are really kind to me. Just tell him to sent it to I__ because I lost my national ID.

Brother, I've had problem after the other. of late my child was really sick ,when he got a little bit ok , now, my wife again is too sick. Vomiting, headache, sweating, she was admitted on Monday but still no improvement. I just need a special prayer. I don't know how tomorrow will be, just hoping for the best. I wish brother I__ was near me, he would have help to share the idea but we talked to him and told me that he is looking some fund if he got he will come.

Brother M N

October 26, 2014

Dear sister,

Thank you for your prayers and help. Of all those straggle at last my beloved wife passed away yesterday. Just continue to keep me in your prayers to get ways to bury her. I've requested brother I__ to come here and help me because am filling lonely now. Tell others.

Brother M N

Linked to
the Infinite One,
man is made
partaker
of the divine
nature.
Upon him
the shafts of evil
have no effect;
for he is clothed
with the
panoply of
Christ's
righteousness.
MLT 277.5

The Return of the Exiles—No. 9, Joshua and the Angel

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, January 2, 1908

Satan and his army were greatly discomfited and alarmed by the steady advancement made by the builders of the temple. The hosts of evil determined to put forth untiring effort to weaken and depress God's people by holding before them their imperfections of character. Satan well knew that if those who had long suffered because of transgression, could again be induced to disregard God's commandments, they would be brought once more under the bondage of sin. But the Lord, in infinite pity, strengthened his chosen people "with good words and comfortable words."¹ In this crisis, he gave to his people a most forcible and impressive illustration of the work of Satan and the work of Christ, and the power of our Mediator to vanquish the accuser of his people. This is recorded in the third chapter of the prophecy of Zechariah.

In holy vision the prophet beholds Joshua the high priest, "clothed with filthy garments,"² standing before the Angel of the Lord, entreating the mercy of God in behalf of his people who are in deep affliction. Satan stands at his right hand to resist him. Because Israel had been chosen to preserve the knowledge of God in the earth, they had been, from their first existence as a nation, the special objects of Satan's enmity, and he had determined to cause their destruction. He could do them no harm while they were obedient to God; therefore he had bent all his power and cunning to enticing them into sin. Ensnared by his temptations, they had transgressed the law of God, and thus separated from the Source of their strength, and had been left to become the prey of their heathen enemies. They were carried into captivity to Babylon, and there remained for many years. Yet they were not forsaken of the Lord. His prophets were sent to them with reproofs and warnings. The people were awakened to see their guilt; they humbled themselves before God, and returned to him with true repentance. Then the Lord sent them messages of encouragement, declaring that he would deliver them from their captivity, and restore them to his favor. It was this that Satan was determined to prevent. A remnant of Israel had already returned to their own land, and Satan was seeking to move upon the heathen nations, who were his agents, to destroy them utterly.

As Joshua humbly pleads for the fulfillment of God's promises, Satan stands up boldly to resist him. He points to the transgressions of Israel as a reason why that people should not be restored to the favor of God. He claims them as his prey, and demands that they be given into his hands to be destroyed.

The high priest can not defend himself or his people from Satan's accusations. He does not claim that Israel are free from fault. In his filthy garments, symbolizing the sins of the people, which he bears as their representative, he stands before the Angel, confessing

their guilt, yet pointing to their repentance and humiliation, relying upon the mercy of a sin-pardoning Redeemer, and in faith claiming the promises of God.

Then the Angel, who is Christ himself, the Saviour of sinners, put to silence the accuser of his people, declaring, "The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"³ Israel had long remained in the furnace of affliction. Because of their sins they had been well-nigh consumed in the flame kindled by Satan and his agents for their destruction; but God had now set his hand to bring them forth. In their penitence and humiliation the compassionate Saviour will not leave his people to the cruel power of the heathen. "A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench."⁴

As the intercession of Joshua is accepted, the command is given, "Take away the filthy garments from him,"⁵ and to Joshua the Angel declares, "Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." "So they set a fair miter upon his head, and clothed him with garments."⁶ His own sins and those of his people were pardoned. Israel were clothed with a "change of raiment,"--the righteousness of Christ imputed to them. The miter placed upon Joshua's head was such as was worn by the priests, and bore the inscription, "Holiness to the Lord,"⁷ signifying that notwithstanding his former transgressions, he was now qualified to minister before God in his sanctuary.

After thus solemnly investing him with the dignity of the priesthood, the Angel declared, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts: If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by."⁸ He would be honored as the judge or ruler over the temple and all its services; he should walk among attending angels, even in this life, and should at last join the glorified throng around the throne of God.

"Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the Branch."⁹ Here is revealed the hope of Israel. It was by faith in the coming Saviour that Joshua and his people received pardon. Through faith in Christ they were restored to God's favor. By virtue of his merits, if they walked in his ways and kept his statutes, they would be "men wondered at,"¹⁰ honored as the chosen of Heaven among the nations of the earth. Christ was their hope, their defense, their justification and redemption, as he is the hope of his church today.

As Satan accused Joshua and his people, so in all ages he accuses those who are seeking the mercy and favor of God. In the Revelation he is declared to be "the accuser of our brethren," "which accused them before our

3. Zech 3:2

1. Zech 1:13

4. Isaiah 42:3

5. Zech 3:4

2. Zech 3:3

6. Zech 3:4,5

7. Ex 28:36

8. Zech 3:7

9. Zech 3:8

10. Zech 3:8

God day and night.”¹¹ The controversy is repeated over every soul that is rescued from the power of evil, and whose name is registered in the Lamb’s book of life. Never is one received from the family of Satan into the family of God without exciting the determined resistance of the wicked one. Satan’s accusations against those who seek the Lord are not prompted by displeasure at their sins. He exults in their defective characters. Only through their transgression of God’s law can he obtain power over them. His accusations arise solely from his enmity to Christ. Through the plan of salvation, Jesus is breaking Satan’s hold upon the human family, and rescuing souls from his power. All the hatred and malignity of the arch-rebel is stirred as he beholds the evidence of Christ’s supremacy, and with fiendish power and cunning he works to wrest from him the remnant of the children of men who have accepted his salvation.

He leads men into skepticism, causing them to lose confidence in God and to separate from his love; he tempts them to break his law, and then he claims them as his captives, and contests the right of Christ to take them from him. He knows that those who seek God earnestly for pardon and grace will obtain it; therefore he presents their sins before them to discourage them. He is constantly seeking occasion against those who are trying to obey God. Even their best and most acceptable services he seeks to make appear corrupt. By countless devices, the most subtle and the most cruel, he endeavors to secure their condemnation. Man can not meet these charges himself. In his sin-stained garments, confessing his guilt, he stands before God. But Jesus our Advocate presents an effectual plea in behalf of all who by repentance and faith have committed the keeping of their souls to him. He pleads their cause, and vanquishes their accuser by the mighty arguments of Calvary. His perfect obedience to God’s law, even unto the death of the cross, has given him all power in heaven and in earth, and he claims of his Father mercy and reconciliation for guilty man. To the accuser of his people he declares, “The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan.”¹² These are the purchase of my blood, brands plucked from the burning. Those who rely upon him in faith receive the comforting assurance, “Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.”¹³ All that have put on the robe of Christ’s righteousness will stand before him as chosen and faithful and true. Satan has no power to pluck them out of the hand of Christ. Not one soul that in penitence and faith has claimed his protection, will Christ permit to pass under the enemy’s

11. Rev 12:10

14. Isaiah 27:5

15. Zech 3:7

12. Zech 3:2

13. Zech 3:4

16. Zech 3:4,5

power. His word is pledged: “Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.”¹⁴ The promise given to Joshua is made to all: “If thou wilt keep my charge, . . . I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.”¹⁵ Angels of God will walk on either side of them, even in this world, and they will stand at last among the angels that surround the throne of God.

The fact that the acknowledged people of God are represented as standing before the Lord in filthy garments should lead to humility and deep searching of heart on the part of all who profess his name. Those who are indeed purifying their souls by obeying the truth will have a most humble opinion of themselves. The more closely they view the spotless character of Christ, the stronger will be their desire to be conformed to his image, and the less will they see of purity or holiness in themselves. But while we should realize our sinful condition, we are to rely upon Christ as our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption. We can not answer the charges of Satan against us. Christ alone can make an effectual plea in our behalf. He is able to silence the accuser with arguments founded not upon our merits, but on his own.

Yet we should never be content with a sinful life. It is a thought that should arouse Christians to greater zeal and earnestness in overcoming evil, that every defect in character, every point in which they fail to meet the divine standard, is an open door by which Satan can enter to tempt and destroy them; and, furthermore, that every failure and defect on their part gives occasion to the tempter and his agents to reproach Christ. We are to exert every energy of the soul in the work of overcoming, and to look to Jesus for strength to do what we can not do of ourselves. No sin can be tolerated in those who shall walk with Christ in white. The filthy garments are to be removed, and Christ’s robe of righteousness is to be placed upon us. By repentance and faith we are enabled to render obedience to all the commandments of God, and are found without blame before him. Those who shall meet the approval of God are now afflicting their souls, confessing their sins, and earnestly pleading for pardon through Jesus their Advocate. Their attention is fixed on him, and when the command is given, “Take away the filthy garments,” and clothe him with “change of raiment,” and “set a fair miter upon his head,”¹⁶ they are prepared to give him all the glory of their salvation.

(Part 9 Continued next issue)

Quote on Gospel Order From Early Writings

The Lord has shown that gospel order has been too much feared and neglected. Formality should be shunned; but, in so doing, order should not be neglected. There is order in heaven. There was order in the church when Christ was upon the earth, and after His departure order was strictly observed among His apostles. And now in these last days, while God is bringing His

children into the unity of the faith, there is more real need of order than ever before; for, as God unites His children, Satan and his evil angels are very busy to prevent this unity and to destroy it. Therefore men are hurried into the field who lack wisdom and judgment, perhaps not ruling well their own house, and not having order or government over the few that God has given them charge of at home; yet they feel capable of

having charge of the flock. They make many wrong moves, and those unacquainted with our faith judge all the messengers to be like these self-sent men. Thus the cause of God is reproached, and the truth shunned by many unbelievers who would otherwise be candid and anxiously inquire, Are these things so? {EW 97.1}

Men whose lives are not holy and who are unqualified to teach the present truth enter the field without being acknowledged by the church or the brethren generally, and confusion and disunion are the result. -98- Some have a theory of the truth, and can present the argument, but lack spirituality, judgment, and experience; they fail in many things which it is very necessary for them to understand before they can teach the truth. Others have not the argument, but because a few brethren hear them pray well and give an exciting exhortation now and then, they are pressed into the field, to engage in a work for which God has not qualified them and for which they have not sufficient experience and judgment. Spiritual pride comes in, they are lifted up, and act under the deception of thinking that they are laborers. They do not know themselves. They lack sound judgment and patient reasoning, talk boastingly of themselves, and assert many things which they cannot prove from the Word. God knows this; therefore He does not call such to labor in these perilous times, and brethren should be careful not to push those out into the field whom He has not called. {EW 97.}

Those men who are not called of God are generally the very ones that are the most confident that they are so called and that their labors are very important. They go into the field and do not generally exert a good influence; yet in some places they have a measure of success, and this leads them and others to think that they are surely called of God. It is not a positive evidence that men are called of God because they have some success; for angels of God are now moving upon the hearts of His honest children to enlighten their understanding as to the present truth, that they may lay hold upon it and live. And even if self-sent men put themselves where God does not put them and profess to be teachers, and souls receive the truth by hearing them talk it, this is no evidence that they are called of God. The souls who receive the truth from them receive it to be brought into trial and bondage, as they afterward find that these men were not standing in the -99- counsel of God. Even if wicked men talk the truth, some may receive it; but it does not bring those who talked it into any more favor with God. Wicked men are wicked men still, and according to the deception they practiced upon those who were beloved of God, and according to the confusion brought into the church, so will be their punishment; their sins will not remain covered, but will be exposed in the day of God's fierce anger. .{EW 98.1}

These self-sent messengers are a curse to the cause. Honest souls put confidence in them, thinking that they are moving in the counsel of God and that they are in union with the church, and therefore suffer them to administer the ordinances, and, as duty is made plain that they must do their first works, allow themselves to be baptized by them. But when light comes, as it surely will, and they are aware that these men are not what they understood them to be, God's called and chosen messengers, they are thrown into trial and doubt as to the truth they have received and feel that they must learn it all over again; they are troubled and perplexed by the enemy about all their experience, whether God has led them or not, and are not satisfied until they are again baptized and begin anew. It is much more wearing to the spirits of God's messengers to go into places where those have been who have exerted this wrong influence than to enter new fields. God's servants have to deal plainly, act openly, and not cover up wrongs; for they are standing between the living and the dead and must render an account of their faithfulness, their mission, and the influence they exert over the flock of which the Lord has made them overseers. {EW 99.1}

Those who receive the truth and are brought into such trials would have had the truth the same if these men had stayed away and filled the humble place the -100- Lord designed for them. God's eye was upon His jewels, and He would have directed to them His called and chosen messengers--men who would have moved understandingly. The light of truth would have shown and discovered to these souls their true position, and they would have received the truth understandingly and been satisfied with its beauty and clearness. And as they felt its powerful effects, they would have been strong and shed a holy influence. {EW 99.2}

Again the danger of those traveling whom God has not called, was shown me. If they do have some success, the qualifications that are lacking will be felt. Injudicious moves will be made, and by a lack of wisdom some precious souls may be driven where they can never be reached. I saw that the church should feel their responsibility and should look carefully and attentively at the lives, qualifications, and general course of those who profess to be teachers. If unmistakable evidence is not given that God has called them, and that the "woe is upon them if they heed not this call, it is the duty of the church to act and

let it be known that these persons are not acknowledged as teachers by the church. This is the only course the church can take in order to be clear in this matter, for the burden lies upon them. {EW 100.1}

I saw that this door at which the enemy comes in to perplex and trouble the flock can be shut. I inquired of the angel how it could be closed. He said, "The church must flee to God's Word and become established upon gospel order, which has been overlooked and neglected." This is indispensably necessary in order to bring the church into the unity of the faith. I saw that in the apostles' day the church was in danger of being deceived and imposed upon by false teachers. Therefore the brethren chose men who had given good evidence that they were capable of ruling well -101- their own house and preserving order in their own families, and who could enlighten those who were in darkness. Inquiry was made of God concerning these, and then, according to the mind of the church and the Holy Ghost, they were set apart by the laying on of hands. Having received their commission from God and having the approbation of the church, they went forth baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and administering the ordinances of the Lord's house, often waiting upon the saints by presenting them the emblems of the broken body and spilt blood of the crucified Saviour, to keep fresh in the memory of God's beloved children His sufferings and death. {EW 100.2}

I saw that we are no more secure from false teachers now than they were in the apostles' days; and, if we do no more, we should take as special measures as they did to secure the peace, harmony, and union of the flock. We have their example, and should follow it. Brethren of experience and of sound minds should assemble, and following the Word of God and the sanction of the Holy Spirit, should, with fervent prayer, lay hands upon those who have given full proof that they have received their commission of God, and set them apart to devote themselves entirely to His work. This act would show the sanction of the church to their going forth as messengers to carry the most solemn message ever given to men." {EW 101.1}