

Sabbath Remnant VOICE

Sept-Oct 2020

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

The Two Crowns

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, May 20, 1862

In the vision given me in Battle Creek, October 25th, 1861, I was shown this earth, dark and gloomy. Said the angel, "Look carefully!" Then I was shown the people upon the earth: some were surrounded with angels of God, others were in total darkness, surrounded by evil angels. I saw an arm reached down from heaven, holding a golden scepter. On the top of the scepter was a crown studded with diamonds. Every diamond emitted light, bright, clear, and beautiful. Inscribed upon the crown were these words, "All who win me are happy, and shall have everlasting life."

Below this crown was another scepter upon which was also placed a crown, in the center of which were jewels, gold, and silver, which reflected some light. The inscription upon the crown was, "Earthly treasure—Riches is power. All who win me have honor and fame." I saw a vast multitude rushing forward to obtain this crown. They were clamorous. Some in their eagerness seemed bereft of their reason. They would thrust one another, crowding back those who were weaker than they, and trample upon those who in their haste fell. Many eagerly seized hold of the treasures within the crown, and held them fast. The heads of some were as white as silver, and their faces were furrowed with care and anxiety. Their own relatives, bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh, they regarded not: but, as appealing looks were turned to them, they held their treasures the firmer, as though fearful, in an unguarded moment, they should lose a little, or divide with them. Their eager eyes would often fasten upon the earthly crown, and count and recount its treasures. Images of want and wretchedness appeared in that multitude, and looked wishfully at the treasures there, and turned hopelessly away as the stronger overpowered and drove back the weaker. Yet they could not give it up thus; but with a multitude of deformed, sickly, and aged, sought to press their way to the earthly crown. Some died in seeking to reach it. Others fell just in the act of taking hold of it. Many but just laid hold of it when they fell. Dead bodies strewed the ground, yet on rushed the multitude, trampling over the fallen and dead bodies of their companions. Every one who reached the crown possessed a share in it, and were loudly applauded by an interested company standing around it.

A large company of evil angels were very busy. Satan was in their midst, and all looked with the most exulting satisfaction upon the company struggling for the crown. Satan seemed to throw a peculiar charm upon those who eagerly sought it. Many who sought this earthly crown

were professed Christians. Some of them seemed to have a little light. They would look wishfully upon the heavenly crown, and often seemed charmed with its beauty, yet could obtain no true sense of its value and glory. While one hand was reaching forth languidly for the heavenly, the other was reached eagerly for the earthly, determined to possess that, and in their earnest pursuit for the earthly, they lost sight of the heavenly. They were left in darkness, yet they were anxiously groping about to secure the earthly crown. Some became disgusted with the company who sought it so eagerly, and they seemed to have a sense of their danger, and turned from it, and earnestly sought for the heavenly crown. The countenances of such soon changed from dark to light, from gloom to cheerfulness and holy joy.

A company I then saw pressing through the crowds of people with their eyes intently fixed upon the heavenly crown. As they earnestly urged their way through the disorderly crowd, angels attended them, and made room through the dense throng for them to advance. As they neared the heavenly crown, the light emanating from it shone upon them, and around them, dispelling their darkness, and growing clearer and brighter, until they seemed to be transformed, and resembled the angels. They cast not one lingering look upon the earthly crown. Those who were in pursuit of the earthly, mocked them, and threw black balls after them, which did them no injury while their eyes were fixed upon the heavenly crown. But those who turned their attention to the black balls were stained with them. The following scripture was presented before me:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters; for he will either hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."¹

Then that which I had seen was explained to me as follows: The multitude which were shown me, who

¹ Matt. 6:19-21

were so eagerly striving for the earthly crown, were those who love this world's treasure, and are deceived and flattered with its short-lived attractions. Some I saw who professed to be the followers of Jesus, are so ambitious to obtain earthly treasures, that they lose their love for heaven, act like the world, and are accounted of Heaven as of the world. They profess to be seeking an immortal crown, a treasure in the heavens; but their interest and principal study is to acquire earthly treasures. Those who have their treasures in this world, and love their riches, cannot love Jesus They may think that they are right, and, although they cling to what they have, with a miser's grasp, you cannot make them see it, or feel that they love money more than the cause of truth, or the heavenly treasure.

"If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness," There was a point of time in the experience of such, when the light given them was not cherished, and it became darkness. Said the angel, "Ye cannot love and worship the treasures of earth, and have the true riches."

The young man came to Jesus and said unto him "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"² Jesus gave him his choice, to part with his possessions and have eternal life, or retain them, and lose it. His riches were of greater value to him than the heavenly treasure. The condition, that he must part with his treasures, and give to the poor, in order to be a follower of Christ, and have eternal life, chilled his desire, and he went away sorrowful.

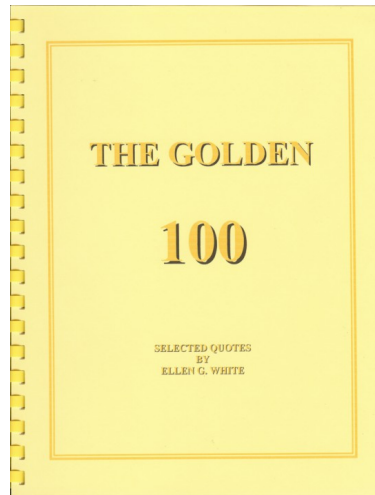
Those who were shown me clamorous for the earthly

crown, were those who will resort to any means to acquire property. They become insane upon that point. Their whole thoughts and energies are directed for earthly riches. They trample upon the rights of others, and oppress the poor, and the hireling in his wages. If they can take advantage of those who are less shrewd, and poorer than they, and manage to increase their riches, they will not hesitate a moment to oppress them, and even see them brought to beggary.

The men whose heads were white with age, and their faces furrowed with care, who were eagerly grasping the treasures within the crown, were the aged who have but a few years before them. Yet they were eager to secure their earthly treasures. The nearer they came to the grave, the more anxious they were to cling to them. Their own relatives were not benefited. The members of their own families were permitted to labor beyond their strength to save a little money. They did not use it for others' good, or for their own. It was enough for them to know that they had it. When their duty to the poor, and the wants of God's cause are presented before them, they are sorrowful. They would gladly accept the gift of everlasting life, but are not willing that it should cost them any thing. The conditions are too hard. But Abraham would not withhold his only son. He could sacrifice this child of promise to obey God more easily than many would sacrifice some of their earthly possessions.

It was painful to see those, who should be ripening for glory, and daily fitting for immortality, exerting all their strength to keep their earthly treasures. Such, I

2.Matt.19:16

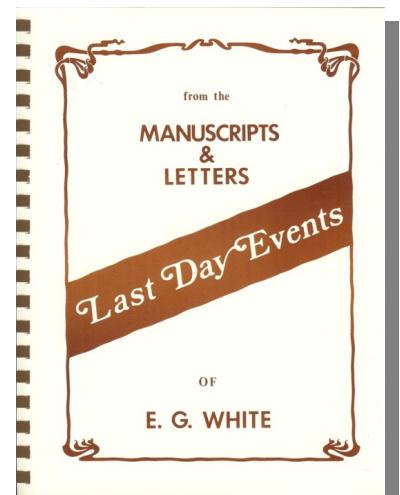


THE GOLDEN 100

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 \$20.00 per copy.



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saw, could not value the heavenly treasure. Their strong affections for the earthly, cause them to show by their works that they do not esteem the heavenly inheritance enough to make any sacrifice for it.

The “young man” manifested a willingness to keep the commandments, yet our Lord told him that he lacked one thing. He desired eternal life, but loved his possessions more. Many are self-deceived. They have not sought for truth as for hid treasures. Their energies and powers are not put to the best account. Their minds, which might be illuminated with heaven’s light, are perplexed and troubled. “The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.”³ “Such,” said the angel, “are without excuse.” I saw the light waning away from them. They did not desire to understand the solemn, important truths for this time, and they thought they were well off without understanding them. Their light went out, and they were groping in darkness.

The multitude of deformed and sickly, pressing for the earthly crown, are those whose interests and treasures are in this world, and, although they are disappointed on every side, they will not place their affections on heaven, and secure to themselves a treasure and home there. They fail of the earthly, yet while in pursuit of it, lose the heavenly. Notwithstanding the disappointment, and unhappy life, and death, of those who were wholly bent upon obtaining earthly riches, others follow the same course in their pursuit for earthly treasures. They rush madly on, disregarding the miserable end of those whose example they are following.

3.Mark 4:19

All those who reached the crown, and possessed a share in it, and who were applauded, are those who obtained that which was the whole aim of their life,—riches. And they received that honor which the world bestows upon those who are rich. They have influence in the world. Satan and his evil angels are satisfied. They know that such are surely theirs, and while they are living in rebellion against God, they are Satan’s powerful agents.

Those who became disgusted with the company clamoring for the earthly crown, are those who have marked the life and end of those striving for earthly riches, and have seen they were never satisfied, that they were unhappy, and they became alarmed, and separated themselves from that unhappy class, and sought the true and durable riches.

Those who were urging their way through the crowd for the heavenly crown, attended by holy angels, were shown me to be God’s faithful people. Angels led them on, and they were inspired with zeal to press forward for the heavenly treasure.

The black balls which were shown me thrown after the saints, were the reproachful falsehoods put in circulation concerning God’s people, by those who love and make a lie. The greatest care should be taken to live a blameless life, and abstain from all appearance of evil, and then move boldly forward, and pay no regard to the reproachful falsehoods of the wicked. While the eyes of the righteous are fixed upon the heavenly, priceless treasure, they will be more and more like Christ, and will be transformed, and fitted for translation.

—Ellen G. White.

Editorial—Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted

“Jesus does not present to His followers the hope of attaining earthly glory and riches, and of having a life free from trial, but He presents to them the privilege of walking with their Master in the paths of self-denial and reproach, because the world knows them not.” MB 29.1

Most of the beatitudes we have covered previously in this editorial series have dealt with Christian character building and our attitude toward self and toward others. In this verse, Christ is talking about our journey to heaven. He tells us that the path will not always be smooth, but if we press on, we will have a forever home in His kingdom as one of His children. He assures us that we will never be alone, for He will always be there with us to show us the way. He will give us the strength to endure any trial and overcome every obstacle the devil may throw in our path. If only we keep our eyes focused on Him and keep looking up.

We know that the path will be rocky, for at the end we are told that only 144,000 living saints will successfully walk with Christ and meet Him at His second coming

without first seeing death. That will be a very small minority compared to the population of the earth at that time. Many other Christians will die in the Lord’s keeping along this path, or be turned and tempted aside by Satan because of its difficulty. Nowhere in the Bible is it promised that the straight and narrow upward path will be smooth and easy to walk, but every one who desires to live in heaven must take this path.

The difficulties along the way will be different for each of us, some small and some great. But we each can lean on our Lord’s arm, claim His protection, and pray and encourage each other to stay strong and keep our eyes on Jesus as we continue to walk ever upward. With every challenge that comes your way, remember that your guardian angel is right beside you. Remember that all of heaven is watching every step you take, hoping to greet you with open arms one day. Trust in your Heavenly Father and your Elder Brother who loves you and gave His all for you. He is able and ready always to help you in every time of

need. He is your Shelter in the time of storm, your Shepherd to guide and protect you along the way. Keep looking up, hold fast in His grace and promises. Heaven will be your home.

**“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
Matthew 5:10.**

Children's Story—Jamie Barton's Garden

"Weeds, weeds; and not much else. I do believe I never saw any garden, that a fellow pretended to take any care of, that looked quite so much out of fix as this does."

Jamie Barton had a great habit of talking to himself; and now both his looks and tones were pretty strongly marked with disgust as he looked over the neglected spot of ground he called his garden.

"Well, well," he went on, heaving a sigh, "I might as well begin at one time as another; and I must say I'm ashamed to have cousin Will come home, and find I have taken so little care of what he was so good to help me about so much." And so Jamie went to work in good earnest, and by-and-by a great pile of weeds in the path showed how zealously he was laboring; while the plants, paler and feebler than was natural for them, but trying hard to stand in martial rows, as though glad to be released from such bad company, seemed to thank him for his efforts.

After a while, he grew tired, and sat down to rest; when a pleasant voice, from over the garden fence greeted him with, "A good morning's work, my boy; but what a pity you had it to do at all!"

"So I've been thinking to myself all the time," said Jamie, frankly, as he met Dr. Weston's pleasant smile. "I ought to have pulled up the weeds when they were smaller."

"Better never have let them grow at all," said the doctor.

"I could help them coming up, could I? The seeds must have been there before I planted my seeds; and I don't see how they could very well help growing."

"Did you keep the ground well stirred?"

"Why, no, sir. I didn't seem to find just the right time; and then I had no idea the weeds would grow so big any way."

"That's just it; you didn't help the good plants to grow, and so the evil ones had all the better chance. If you had kept the ground stirred, the plants would have grown faster, and the weeds would have been hoed up before they hardly started; and so you would have saved all this trouble."

Jamie sat silent, digging his bare toes into the moist earth; and the doctor went on:

"Did you ever think, my boy, how much your heart is like a garden? Little seeds are planted there, seeds of good; and constant care is needed to keep the weeds of evil from growing, and shading the true, rightful plants that ought to grow there. If these weeds are allowed to grow, they tower away up above the fair-blooming plants that ought to fill all the ground, and shut out the sunshine of love that would make everything so beautiful; and the plants grow weak and pale, and need a good deal of attention to make them live and blossom, just as your frail little flower-stalks will, after being

delivered from such a tangle of weeds as you have helped them to escape from this morning. Keep the weeds out of your heart, Jamie; you'll find this much easier than rooting them out after they once get in there."

"I am afraid some have got in there already," Jamie answered, half sadly.

The doctor pointed to the heap of weeds and questioned, "Why did you throw them out there, instead of covering them up in the ground, where they would be out of sight and so trouble no one?"

"Why, they'd root again if I covered them up; and if I throw them out there and let them lie there awhile, the sun will wither them, so that they can't grow any way."

"That's the idea, my little friend; don't cover up your faults, but root them up, and let God's love so shine upon them, till they are so withered there can be no life found in them."

The doctor walked away; and Jamie went on with his work, fully resolved, with God's help, not only to keep the weeds from growing in his garden, but in his heart, too; and to this day, which finds Jamie an earnest Christian merchant, he has never forgotten that morning's lesson, nor ceased striving to profit by it.

—Youth's Instructor Sept 9, 1871

Story—The Squirrel's Right

"Thy commandment is exceeding broad."

Some time since, while walking through a wood, I passed under a large hickory tree. Just then a red squirrel popped up from among some old logs, and, frisking his bushy tail about in a lively manner, went up the tree like a dart.

Ah! thought I, little squirrel, you have a nice store of these nuts laid by somewhere for winter. When I was a boy, I used to find such stores, and the habits of squirrels are alike the world over.

But again, I thought, God made the little squirrels, and this is the way He feeds them. They are creatures of God, and they have rights just as sacred, in their place, as are those of man. Suppose, in some way, I were to be robbed of the store of wheat and vegetables I had laid by for my family's use in the coming winter, would I not think I had been unjustly used, that I had been robbed, that some one was guilty of a theft? Then I thought of the text at the head of this article; and remembered that the commandment says, "Thou shalt not steal." I wonder if it would be stealing to take this little fellow's store? Ah! I would rather add a few ears of corn than to do so. Children, we should respect the rights of all the creatures that God has made, and never wantonly cause them pain or distress, nor deprive them of the life which God only can bestow.

—Youth's Instructor January 1872

Nugget—Whats Are Green Beans Good For?

The Green Bean Scene

Botanical name: Phaseolus vulgaris

A favorite pastime of the summer season is sitting on a porch swing while snapping green beans for dinner. Picking them from the garden is fun, too, whether they're pole beans, which require a stake for support, or bush beans, which don't.

But what are green beans, exactly? These are unripe fruits of different varieties of the Phaseolus vulgaris plant. The beans usually grow 8 to 20 centimeters long, with green, yellow, black or purple shades. Some examples of bean varieties are fava, black, lima, pinto and red kidney.

Green beans are believed to have Mesoamerican origins, with the wild bean supposedly diversifying in South or Central America. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, China, Myanmar and India are the top three producers of green beans as of 2017, with 91.9% of the world's production coming from Asia.

Unfortunately, green beans contain one of the highest pesticide contents across the board. Consumer Reports claim that eating one serving of conventionally grown green beans may be 200 times more unsafe than eating broccoli. This means that if you're planning to add this food to your diet, make sure you only purchase organic produce to minimize your exposure to these harmful chemicals.

To obtain the maximum nutrients from green beans, the George Mateljan Foundation recommends quick steaming, which consists of steaming the green beans with 2 inches of water for about seven minutes. This limits the green beans' exposure to high temperatures, preserving heat-sensitive vitamins, such as vitamin C and vitamin B6.

Health Benefits of Green Beans

If you're looking for a vegetable with stellar amounts of antioxidants and flavonoids, green beans certainly fit the bill. Beans have abundant levels of flavanols, such as catechin, epicatechin and epigallocatechin. According to a 2009 study from the International Journal of Obesity, catechins, together with caffeine, help regulate body weight by controlling the storage of fat. The epicatechin content also offers benefits for people with diabetes by helping reduce blood glucose levels, thereby promoting better insulin sensitivity.

Green beans are a great source of lutein and zeaxanthin, which play important roles

in preserving eye health. These carotenoids may help fight macular degeneration, age-related cataracts, cognition diseases and retinopathy.

Green beans contain considerable amounts of folate (vitamin B9) and other B-vitamins. Folate is well-known for its importance in fetal development and the production of red blood cells. Optimized levels of folate may significantly decrease the risk of neural tube defects in unborn children as well.

Despite these incredible benefits, it's worthwhile to note that raw green beans contain small amounts of lectins, compounds that serve as a defense system of plants. When consumed in high amounts, lectins can cause numerous disorders, such as problems with gut permeability and the microbiome. To protect yourself from these possibly harmful conditions, be sure to only consume green beans in moderate amounts. For more information on how to reduce the lectins from green beans, read "Limit the Lectins."

Green Beans Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 3.5 ounces (100 grams)

Calories 31

	Amt. Per Serving	% Daily Value
Total Fat	0.1g	0%
Saturated Fat	0g	0%
Polyunsaturated Fat	0.1g	
Monounsaturated Fat	0g	
Cholesterol	0mg	0%
Sodium	6mg	0%
Potassium	209mg	5%
Carbohydrate	7g	2%
Dietary Fiber	3.4g	13%
Protein	1.8g	3%
Vitamin A		2%
Vitamin C		27%
Vitamin B-6		5%
Calcium		3%
Iron		5%
Magnesium		6%

Studies on Green Beans

Studies have shown that flavonoids play an important role in reducing the risk of illnesses like cancer and heart disease, while offering a wide range of pharmacological benefits, such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, neuroprotective and antidiabetic effects, to name a few.

A 2006 animal study from The Journal of Nutrition found that a diet rich in green and yellow vegetables may significantly lower the risk for atherosclerosis. The researchers

noted that a diet rich in broccoli, peas, carrots and green beans may help reduce atherosclerosis by up to 38%.

As for food processing and nutrient retention, a 2004 study observed the effect of commercial processing on green beans' vitamin C and phenolic compound levels. It was found that typical processing did not affect vitamin C and folate levels that much, but reduced the antioxidant activity by as much as 20%.

Green Beans Fun Facts

In Blairsville, Georgia, the Green Bean Festival is held every year to celebrate this nutritious vegetable. Activities during the festival include canning contests, green bean pageants and a green bean pizza-eating competition.

Summary

A generous array of antioxidants, flavonoids, minerals, vitamins and plain old Heartland flavor explain the goodness of green beans, one of America's favorite vegetables. Who hasn't tasted the most requested Thanksgiving side dish, green bean casserole?

The catechins, epicatechins, lutein and zeaxanthin in green beans blend together to provide just the right cocktail of nutrients the body needs, especially when combined with other plant-based foods. Green beans are best when steamed to "tender-crisp" to retain most of their vitamins and minerals, along with their vibrant green color and flavor.

—Mercola.com

Referring to his own experience, Paul showed that in choosing the service of Christ he had not been prompted by selfish motives, for his pathway had been beset by trial and temptation. "We are troubled on every side," he wrote, "yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body."

{AA 330.3}

Salvation Series Part 1— The Nature Of Christ

For the next several Newsletters, we will be examining issues that have generated a lot of heated discussion over the past 1,000 years, especially over the past 40 years. These issues are important and inter-related dealing with the salvation of humanity.

Hundreds have argued back and forth over these issues for years. Many have never taken a firm and unwavering position on either side of these questions, while others believe bits and pieces from both sides. Several, having heard these issues being discussed so often, have become numb and have refused to study for themselves in order to know where the correct position is. Others have chosen to ignore these important issues altogether, or have chosen to take the side of their favorite minister, elder, teacher, spouse or relative.

But is it a safe course to pursue—to base our decision on truth—upon the testimony of some other person? Absolutely not.

“If Nathanael had trusted to the rabbis for guidance, he would never have found Jesus. It was by seeing and judging for himself that he became a disciple. So in the case of many today when prejudice withholds from good. How different would be the result if they would ‘come and see.’”

“While they trust to the guidance of human authority, none will come to a saving knowledge of the truth. Like Nathanael, we need to study God’s word for ourselves, and pray for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit... Angels from the world of light are near to those who in humility seek for divine guidance.” *Desire of Ages*, p 140-41.

If we base our decision on what is truth by trusting to the guidance of any other human, whether they are leaders of churches, our favorite minister, or even our spouse, we will never find Jesus. But if we study for ourselves, pleading with God to send His Holy Spirit to us that we might know and understand what is truth, then we will have the divine enlightenment from above necessary to understand the truth. If any rely upon the testimony of another person as to what is truth, they will not obtain salvation because that other person is standing between them and Christ, and thus Christ is shut out of the picture. And so it is in the issues that we will be examining.

These particular issues are vital for salvation, and depending upon what doctrinal position we take will determine whether we have eternal life, or whether we find ourselves in the lake of fire. And if we should choose the side of erroneous doctrine

instead of the side of truth, then we have chosen death for ourselves—which is suicide.

In these important life or death issues, it is not safe for you to base your decisions merely upon your own thinking without any greater authority than that of your own mind. Many have seen the results of following one’s own mind as to what is truth, and the result has been fanaticism and erroneous doctrines which are growing rampant all around us today.

In order to safely discover what is the truth of God we must use the greatest authority available to us. And the greatest authority available is God’s inspired word. God has given us His word as the final and absolute authority as to what is truth in any theological issue or any doctrinal discussion.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...” 2 Timothy 3:16.

So all scripture is given by inspiration of God to do what? To reprove us if we are believing something wrong, to correct our erroneous understanding of what is truth, and to instruct us in the pathways that lead to salvation through righteousness. God’s word is the deciding factor on whether any doctrinal issue is truth or error. And we must do this study for ourselves. We cannot allow anyone else to study for us. We cannot trust to the guidance of anyone else as to what is truth. We must search God’s word for ourselves.

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12.

God has even given all His people a simple test which they can apply to any doctrine to see if it is truth or not!

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20.

It is by “the law”—or the word of God, and by “the testimony” of Jesus—or the Spirit of Prophecy (see Revelation 19:10), that we are to test every doctrine to determine if it is truth or not. If either the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy disagrees

with the doctrine, then there is no light of truth in it! If we will only follow this simple God-given test, and be willing to do God’s will (see John 7:17), then we shall never be led astray in doctrinal error. So in our examination of these salvational, life-dependant issues, we will be able to discover exactly what is truth by testing them all to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

The very first doctrinal issue we are going to examine is the issue of Christ’s nature. The main point at stake with this issue is whether Christ took upon Himself man’s fallen or unfallen nature when He was alive on this earth.

Most all the churches and theologians in the world today, including the SDA church and it’s theologians, teach that Christ took upon Himself the unfallen nature of man, which is the very same nature that angels, and God, and other unfallen beings possess. Others believe that Christ took upon Himself the fallen nature of man. And still others believe that Christ took a combination of both the fallen and the unfallen nature. How can we find out which of these positions is truth and which are error? By going to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy to see which position God declares is truth. So what does God state is the truth in this issue about Christ’s nature? Did Christ take the fallen or the unfallen nature of man?

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” Genesis 3:15.

Christ was this seed of the woman who was to bruise Satan’s head, meaning that He would be superior to, and a conqueror over, the devil (see Galatians 3:16). While Satan was to bruise Christ’s heel, meaning that he would cause Christ severe trials and internal pain—which ultimately would lead to the crucifixion, but he could not be superior to Christ and would not conquer Him.

So Christ was to be born of a woman after the fall, not before the fall. Genesis 3:15 was the message of salvation given to Adam and Eve after sin had already come into the world. So Christ did not take upon Himself the unfallen nature of man, or of the unfallen angels and other sinless beings, but He took upon Himself the nature of man after the fall had occurred.

“For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.” Hebrews 2:16.

“...he (God) raised up upon them (Israel) David to be their king...”

“Of this man’s seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.” Acts 13:22-23.

“Remember that Jesus Christ [is] of the seed of David...” 2 Timothy 2:8.

Not only was Christ born from the seed or lineage of Abraham, but he was also born from the seed or lineage of David, as well as being born of a virgin woman named Mary. And what nature did Abraham, David, and Mary possess in which they must pass on to all of their offspring? It could only be a fallen human nature. So the only nature which Christ could be born with was the fallen human nature which He inherited from Abraham, David, and Mary.

But the Bible is just half the test to determine what is truth in this issue. What does the Spirit of Prophecy declare about Christ’s nature?

“He took on Himself, not the nature of angels, but the nature of man, and in this world lived a life untainted by sin.” Testimonies, vol 8, p 207.

“...(Christ) taking man’s nature in its fallen condition...” Selected Messages, book 1, p 256.

“Christ, the spotless Son of God, honored humanity by taking upon himself fallen human nature.” Review and Herald, September 29, 1896 (vol 3, p 397).

“...the divine Son of God, who had, with unprecedented self-denial, and love for the creatures formed in His image, come from heaven and assumed their fallen nature...” SDA Bible Commentary, vol 5, p 1150.

When Christ came to this earth, He took upon Himself our fallen nature and not the unfallen nature. And He did so out of love for you and me.

“Notwithstanding that the sins of a guilty world were laid upon Christ, notwithstanding the humiliation of taking upon Himself our fallen nature, the voice from heaven declared Him to be the Son of the Eternal.” Desire of Ages, p 112.

So when Christ took upon Himself our fallen nature, it was a great humiliation, not an honor.

“Jesus also told them (angels) that they would have a part to act, to be with Him and at different times strengthen Him; that He would take man’s fallen nature, and His strength would not be even equal with theirs...” Early Writings, p 150-51.

Christ exhibited unprecedented self-denial and humiliation by taking upon Himself the fallen nature of sinful man! In this condition, His strength was not even equal to the strength of angels! Yet, some will argue that the words “fallen nature” refer only to the form of man after sin, and does not refer to the real inward nature of

man which fell after sin. But what does God state about this belief?

“It was in the order of God that Christ should take upon himself the form and nature of fallen man...” Spirit of Prophecy, vol 2, p 39.

Thus Christ did not just take upon Himself the form of man, but He also took the inward nature of man after the fall. Christ did indeed become one with us in this same fallen nature. What a marvel! Yet still others will argue that the fallen human nature which Christ took upon Himself was somehow shielded from being contaminated or defiled with sin; that it was somehow supernaturally protected when He was born of Mary. But did Christ really unify our sinful nature with His sinless nature?

“He (Christ) took upon Him our sinful nature.” Review and Herald, December 15, 1896 (vol 3, p 421).

“He took upon Himself fallen suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin.” SDA Bible Commentary, vol 4, p 1147.

“Christ did in reality unite the offending nature of man with His own sinless nature...” Review and Herald, July 17, 1900 (vol 4, p 201).

“Though He had no taint of sin upon His character, yet He condescended to connect our fallen human nature with His divinity. By thus taking humanity, He honored humanity. Having taken our fallen nature, he showed what it might become...” Selected Messages, book 3, p 134.

Thus Christ took upon Himself our fallen nature, degraded and defiled by sin. And in doing so, He has honored humanity! So the fallen, sinful, human nature which Christ took upon Himself was just like the fallen, sinful human nature that you and I possess.

“The human nature of Christ was like unto ours...” Signs of the Times, December 9, 1897 (vol 3, p 436).

“Jesus assumed humanity... making all feel that His identification with their nature and interest is complete.” 1895 General Conference Bulletin, p 338.

“The majesty of heaven held not Himself aloof from degraded, sinful humanity.” Testimonies, vol 5, p 346.

“He humbled Himself that He might meet fallen men where they were...” Review and Herald, July 21, 1891 (vol 2, p 506).

So the nature that Christ voluntarily took upon Himself was completely like unto ours, brothers and sisters. It was no different. Jesus did not hold Himself away from our fallen, sinful nature, but He came and took our sinful nature upon His sinless nature so that He could become one with us. But what an infinite cost to Christ! What humiliation he endured and bore! What a depth of amazing love is here shown for us! But

why? Why would the Son of God come down to this dark world, cursed with the stain of sin, and take upon Himself the fallen, sinful, defiled, offending, degraded human nature of man?

“Jesus laid aside his robes of royalty, stepped down from his eternal throne, clothed his divinity with humanity, and for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might become rich. Rich in money? in lands? in bank-stock?—No; that we might secure eternal riches. There is no salvation except that which comes through Christ. He came to earth to lift up the fallen. With his human arm he encircles the race, while with his divine arm he grasps the throne of the infinite, thus connecting finite man to the infinite God, and uniting earth to heaven.” Review and Herald, October 27, 1885 (vol 1, p 557).

Christ took upon Himself our fallen, sinful nature so that He could unite divinity with humanity, that He might then bring us into connection with the infinite God, so that we might secure eternal riches instead of eternal loss. But there is another reason why Christ took upon Himself our fallen, sinful nature.

“The Son of God does indeed call men, uniting them with Him as brethren, conferring upon them the honor of divine sonship. What wonderful condescension on the part of Christ. He became our elder brother, that we might become sons and daughters of God. We have been bought with a price—and what a price! Christ volunteered to come to this earth and stand at the head of fallen human beings, who were heirs of guilt, under sentence of eternal death. We must have perished had He not borne our guilt and the wrath of God.” Manuscript Releases, vol 12, p 61.

So Christ took upon Himself our sinful nature so that He could become our Elder Brother, and thus we could become the sons and daughters of God in order to escape the sentence of death. Christ volunteered to reach His human hand down to where you and I were in the pit of woe, so that He might lift us up, bear our penalty for sin which we deserved to suffer, and with His divine hand bring us into direct connection with His, and our, Father. That is why we are told:

“The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God.” Our High Calling, p 48.

That is why understanding that Christ really took upon Himself our fallen, sinful, defiled human nature is essential to salvation. This is the truth that binds our souls through Christ to God our Father. If Christ took an unfallen nature or a

combination of fallen and unfallen, than we have no tie that will bind us through Christ to our Father, because Christ would not be able to reach you and me since we only possess a fallen nature!

If we choose to believe differently that what God declares is the truth as seen above, and believe that Christ did not take upon Himself our fallen, suffering, sinful human nature; if we choose to believe that He did not live through this nature while He was on this earth, then how can our souls be bound to God through Christ? With this belief, we would have no Saviour to look to help us in our time of great temptation because Christ would not know from experience what we were going through because He would be on a scale different from you and me and thus could not help us escape from sin's grasp. Then He could not really be our Elder Brother who would know from experience how to guide us, and thus He could not be a personal Saviour to save us from sin and death. Christ would be robbed and stripped away from us by our choice to believe differently than what God has already declared is the truth, and we would be lost by this choice of ours—which is suicide. If Christ did not really take our fallen, sinful nature upon Himself, then we will all perish in our sins!

Brothers and sisters, do not allow any person or doctrine to cause you to lose your personal Saviour! It is only by looking to Jesus Christ that we find the way of salvation, a way of escape and freedom from the degradation that sin has brought us, and a way to commune with our Father and escape eternal destruction. But what humiliation Christ had to endure by taking our fallen, sinful nature in order to reach us where we were!

"It was the marvel of all the universe that Christ should humble Himself to save fallen man. That He who had passed from star to star, from world to world, superintending all, by His providence supplying the needs of every order of being in His vast creation—that He should consent to leave His glory and take upon Himself human nature, was a mystery which the sinless intelligences of other worlds desired to understand." Patriarchs and Prophets, p 69.

"Our Saviour purchased the human race by humiliation of the very severest kind. He, the Majesty of heaven, disrobed Himself of His glory, and clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might pass through what humanity must pass through." Review and Herald, October 23, 1900 (vol 4, p 229).

What type of humiliation? A humiliation of the very severest kind. Christ, the majesty of heaven, voluntarily stripped Himself of His glory and clothed His divinity with

humanity so that He might pass through what humanity passes through! That is why the humanity of Christ means everything to us. To know and understand that Christ took our fallen, sinful nature upon Himself is the link that binds us to the Father through Jesus. **WE HAVE A SAVIOUR THAT CAN INDEED SAVE US FROM SIN AND DEATH—BECAUSE HE KNOWS, FROM EXPERIENCE, WHAT WE ARE GOING THROUGH!** If you choose to believe in the other doctrine, then there is no hope of salvation from sin and death for you.

Those who refuse to believe that Christ did in reality take upon Himself our fallen, sinful, human nature and lived as one of us through this nature, will not stop at this wrong conclusion alone, but will be led to adopt other wrong conclusions as well in other essential aspects of truth. Thus they will continue to head down the wrong pathway which ends in eternal destruction. This issue of Christ's nature is the great key which allows us to determine what is truth in other salvational doctrines as well.

"In our conclusions, we make many mistakes because of our erroneous views of the human nature of our Lord." Our High Calling, p 48.

But this raises the question: How could Christ save us from sin and death by just taking our fallen, sinful, defiled human nature upon Himself? There must be another reason why He had to endure such humiliation in order to accomplish our salvation.

"Christ assumed our fallen nature, and was subject to every temptation to which man is subject." Manuscript Releases, vol 17, p 29.

"What love! What amazing condescension! The King of glory proposes to humble Himself to fallen humanity! He would place His feet in Adam's steps. He would take man's fallen nature, and engage to cope with the strong foe who triumphed over Adam. He would overcome Satan, and in thus doing He would open the way for the redemption from the disgrace of Adam's failure and fall, of all those who would believe on Him." God's Amazing Grace, p 23.

So Christ voluntarily took upon Himself our fallen, sinful nature that He might be subject to every temptation upon which you and I are subjected to. What love is this, brothers and sisters! Christ, who knew no sin, was willing to come down to the lowest point of humanity so that he could endure Satan's fierce temptations, overcome him, and thus provide you and me with a way of escape from sin and death! What amazing condescension on the part of our Saviour! What stupendous and limitless love and self-

sacrifice is shown to us all! And yet many today are not even willing to give up their petty erroneous doctrinal views in order to be in complete harmony with the truth and their loving Saviour.

But praise God that Jesus did indeed take our sinful, fallen nature so that He could be subjected to and experience every temptation to which you and I are subjected to, in order to overcome the devil and provide a way for all mankind to be redeemed from sin and brought back into connection with our loving Father with the chance of eternal life once again! May all God's creation raise their voices and praise Him that sitteth on the throne for ever and ever!

This then brings us to the next salvational issue which we will examine in our next Newsletter—on the issue of Christ's flesh.

—Robert Sessler

**But I say unto you,
Love your enemies, bless
them that curse you, do
good to them that hate
you,
and pray for them which
despitefully
use you,
and persecute you;
Matthew 5:44**

Recipe—Spanish Rice

1 Cup Raw Brown Rice
1 ½ Cup Water
1 ½ Cup blended, Stewed Tomatoes
1 Clove Garlic, Whole
1 Bay leaf
1 t. Chicken-style seasoning
¼ t. Cumin
¼ t. Onion powder
¼ t. Paprika

Toast rice in a dry skillet over medium heat, stirring constantly, until lightly browned.

Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove bay leaf and garlic clove before serving. Serves 6

Recipes From The Weimar Kitchen
Revised 1992 Edition
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Letters—Uganda

Uganda

Dear ones,

Heb. 6:10-11

“We are living in the closing scenes of this earth’s history. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The hours of probation are fast passing. We have no time—not a moment—to lose. Let us not be found sleeping on guard.” 8T 252.4. From March 18 – Sept. 20, 2020 has gone to record for our governments to control public gatherings with the aim curbing Covid19 pandemic but the end of it was putting off public worship for mutual edification in fellowships and casting a deep rift to the chosen remnant and their creator.

Human behavior has been greatly subjected to control of rulers of this world (beasts) rather than casting their strong trust in their maker who offers simple remedies for life in this bothered world; seemingly boosting immunity of the body antidote and cure ill-health. I have experienced this in our country, Uganda, where plenty of natural food is within the proximity of the very poor to afford a fruit every other day giving our people high recoveries of Covid19 case, with less deaths.

I have been on a daily home visit to our brethren warning ourselves and one another of the sin and danger of backsliding brought about by the slogan of ‘social distance and Stay home;’ to put ourselves and our fellow-Christians to mind about our duties and of our failures to watch over one another, and be jealous of ourselves and one another with a godly jealousy. This is a true gospel spirit, and most cordial Christian friendship to observe by in these approaching times of trial. Diet reform has been one of our main

topics handled in our home visits that a daily taking of warm water with lemons, ginger and with foods rich in vitamins, care very much needed costing less than \$1 are of great benefit to the very poor we live with. Scientific advise and knowledge had hit a snag other than squaring to biblical verse of *Gen. 1:29* to sustain life during this Corona virus season. This has taken a lot of our efforts alerting souls to learn to live with the pandemic. Both Christians and non Christians have gained and benefited from our outreaches.

“Individually and as a people we have a most solemn work before us. There is a daily preparation of heart and mind to be gained in order that we may be fitted to work out the purposes of God for us. The perils of the last days are upon us, and at this time we are each determining what our destiny for eternity shall be. Individually we are to form characters that will stand the test of the judgment. Individually we are to give, in the church where we are, an example of faithfulness and consecration.” UL 274.2

A big platform has been created by circumstances to enable many of us to share the present truth at the real time if need and want by human race. I call upon my brethren to come to the help of the Lord against the mighty rulers of this world because there is a heaven to win, and a hell to shun. There are deep, earnest lessons for us to learn, else “self” - Lucifer’s will be our center to drive us; the beast controlling power imposed on our conscience and lives to derail our free will. The duty presents a vigilant working and absolute honesty in waiting to view the solemn event of our Lord’s second coming. Working, watching, and praying,—these constitute the ideal of a Christian hope and

responsibility to make a perfect man in Christ Jesus.

I did create a group of brethren to share with the present day prophetic events rolling over pointing to soon return of our redeemer on social media increasing growing faster and mainly from Africa so that we can arose the underprivileged souls inside deep rural settings. Many of our people dare to receive the good news depicted from mushrooming independent churches in search for the truth.

We have a lot information to pass out from the Bible prophecy which lie as a hidden treasure awaiting Bible scholars to dig out and flash it to others so they can get a grip on our Saviour. For these reasons I did request for a special lesson on every Saturday late evening Pacific time and Sunday morning Greenwich timings for African brethren. Some of us who attend have been influenced by it to better levels of understanding prophecy than before.

It is our privilege to have the lock-down partially lifted in Uganda and allow calculated movements thus allowing to have opportunities of passing out tracts and booklets so that those who can read may digest for themselves our message. I have many requests and unmeasurable demands for our tracts and booklets. I pray for any donation towards the printing for the same material as the Lord may provide. I have in mind to get a publishing location for the great work ahead of us comprising a Riso, Printer and Server computer, a desk plus printing essentials to have the region be supplied with the present truth message worthy \$5000

I thank you for the continual support without which it would be impossible to write what the Lord enables us to accomplish.

God bless you

N J.

My brother, remember that this earth is not heaven.

Christ has declared: “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

John 16:33; Matthew 5:10-12. { 8T 127.3}

Two Ways — Youth's Instructor, January 1872

"Broad is the road that leads to death,
And thousands walk together there,
But wisdom shows a narrow path,
With here and there a traveler."

As there are two ways, one leading upward to Heaven, the other downward to destruction, so there are in these ways, respectively, two classes. Of the future condition of each, the great God has himself spoken of the one in language as follows: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your destruction or fear cometh as desolation, and your cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer they shall seek me early, but they shall not; find me; for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord; they would none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof; therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them."

Dear youth, read carefully these words, and consider their fearful import. They doubtless refer to the time of trouble spoken of elsewhere in the Bible, and which is but a little in the future a fearful time. Probation then has closed; the voice of mercy ceased; and those who have neglected to heed its call, are left exposed to the plagues of Jehovah's wrath which are falling upon them. The only one who could afford them relief regards them with contempt, and refuses to answer their agonizing cries for help. Oh! consider this ere it shall be too late, and try to realize how wretched will be the condition of such. And you who shrink from bearing the cross through fear of the scorn and contempt of your fellow-mortals, who lack the moral courage to stand nobly and firmly for the right in the face of earth's frown, think what will be your feelings when you shall be thus regarded by the great God. Place the picture before you in all its terribleness? Let your imagination dwell upon it. It cannot be overdrawn.

I will not—I must fail should I attempt a description of that awful day. I shudder at the thought of being without a shelter then; and while I resolve that I will secure one, I pray God that I may have a disposition to do what I can to induce others to do the same.

Especially do I feel for you, dear youth. Satan will spare no pains to lead your inexperienced feet astray. He will leave no means untried to secure your ruin. The terribly bewitching, fascinating power of sin will drown many in perdition. Oh! take heed to the warnings and reproofs that have been given, and be ever ready to listen to the advice and counsel of those of experience, who earnestly desire your salvation. Let not the foolish idea of self sufficiency, so prevalent among the youth of these days, enter your minds. This is a most successful device of the great enemy. Try to realize your dependence upon God, and eagerly embrace, and be thankful for, any means by which you may obtain a knowledge of his will. His grace is sufficient, and you may overcome if you will. You may shun the unhappy condition above described, and be found with that other class to whom refer the words following those already quoted. "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Prov. 1:33. To this class applies the beautiful language of the 91st Psalm. Notice particularly the last three verses: "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation." How full of tenderness and paternal affection! The language in each instance is expressive of our Heavenly Father's love and care for the children of men, as well as its threatenings of punishment for sin and in its warnings against the fate of the ungodly as in its promises of protection, deliverance, and final salvation to those who take good heed thereto.

But to many the conditions of this promise, or rather the reasons upon which it is based, may seem difficult to comply with; and it is true that the carnal mind is enmity against God, and that unaided by the Holy Spirit, we may realize much of his goodness, and yet not love him as we ought. And here we may admire the generous liberality and magnanimity of the plan of salvation, in that we are not only invited to accept of pardon, but God has graciously extended to us in our lost and ruined condition an arm which is mighty to save, and it remains for us in all our helplessness to cast ourselves upon him, and to be perfectly submissive to his will to ground the weapons of our rebellion.

And right here the battle commences.

The old man yet lives and now struggles for existence. But having taken this one step in the right direction, we may confidently expect that God will regard our earnest prayer for help, and thus, strong in his strength, by denying, thus crucifying self, we may go on from victory unto conquest, with every step our love for God increasing, until we shall know by happy experience that "wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace." Then what a victory we have achieved. Love becomes the mainspring of our actions, and from being tedious and irksome the service of God becomes our delight. The rapidity of our progress must depend altogether upon the earnestness of our prayers and the perseverance with which we watch thereunto. We should meditate much upon the goodness of God to us.

This must be a daily work; for our Saviour says: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23. The sure, though lingering, and sometimes extremely painful, death of the old man by crucifixion thus continually going on, he becomes so weakened as to offer but little resistance. The most troublesome of our foes being subdued, the world and Satan, by the aid of our great Commander, are easily vanquished, and the victory is complete.

Dear young friends, this is no fiction. With this difference, that in the warfare in which we are engaged, the right must surely prevail, and those who stand nobly in defense of the right must be victorious, though it may not be against flesh and blood, nor the weapons of our warfare carnal, it is as truly a warfare as any ever engaged in by man. On to its final issue the rapidly revolving wheels of time are swiftly bearing us. With one or the other of the parties engaged each of us must there be found; either with those who have despised the counsel and reproof that God has given, or with those who have manifested their love to him by faithful obedience; either having neglected to make God our friend and refuge, standing unprotected beneath the plague of his unmingled wrath, or hid in the secret of his pavilion; either mourning in unutterable anguish our awful and hopeless doom, or rejoicing with joy equally great at the prospect of a speedy and glorious deliverance. Oh! that God would arouse our dormant senses that we may realize that there is a reality in these things, that we may not neglect the needful preparation, but be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

—John Q. Foy. *Madison County, Fl*

Christian Service Chapter 13—Continued

Chapter 14 —Religious Liberty

Circulate Without Discrimination

There are many places in which the voice of the minister cannot be heard, places which can be reached only by publications,—the books, papers, and tracts that are filled with the Bible truth that the people need. Our literature is to be distributed everywhere. The truth is to be sown beside all waters; for we know not which shall prosper, this or that. In our erring judgment we may think it unwise to give literature to the very ones who would accept the truth most readily. We know not what may be the good results of giving away a leaflet containing present truth. {ChS 153.2}

Treasure Every Fragment

In the miracle of feeding the multitude with a few loaves and fishes, the food was increased as it passed from Christ to those who received it. Thus it will be in the distribution of our literature. God's truth, as it is passed out, will multiply greatly. And as the disciples, by Christ's direction, gathered up the fragments, that nothing might be lost, so we should treasure every fragment of literature containing the truth for this time. None can estimate the influence that even a torn page containing the truths of the third angel's message may have upon the heart of some seeker after truth. ChS 153.3}

Establish Depositories

In every important place there should be a depository for publications. And some one who really appreciates the truth should manifest an interest to get these books into the hands of all who will read. {ChS 154.1}

Angels Prepare the Way

I saw that the work of present truth should engage the interest of all. The publication of truth is God's ordained plan, as a means of warning, comforting, reproving, exhorting, or convicting all to whose notice the silent, voiceless messengers may be brought. Angels of God have a part to act in preparing hearts to be sanctified by the truths published, that they may be prepared for the solemn scenes before them. {ChS 154.2}

Chapter 14 - Religious Liberty

An Appropriate Prayer

David prayed, "It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law." This prayer is no less pertinent at the present time. The world has gone astray from God, and its lawless state should strike terror to the heart, and lead all who are loyal to the great King to work for a reformation. The papal power has thought to change the law of God by substituting a spurious Sabbath for that of Jehovah; and all through the religious world the false sabbath is revered, while the true one is trampled beneath unholy feet. {ChS 155.1}

It is on the law of God that the last great struggle of the controversy between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels will come, and it will be decisive for all the world... Men in responsible positions will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, but from the sacred desk will urge upon the people the observance of the first day of the week, pleading tradition and custom in behalf of this man-made institution. They will point to calamities on land and sea—to the storms of wind, the floods, the earthquakes, the destruction by fire—as judgments indicating God's displeasure because Sunday is not sacredly observed. These calamities will increase more and more, one disaster will follow close upon the heels of another; and those who make void the law of God will point to the few who are keeping the Sabbath of the fourth commandment as the ones who are bringing wrath upon the world. This falsehood is Satan's device that he may ensnare the unwary. {ChS 155.2}

Coming Events

Our people have been regarded as too insignificant to be worthy of notice; but a change will come. The Christian world is now making movements which will necessarily bring commandment-keeping people into prominence. There is a constant supplanting of God's truth by the theories and false doctrines of human origin. Movements are being set on foot to enslave the consciences of those who would be loyal to God. The law-making powers will be against God's people. Every soul will be tested. {ChS 155.3}

Men will exalt and rigidly enforce laws that are in direct opposition to the law of God. Though zealous in enforcing their own commandments, they will turn away from a

plain "Thus saith the Lord." Exalting a spurious rest day, they will seek to force men to dishonor the law of Jehovah, the transcript of His character. Though innocent of wrongdoing, the servants of God will be given over to suffer humiliation and abuse at the hands of those who, inspired by Satan, are filled with envy and religious bigotry. {ChS 156.1}

Religious powers, allied to heaven by profession, and claiming to have the characteristics of a lamb, will show by their acts that they have the heart of a dragon, and that they are instigated and controlled by Satan. The time is coming when God's people will feel the hand of persecution because they keep holy the seventh day... But God's people are to stand firm for Him. And the Lord will work in their behalf, showing plainly that He is the God of gods. {ChS 156.2}

Every indignity, reproach, and cruelty that Satan could instigate human hearts to devise, has been visited upon the followers of Jesus. And it will be again fulfilled in a marked manner; for the carnal heart is still at enmity with the law of God, and will not be subject to its commands. The world is no more in harmony with the principles of Christ today than it was in the days of the apostles. The same hatred that prompted the cry, "Crucify Him! crucify Him!" the same hatred that led to the persecution of the disciples, still works in the children of disobedience. The same spirit which in the Dark Ages consigned men and women to prison, to exile, and to death, which conceived the exquisite torture of the Inquisition, which planned and executed the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and which kindled the fires of Smithfield, is still at work with malignant energy in unregenerate hearts. The history of truth has ever been the record of a struggle between right and wrong. The proclamation of the gospel has ever been carried forward in this world in the face of opposition, peril, loss, and suffering. {ChS 156.3}

The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects; he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his

triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God. All will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law. Those who will be true to God and to duty will be betrayed “both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends.” {ChS 157.1}

The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands, and conformed to worldly customs, will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross... Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness. Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ’s righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness. {ChS 157.2}

There is a prospect before us of a continued struggle at the risk of imprisonment, loss of property, and even of life itself, to defend the law of God, which is made void by the laws of men. {ChS 157.3}

The time is hastening on when those who stand in defense of the truth will know by experience what it means to be a partaker in Christ’s sufferings. The great oppressor sees that he has but a short time in which to work, that soon he will lose his hold upon man and his power be taken from him, and he is working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish. Superstition and error are trampling upon truth, justice, and equity. Every power that is antagonistic to truth is strengthening. {ChS 157.4}

The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity, she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding, circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld, must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith, and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending. These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren, and to excite indignation against them. This day is

just before us. The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges. {ChS 158.1}

The Protestant world today see in the little company keeping the Sabbath a Mordecai in the gate. His character and conduct, expressing reverence for the law of God, are a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord, and are trampling upon His Sabbath; the unwelcome intruder must by some means be put out of the way. {ChS 158.2}

Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals, they will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a “Thus saith the Scriptures” to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law... On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. {ChS 158.3}

Persecution Essential

When they were scattered by persecution, they went forth filled with missionary zeal. They realized the responsibility of their mission. They knew that they held in their hands the bread of life for a famishing world; and they were constrained by the love of Christ to break this bread to all who were in need. {ChS 159.1}

God means that testing truth shall be brought to the front, and become a subject of examination and discussion, even if it is through the contempt placed upon it. The minds of the people must be agitated. Every controversy, every reproach, every slander, will be God’s means of provoking inquiry, and awakening minds that otherwise would

slumber. {ChS 159.2}

Why Persecution Slumbers

The apostle Paul declares that “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” Why is it, then, that persecution seems in a great degree to slumber? The only reason is, that the church has conformed to the world’s standard, and therefore awakens no opposition. The religion which is current in our day is not of the pure and holy character that marked the Christian faith in the days of Christ and His apostles. It is only because of the spirit of compromise with sin, because the great truths of the Word of God are so indifferently regarded, because there is so little vital godliness in the church, that Christianity is apparently so popular with the world. Let there be a revival of faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires of persecution will be rekindled. {ChS 159.3}

Threefold Persecuting Union

Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of Spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience. {ChS 160.1}

The Last Act in the Drama

The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. — Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 141. {ChS 160.2}

When our nation shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery; it will be nothing else than giving life to the tyranny which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to spring again into active despotism. {ChS 160.3}