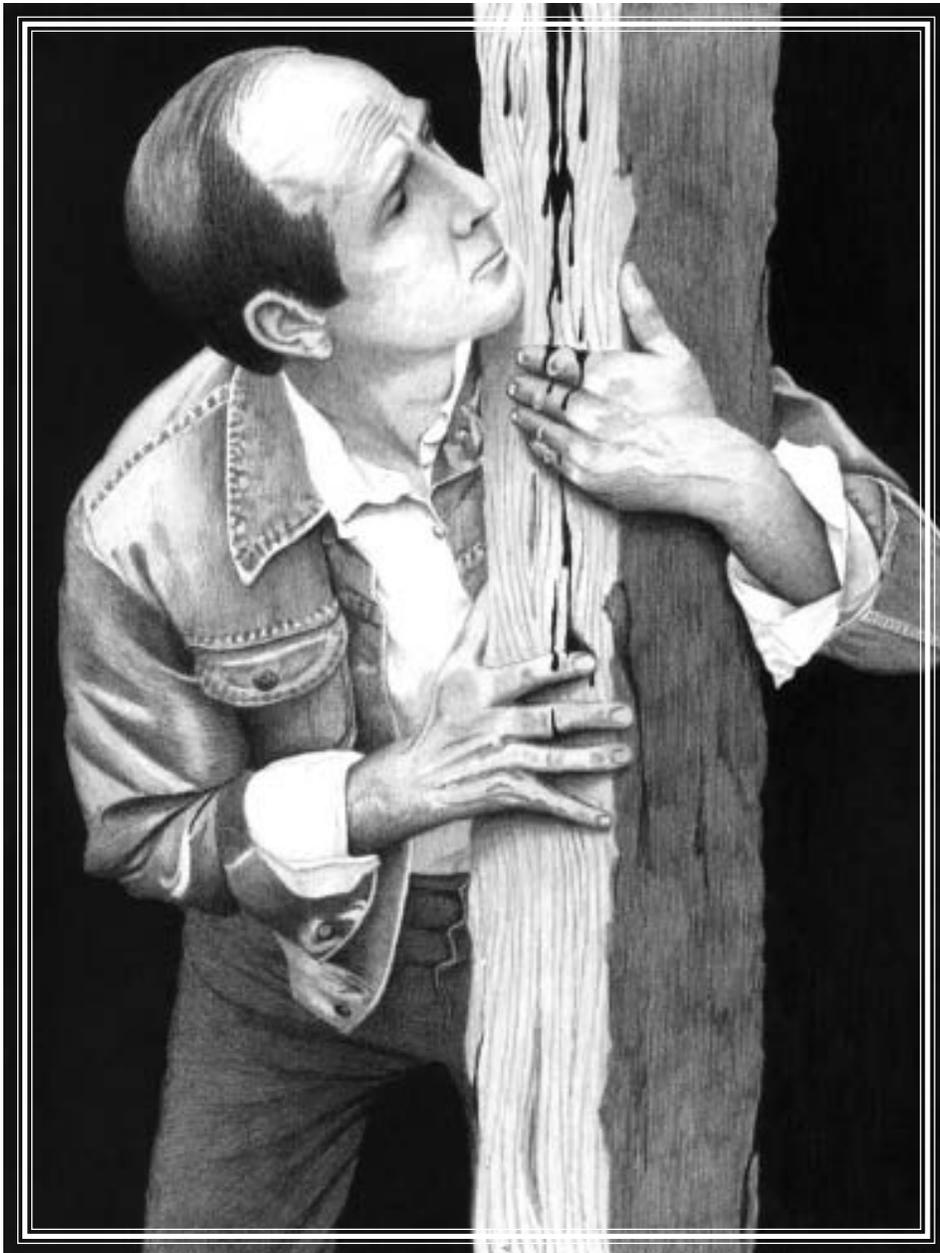


The Sabbath Herald

Where There Is No Vision The People Perish

The Seventh-day Sabbath • Three Angels' Messages • The Seventh-day Adventist Church
Immutable Law of God • The Spirit of Prophecy • The Sanctuary



Hold Fast To His Promises

Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is: and let the Lord God be witness against you, the Lord from His holy temple. For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of His place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth. Micah 1:2, 3.

October 6, 2015



The Purpose of The Sabbath Herald

The purpose of *The Sabbath Herald* is to bring back the basic principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to the people. These distinctive beliefs set her apart from the world. God designed His people to be a peculiar people in the world but not of the world.

“God has a church upon the earth, who are His chosen people, who keep His commandments. He is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people. There is no need to doubt, to be fearful that the work will not succeed. God is at the head of the work, and He will set everything in order. If matters need adjusting at the head of the work, God will attend to that, and work to right every wrong. Let us have faith that God is going to

carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port.” *Maranatha*, p.129.

We believe this Remnant Church of Bible prophecy has been brought into existence by the calling of the Lord and we look for its final triumph in purity at the Second Coming of Christ. The Word of God says all will be sifted and tried, and though the greater portion will fail the test, there will yet remain a remnant to honor the Lord by their obedience to all His commands. Therefore, *The Sabbath Herald* urges upon all the duty of supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church in every way possible, as is consistent with the principles of the government of God and the leading of His Holy Spirit upon the heart.

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VICTORY OVER SIN —HOW?

Part 1

By Dennis Priebe

On September 5, 1974 the editorial page of the *Review and Herald* addressed one of the most important problems facing Christians in a secular world. Kenneth Wood's comments deserve our thoughtful attention.

Perhaps the most serious danger that threatens the church is that it will lose its uniqueness, that it will become like the world around it, that its schools, its medical institutions, its methods of promotion, its literature, its standards of measuring success, will be scarcely distinguishable from those of the secular world.

Yet few people in the church seem concerned about this danger. Too many measure success merely by gains in tithes and membership. They are confident that all is well with our educational institutions as long as enrollments are increasing and accrediting bodies are pleased. They seem satisfied with our hospitals so long as their bed-occupancy rate is high and their budgets are balanced. They are content with our literature so long as it sells well and is appreciated by readers.

When anyone raises questions as to whether spiritual values are being given sufficient emphasis, whether our literature is distinctively Adventist, or whether an institution is being operated in harmony

with God's revealed will, often he is considered a gadfly, a negative influence, or a fanatic. Few people in the church welcome criticism, even though it be constructive. Most would rather be told that everything is going well, that conditions may not be perfect but they are the best they have ever been.

How right the True Witness was when He charged Laodicea with feeling self-satisfied and in need of nothing. But it is important to keep in mind that the church may operate institutions that meet worldly standards but not God's standards. The church may give the appearance of being enormously successful and still be a failure. Burgeoning financial and membership statistics may be accompanied by a sharp decline in spirituality. Employees in denominational institutions may be efficient but not spiritual.

Some time ago we were startled by several passages in a book entitled *Keys to the Deeper Life*, by A. W. Tozer, a consecrated non-Adventist Christian. In the book the author declared: "The separating line between the church and the world has been all but obliterated. Aside from a few of the grosser sins, the sins of the unregenerated world are now approved by a shocking number of professedly 'born-again' Christians and copied eagerly. Young Christians take as their models the rankest kind of worldlings and try to be as much like them as possible. Religious leaders have adopted the techniques of the advertisers; boasting, baiting and shameless exaggerating are now carried on as a normal procedure in church work. The moral climate is not that of the New Testament, but that of Hollywood and Broadway. Most evangelicals no longer initiate; they imitate, and the world is their model." p. 16.

Is this indictment too harsh? We think not. Too many Christians are aping the world in appearance and conduct. They imitate rather than initiate. They bring secular techniques into the church to carry forward the work of God.

Perhaps Mr. Tozer described Laodicea best when he said: "Religious work can be done by natural men without the gifts of the Spirit, and it can be done well and skillfully. But work designed for eternity can only be done by the eternal Spirit. No work has eternity in it unless it is done by the Spirit through gifts He has Himself implanted in the souls of redeemed men... Spiritually gifted persons are ominously few among us. When we so desperately need leaders with the gift

(Continued) Victory Over Sin—How?

of discernment, for instance, we do not have them and are compelled to fall back upon the techniques of the world. This frightening hour calls aloud for men with the gift of prophetic insight. Instead we have men who conduct surveys, polls, and panel discussions.” —Ibid., p. 40, 41.

Can religious work be done skillfully and well by natural men? Yes. Physicians can treat diseases. Surgeons can perform operations. Teacher’s can teach. Promoters can promote. Pressmen can run presses. Nurses can care for the sick. Secretaries can manage offices. Editors can edit. Layout artists can create clever designs for magazines. Administrators can manage and direct. Treasurers can handle finances. And on, and on. All of these activities may be carried forward by natural men.

The difference between a “natural” man and a “spiritual” man is made quite clear in 1 Corinthians 2:11-16 (also in Rom. 8:1-14). “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him.” 1 Cor. 2:14.

The natural man sees no necessity for yielding to and following implicitly the counsel from God’s Spirit as set forth in the Bible or in the writings of Ellen White. The natural man sees no great danger in deviating slightly from the express will of God. By contrast, the spiritual man distrusts self, and seeks earnestly to do God’s work in God’s way. Thus, if natural men are in positions of leadership in God’s work, the church is in peril.

What, then, is one need of Laodicea? That all leaders, all workers, all employees of the remnant church shall be spiritual men, not natural men.... What will be our response? Will we continue to excuse our deficiencies, and proclaim our lack of any need? Or will we repent? While we make up our minds, Jesus stands at the door and waits. This editorial gets right to the heart of the spiritual problems we face as end-time Christians. We have become very adept at being natural men and women. We have learned how to get a job, how to pass tests, and how to get things done in a natural world using natural methods. I am afraid that we have also become quite proficient in being religious and running a church using natural methods. Today our desperate need is to know how to be spiritual men and women. Not only is this the key to the kingdom of heaven, but it is the key to success in

God’s church on earth.

We are all born natural men and women. We must be reborn spiritual men and women. The only question that should matter to us is, How can we be spiritual men and women? We know what we should be, but our focus needs to be on the simple question, How? There are three principles we must remember if we want to really become spiritual men and women.

Principle #1 — God Is On Our Side

The following story was told by Dick Winn in 1984 in a Weimar Institute newspaper. Even though we were all too young to drive, we found the car to be too enticing to leave alone. Tom’s dad had gotten it for him—a 1930 Chevrolet Coupe with a Jackrabbit clutch—to keep him working under the hood and out

a 1930 Chevrolet Coupe with a Jackrabbit clutch—to keep him working out of mischief. . .

of mischief until he was legally licensed to drive it on the roads. But when my brother, Larry, and I got together with our boyhood buddy, Tom, there wasn’t much that could keep us out of mischief. And although we hardly knew which end of the wrench to hold, we managed, one idle Sunday afternoon, to bring the old Chevy to life. That sturdy cast-iron “Blue Flame 6” snorted and popped, then settled into a smooth rumble that shot fire into our blood. We literally danced around the open hood, thumping each other on the back, and grinning an unspoken agreement that we would not shut it off until we felt its power from behind the wheel.

We eyed Tom’s long gravel driveway, and the plan went into action. Tom, of course, had first dibs on the driver’s seat. His neighbor jumped in next to him. Larry and I took up stations on the running boards. Tom found reverse, and—scattering gravel against the rear fenders—bolted down the driveway backwards. We took turns behind the wheel: one trip down the drive in reverse, then returning in low gear. As we became more bold, we graduated to second gear half-way up the drive. By late afternoon, this straight-line reciprocal travel was losing its thrill. And we concluded that, since Tom lived off a country road, it

(Continued) Victory Over Sin—How?

us further down the road with faster turns into the driveway. And we found that the best passenger ride was enjoyed on the running boards.

On the fateful last ride, Tom's neighbor was behind the wheel, determined to outdo the rest of us in negotiating a high-speed, 90-degree turn up the gravel drive. Tom and Larry rode the right running board, so they could catch the full thrill of a sharp left turn. I took the safest spot on the left running board. But Neighbor overdid it. As the Chevy careened around the corner, almost swiping the fence on the right side of the car, Tom and Larry leaped off the running board, over the fence, and rolled through the cow pasture. From my safe position on the inside of the curve, I roared with laughter at their plight.

But only for a second. Neighbor overcorrected his turn, and plowed into the fence on my side of the car. My hip did contest with a large fence post and though the post broke off at the ground, it knocked me off the running board and my ankle went under the rear wheel. As the dust began to settle, I noticed that everyone was running. Tom's dad was out of the house, across the porch, and headed down the steps. Tom, Neighbor and Larry got to me first. "Pretend you're not hurt," they pleaded in loud whispers, "or we'll really get in trouble!" Too stunned yet to know what was happening, I was eager to comply. "Try to walk!" they urged. "Tom's dad looks really mad." I tried to get up and walk, but there was something about my left ankle that wouldn't support me. "Hurry up!" they pleaded. "He's almost here! Boy, we're in trouble."

I finally got a look at my ankle. It was turned inward at a right angle. Because the pain hadn't yet hit me, I laughed. Here are these three fellows, worried about "getting in trouble" with Tom's dad, when the trouble is with my ankle! The ludicrous humor of the situation has amused us all in the years since the event; but it is only recently that I have begun to see a broader insight. None of us needed to fear the anger of Tom's dad; we needed to fear the destructive results of our own stupidity. And Tom's dad—with his years of experience and mature judgment—could have helped us avoid doing something so foolish! And my mind recalls the years I have spent worrying that, when I break God's law, the problem is that "I'm in trouble with the Lawgiver!" Our picture of God is still so much like what we thought of Tom's dad, leaping across

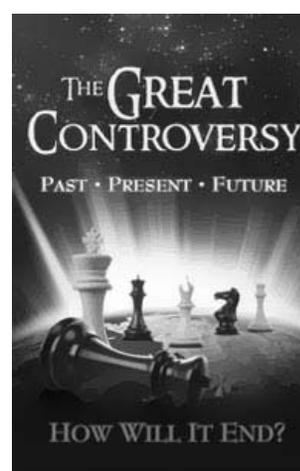
the porch and down the steps. Ignoring the pain and grief we have brought upon ourselves, we tremble in fear at the anticipated anger we are sure He will unleash on us!

We even try pretending, make-believing, bluffing that we're not hurting, hoping that our bravado will diminish the wrath to come. But we are so sure that the problem with sin is that it upsets the Lawgiver, that we fail to see the pain it has caused us. We do not see that God is coming, not to get us in trouble, but because we are already in trouble. He comes, not to chastise, but to rescue. "For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17. And when He comes close to us, we fail to see the tears in His eyes.

The first thing we must be sure of in our quest to be spiritual men and women is our picture of God.

God is not demanding victory over sin to see if we will measure up. He is enabling our victory. . .

God is not demanding victory over sin to see if we will measure up. He is enabling our victory so that we don't have to break our spiritual ankles so often. God is not waiting to condemn us, but He is coming to help us—to ease the pain. If we do not see God on our side in all of this, we will try harder and fail, try harder and fail, until we get discouraged and quit. If we know that God really is on our side, sympathizing with us, enabling us, helping us, then we've got a chance to experience real victory.



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CONSIDER YOUR WAYS



Are you being ostracized and disciplined for presenting truth?

By Lynell Andelian

Recently we participated in a discussion pertaining to the deteriorated condition of our church building. Our congregation has dwindled in the past years losing over half of its members. Some have moved or passed away while others have decided to attend a different church. Then there are those members which quit coming altogether, not attending any church. With these losses we are left with quite a number of elderly people, myself included. The outside of the church is simply falling apart. Gutters and cement are disintegrating and the stucco is crumbling. Weeds fill the flowerbeds and push their way up through the cracked blacktop. So the church appears as though has been abandoned. Unfortunately, this is not a good representation of God's house because I believe it reflects the spiritual condition within. This is not an isolated case but also exists in many of the churches in our conferences across the world. It doesn't stop with the outward appearance but reflects the deteriorated condition that exists within the relationships of its members. What has happened to our once vibrant church?

As I was thinking about this, I read some verses

from the Bible in Haggai 1:5-7 "Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag of holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways."

How many of us consider our ways? I know I need to reflect on this long and hard! Is the way I treat the church members and also our place of worship a reflection of my spiritual condition? I believe it is. God says we make a good living wage but we give back very little to the church. Consequently we drink and are not filled, clothed but are not warm. We are cold toward one another because we are not filled with the living water. We do not eat of the manna, the living bread from heaven. God goes as far as to say our wages might as well be put into a bag with holes because it pours right back out. God is really talking about our spiritual condition. How can He bless us when our ways are contrary to His? As I look at what I have done with my life, it is easy to get discouraged especially when the condition of the church now seems to be in such disarray.

In Haggai it says God called for a drought upon the land, the food, wind and oil that would affect the ground, the cattle, the men and the labor of their hands because His house was laid waste. Have we used our resources to build the kingdom of God or have we spent it on ourselves instead? Is the Lord's work secondary? Shouldn't God and His work be first in our lives?

When we look at what is happening in the news, we see prophecies being fulfilled. Do you get motivated to spread the truth or are you complacent? It's not hard to see the massive following of Pope Francis, the first Jesuit pope. His meeting with congress to bring about his agenda will fulfill the prophecies predicted in the Book of Revelation. He plans to take his throne as the spiritual leader of the New World Order. Yet, so many, even within my beloved church do not want to listen to how close we are to the end. They think we should accept everything with the attitude of "unity at any cost." But it is not the work of the Lord to join hands with paganism.

So the spiritual drought is a judgment from God. There is no rain and no outpouring of His spirit within our churches until God's people take seriously the

(Continued) “Consider Your Ways”

work He has set before them.

The devil is doing his best to sidetrack all of us. He has worked for thousands of years to divert the minds away from God. He is an expert deceiver and he is using people to teach deceptions within the church. One deception that has recently affected my church is that we must not speak of the devil’s deceptions. We were told that we are not to expose the powers of darkness as the Bible commissions us to do. Only love; love is to be the message, but in Ephesians 5:11 it says, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

It is unfortunate that one can be looked upon as a conspiracist if one tries to warn people by showing

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one tries to warn people . . .**

them prophecy unfolding in current events so they might use their time getting their lives ready for the soon return of Christ. That great deception, a power that will mandate our very thoughts, is just before us. We will come under great attack if we stand for the God of heaven. The devil is about to set up his kingdom with the man of Rome as his representative as the false King of the North. Will you go along with everything for the sake of unity and peace or will you refuse to participate even if it means your death?

Recently our home was vandalized. We came home to what we thought looked like gang activity. Our newly sided house had been spray painted with graffiti and filthy words. The shock came when we found out it was done by two children, 8 and 11 year old boys. It made me realize even more the condition of our world. Those children were simply reflecting what they were learning at home in computer games and on television. Violence has been instilled in their minds and they don’t even know it. The world is growing colder while we are playing church. Then what is the answer?

The answer to our complacency is found in Haggai 1:8, “Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord.” God wanted the Israelites to finish the work of building the temple but

the people had no working faith. Their delay dishonored God.

“The Israelites had no real excuse for leaving their work on the temple. The time when the most serious objections were raised, was the time for them to persevere in building. But they were actuated by a selfish dislike to encounter danger by arousing the opposition of their enemies. They did not possess the faith that is substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. They hesitated to move forward by faith in the opening providences of God, because they could not see the end from the beginning. When difficulties arose, they were easily turned from the work.

This history will be repeated. There will be religious failures because men do not have faith. When they look at the things that are seen, impossibilities appear; but God can lead them step by step in the course He desires them to take. His work will advance only as His servants move forward by faith. While they may be called upon to pass through trying times, yet they should ever remember that they are contending with a weakened, beaten foe. God’s people will finally triumph over every power of darkness.” *Review & Herald*, Dec. 5, 1907.

During that time the Samaritans gave false reports that stirred up the minds, arousing suspicion and causing discouragement, so the Jews in their unbelief ceased their work, which God had commissioned. They misapplied the prophecies and claimed that they must have misinterpreted the Scriptures and it was not yet time to rebuild. Then they went about their lives and built for themselves mansions to live in leaving God’s house in deplorable condition. Do we do the same thing? When we are met with opposition do we retreat to our own private lives and claim the time is not yet? I have seen God’s special messengers rebuked and mistreated by those that would like to silence the message. Because of their actions they cause God’s house to suffer visible degradation.

“In neglecting the temple, which was the mirror of God’s presence, the people had greatly dishonored God. They were now instructed to hold His house in sacred honor, not because of its magnificence, as did the Jews in the days of Christ, but because God had promised to be there. And this second temple was to be superior to the first because in a special sense the Messiah would honor it with His personal presence.” *Review & Herald*, Dec. 12, 1907.

(Continued) "Consider Your Ways"

So we can work all we want on the outside of the building and completely miss the importance of cleaning up the inside. As the outside can reflect what is happening on the inside, the inside can also be reflected on the outside. The work of reform has to be accomplished in our hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit. The very presence of God must work a visible change in our lives.

In order to accomplish this, God will cause a shaking. "For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts." Haggai 2:6-7

Are you feeling the shaking in your church? It's like an enormous earthquake that uproots trees and puts huge cracks in the pavement. Recently I heard where people were brought before the church board and rebuked for teaching end time prophecies. Because their message

Because their message stirs the people, those that are in charge, ostracize and discipline the people.

stirs the people, those that are in charge, ostracize and discipline the messenger. There are entire conferences that will not allow certain ministers in good standing to preach in their churches simply because they don't want to hear the truth.

God gave his warning through Ellen White that this would happen. "The Lord is soon to come. There must be a refining, winnowing process in every church, for there are among us wicked men who do not love the truth or honor God." *Last Day Events*, p. 173.3.

Christ is the answer to every difficulty and to the rebuilding of God's church during this time. We must invite Christ into our heart to fill our life, His temple, with His glory. Justification is us being in Christ (Christ covering us with His righteousness) but Sanctification is Christ in us, the hope of glory. We are living stones built into the temple. Will the church be found as a polished, bright gem or will Christ have to say, "Your house has been left to you desolate." God gives the call to sanctification, "Consider Your Ways!!!"



I SURRENDER ALL

By Lisa Neuharth

The Rules of a 3 year old:

- If I like it, it's mine.
- If it's in my hand, it's mine.
- If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
- If it's mine it must never appear to be yours in any way.
- If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
- If it looks just like mine, it is mine.
- If you are playing with something and I want it, it's mine.
- If it's broken or a mess, it's yours!

Adult Laws:

- Don't use my things without asking
- If you borrow my things, I expect to have them returned to me in the same condition in which I gave them to you.
- I have the right to decide how I want to use my time and my things.
- I have the right to make my own decisions.
- I have the right to my own space.

God's Laws:

- Everything in the universe belongs to the Lord. Psalms 24:1
- Anything we have, including our own bodies, belongs to God. 1 Corinthians 6:20
- We are only stewards of the things God has given us. Matthew 25:20-21
- It is God's responsibility to protect His own prop-

(Continued) “I Surrender All”

erty. Romans 12:19

-We have no rights at all. Galatians 2:20

-Rather than standing up for our own wants, we must die to ourselves. John 12:24-25.

As the signs of the times show us approaching the final moments in the world’s history, those of us still living are hopefully preparing to meet our Savior. Are we ready? As our thoughts and actions are weighed in the balances, do our actions fall heavy on the side of the world, or of heaven? Do we find ourselves as a 3 year old, an adult, or as a child of God?

So many times I think I am doing really well. And then each morning I awake to reading His Holy Word and find I still fall very short. There are so many things in my life I still hold onto. And while I try to make excuses as to why these things are innocent, or even “godly,” the bitter truth is I am a selfish human being. There are many times I follow the rules of a 3 year old, or maybe it’s been a great day and I’ve followed the adult laws. But have I followed God’s laws?

Time is short my friends. There is no time for selfishness any longer.

Time is short my friends. There is no time for selfishness any longer. When Christ comes I will wish I had surrendered all—my time, my talents, my profession, my money, my hobbies, my relaxation, my pride... and what will I wish I had surrendered them for? To take the time to reach out so someone with the gospel, to use my talents in God’s service in my church, to use my profession as an avenue to spread God’s message, to spend my money on literature to be passed out, to take the time wasted on my hobbies and relaxation to spend time with God and in His work, to submit my pride and fear of witnessing and to “GO, TELL, TELL, TELL!”

When I look at the life of Christ, our perfect example, I see the example of time, talents, activities, and attitude. Christ used every moment of His day to live and serve His father. He didn’t have His private time. His only “alone time” was spent with His Father every morning as He drew closer to His Father and gained the energy He needed for the day. His activities and hobbies were ALL evangelistic. He

didn’t partake in the games of the day, He didn’t have any relaxing time, He didn’t lay in bed being lazy, and He wasn’t afraid to talk about His Father—even to those who attempted to kill Him.

This is our example my brothers and sisters! A life of COMPLETE SURRENDER! We must surrender our rights. While we live in a country that has laws for our rights, we must realize as Christians we have submitted ALL OF OUR RIGHTS TO CHRIST! It’s not our right to have a nice home, fancy clothes, a big paycheck, fame or popularity, a spouse who meets our needs, children who obey us, a church family who is sensitive to our needs, personal space, quiet time, time for hobbies, respect from others, etc. As Christians we have completely died to self, and live all day long, 100% for Him.

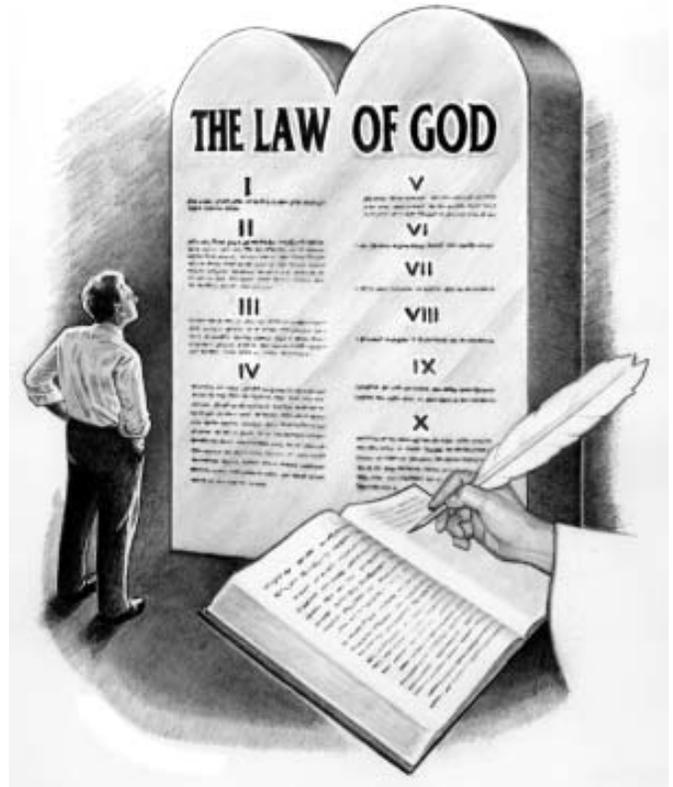
Will we say we aren’t in heaven yet that we still have earthly responsibilities: work, housework, raising kids, duties to our spouse, parenting, etc? YES! What a great opportunity for evangelism God gives us in our responsibilities! I have an opportunity at work to reach those who don’t know about Jesus and to share His love with them. I do this by being honest, professional, caring, setting an example of Christ and when possible verbally sharing my convictions. In the home I have an opportunity to be an example to my family and to practice God’s laws of cleanliness, orderliness, healthy diet, healthy lifestyle, etc., that will strengthen my family spiritually and will be an example to others when they enter my home. As a spouse I have an opportunity to be a godly example to my spouse everyday as I seek to follow Christ first, and secondly uphold my spouse in their spiritual walk with the Lord. I have an opportunity to grow my character and be an example to my spouse as I serve them and love them as we are to serve/love Christ and as Christ serves/loves His church. As a parent I have an opportunity to minister tenderness, justice, and long-suffering to my children that they may see and learn the character of Christ. What a mission field God gives us in daily life!

But what if in this process my co-workers, spouse, children, church members, etc, are rude to me, persecute me, don’t respect my rights, etc.? Shouldn’t I stand up for my rights? What was the example of Christ? —to do what was right for Himself and let God the Father be the judge of others. Judgment will occur, but today is not that day. In due season we

(Continued) "I Surrender All"

shall reap what we have sown, and those around us will reap what they have sown. Let us commit to forgive others even without them asking, to search our own hearts and repent to others and Christ as He convicts us, and to live each day in the holiness of our Lord. Let us make a commitment to keep our eyes focused on Jesus, to be faithful in serving Him and following His commands, and let us pray for those who persecute us that they will come to know Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, no matter the sphere, profession, family, church, community, etc., God has put us in, He has designed us for a specific mission: the mission of sacrificing our rights, surrendering to God, and being a missionary for Him. Today is the day of salvation. Today is the day to search our souls and give to Jesus our whole heart: our talents, time, thoughts, and expectations. Today is the day to be spiritual all day long. Let's make Jesus our whole life, everyday, from now until we see Him in the sky. Then on that day we can rejoice, knowing we have shared with everyone we could the GREAT NEWS of SALVATION!

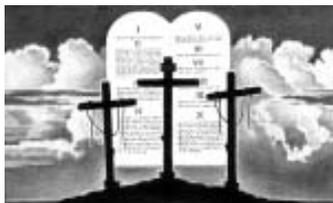


Not Worried about the JUDGMENT?

By Larry Young

I have a number of friends in mainstream Christian denominations who are not worried about the judgment, either because they believe that there is no judgment or because they "got saved" at some point in time and they're going to heaven regardless of how they live. However, the Bible is absolutely clear that there is and will be a judgment... and not just one!

When some of these same folks are confronted with questions about backsliders and/or criminals who previously "got saved," the most common answer is that they were "never saved" in the first place. How convenient. The reality is that the nominal Christian community (and even many in my own denomination) are desperate for any escape hatch that will allow them to continue to live out their lives without making any behavioral changes and without any eternal consequences for sin. However, if they did just a little bit of digging into Christian history, they would find out that they are placing their eternal hopes on a few scriptural phrases interpreted originally by John Calvin to



Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You

There are provisions available to enable the Christian to walk before God in holiness and righteousness all the days of his life, and so to abide in Christ that he sin not.

1 Peter 1:15-16

Luke 1:68

Romans 6:2-15, 22-23

2 Peter 1:4-8

1 John 3:3-4, 6-9

2 Corinthians 7:1

Ezekial 36:23-27

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Ephesians 5:23-24

Romans 4:20-22

(Continued) “Not Worried About the Judgment” mean that God’s grace is irresistible, invincible and sovereign: “Simply put, the doctrine of irresistible grace refers to the biblical truth that whatever God decrees to happen will inevitably come to pass, even in the salvation of individuals.” Oh really?

In the midst of the Christian reformation, Dutch theologian Jacobus Arminius sat at the feet of Theodore Beza, a French Protestant Christian and successor to John Calvin, and was taught about the irresistible will of God that even stripped men of their free will, predestining them to Heaven or Hell. Jacobus then answered Beza using the story of Adam and Eve, and how God **commanded them not** to eat of the tree of good and evil, or they would surely die: See *Genesis 2:16-17*: And the LORD God commanded the man, You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die. So if God’s will is irresistible, that meant that God lied to Adam and Eve, because God would have known they couldn’t resist His will, and they would have to eat from the tree of good and evil... like it or not, which would also make God the author of evil and their eventual death. So Jacobus Arminius concluded that even God must therefore allow men to keep their free will, which also allows men to make their own choices throughout life. That

That inconvenient fact nullifies “once saved, always saved,” and puts the judgments spoken of throughout the Bible back . . .

inconvenient fact nullifies “once saved, always saved,” and puts the judgments spoken of throughout the Bible back up on the table.

Men and women always having their free will validates the final judgment, and much more. It means that when we are commanded to keep the Ten Commandments, the possibility must exist then that we really must be able to keep them... but only by divine grace operating through faith in Jesus. Jesus clearly states in Revelation 22:12: “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Therefore,

Solid Ground In the Winds of Change

Jesus will have already performed judgment on all of us by the time He returns (an investigative judgment). It also follows then that the opening of the books and the judgment of the living and the dead (pronouncement) is only reserved for those who are lost, because they tried to justify themselves by their own works, operating under their own horsepower. And then lastly, there is an executive judgment, in which actual punishment is meted out to those who are lost.

Should we be worried about the judgment? Absolutely not; because if you think about it, there would be no mercy if there were no judgment. What functional purpose would mercy serve if it didn’t matter how you live your life, or if you’re predestined to Heaven or Hell?? Since the Bible is clear about God’s mercy, that also means that I need Jesus to have mercy on me and to justify me, but also to sanctify me and to make me safe to save, because I have the free will to consent to have Jesus make those needed changes in me... but I also have the free will to think to justify myself and to stand on my own record of works when faced with the judgment. Proverbs 21: 2: “All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.”



“He Whom Thou Lovest!”

Dr. P. P. Bliss, the evangelistic singer and composer, said that he wrote the sacred song, “Oh! How I Love Jesus,” when he was a young man. Growing older, however, he realized more deeply how insignificant is our love toward God compared to His love for us. Hence, in his later years, he wrote that appealing hymn, which children so love to sing,—and which is good for grownups, too:

*I am so glad that our Father in heaven
Tells of His love in the Book He has given;
Wonderful things in the Bible I see,
This is the dearest, that Jesus love me.*

A Hero for Defining True Marriage?



By Pastor Preston Monterrey

Kim Davis, a public official in the State of Kentucky, was hardly known to the average American households a month ago, until she refused to sign marriage licenses for gay couples. Her refusal attracted the attention of the news media, and like a wide-open gate of a dam of anger, politics and bigotry, its waters rushed and flooded in the process the realm of reason, uprooted trees of common sense, and muddied the waters; thus, making it more difficult to distinguish the separation of State and Religion, Law and Faith.

My first reaction after I heard the news report and read some articles dealing with her case was one of sympathy for her predicament. Indeed, she was in a very difficult situation. On one hand was her religious freedom, her right to live with her family, and her sincere desire to serve the people that elected her into office as a Clerk; on the other hand, was the possibility to be incarcerated for following her conscience and moral convictions.

Some politicians took advantage of this opportunity and seized the moment, traveling to her town, supporting her position, taking photographs with her, who was now the face of the Christian Church crusading against the legalization of homosexual marriages in our land. The later had won a strategic victory in the Supreme Court of the United States.

As I continued researching this case, I became aware that Kim Davis keenly disallowed those working under her authority from doing their jobs as well. She argued that her name was written down and appeared on the marriage license. She felt this showed consent on her part and that of her deputies and that this would violate her religious belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman.

Mrs. Davis was warned that if she did not comply with the obligations of her office, as shown by her refusal to follow a court order, she would be arrested.

Her case went to different levels in the judicial system, as one appeal after another failed to give her the protection that she was seeking. Eventually, she was sent to prison.

“On September 3, 2015, the Court held Defendant Kim Davis in contempt and jailed her for her refusal to issue marriage licenses, directly or through her deputy clerks, in accordance with the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* and this Court’s Memorandum Opinion and Order of August 12, 2015. (Docs. # 75; 78 at 121-170).”¹

James Peron, President of Moorfield Storey Institute, posted in the *Huffingtonpost* on September 4, 2015 that one of her attorneys, Roger Gannam, made the following claim:

Today, for the first time in history, an American citizen has been incarcerated for having the belief of conscience . . .

“Today, for the first time in history, an American citizen has been incarcerated for having the belief of conscience that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. And she’s been ordered to stay there until she’s willing to change her mind, until she’s willing to change her conscience about what belief is.”²

Is this assertion correct? Was Mrs. Davis put in jail because of her religious beliefs or for her contempt of court? Before I answer this question, let me give you some contextual information provided also by James Peron:

“Davis has only been in this job a few months. When she took office, it was already widely known that gay marriage would be ruled on shortly. It was also widely speculated that the Supreme Court would rule in favor of marriage equality, especially given the almost unanimous lower court rulings. So, the ‘hazard’ of having to issue same-sex marriage licenses was one she knew was a very real possibility when she took the job. She went into this with eyes wide open.”³

Some supporters compared the order given to Kim Davis as some of the laws commanded in Nazi Germany, during the rule of the Third Reich, forcing soldiers and civilians to take some actions even if it was against their conscience because the State so required

(Continued) “A Hero for Defining True Marriage”
it. As I stated earlier, the flood of anger, politics and bigotry, has flooded reason and common sense, making wrong analogies, comparing apples with oranges, if you so please.

A German soldier during WW II should have known that their actions against humanity were being executed toward women, old people, children, and also men who were civilian and who were not a military threat against their war machines. Furthermore, they were German citizens who gradually were stripped of their rights and made 2nd class citizens. The Nuremberg trials definitely did not accept the rationale: “Well, I was just following orders.”

Kim Davis is not a soldier. She is a civilian sworn to uphold the law. A soldier’s disobedience could lead to a Court Martial. Yet, he may refuse to follow orders that are against the Geneva Convention and be willing to accept the consequences. Ms. Davis could have resigned knowing that her conscience could be violated. Had she had done that, she would have not become the focus of this recent news media’s frenzy.

What disturbed me was that she did not allowed other employees to serve gay couples, by giving them the marriage licenses that they were seeking to obtain on the basis that, they legally complied with the requirements stipulated by the State.

Some may think that this author is in favor of gay/lesbian marriages, but such thinking is wrong. I am a Seventh-day Adventist Christian minister who follows the Bible, the Inspired Word of God, as the ONLY rule of faith, doctrine, and practice. I accept the Judeo-Christian teaching on marriage to be the union of one man with one woman.

I also believe in the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who said: “Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” Matthew 19:4-6.

Definitely, “marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and a woman who share a

common faith.”⁴

Nevertheless, Kim Davis’ case is one of a public official imposing her religious convictions above the laws of the land. She is a clerk and a public official and not a judge to determine who is qualified to be married or not.

“The marriage license was legally valid because the County Clerk issued it, not because Kim Davis issued it. She could resign and issue licenses all day long from her home, but that wouldn’t make them legal. Kim Davis has no legal authority other than when acting as Clerk, and, when she is acting as County Clerk she is not acting on her own behalf.”⁵

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

How far can she take the biblical admonition and command of the Bible for believers NOT to marry unbelievers?

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. (Unless told otherwise, Bible passages are from the King James Version.)

Is she going to ask marriage license applicants if they are unequally yoked? Is she going to screen the applicants’ belief system to ensure that the couple will be religiously compatible with each other? Unfortunately, becoming unequally yoked happens more often than it should in society, thus not even striking a

(Continued) “A Hero for Defining True Marriage”
cord to be noticed.

Believers working for the State are bound to uphold the rule of law in so far as they do not interfere with their conscience. If they feel threatened to violate their religious convictions then, they should resign their public post or at the very least, allow another public servant to serve the people and follow their own convictions on the matter.

Well, what happened to Kim Davis after she was incarcerated for five days? She was released.

“On September 8, 2015, Plaintiffs filed a Status Report at the Court’s behest.

According to the Report, Plaintiffs have obtained marriage licenses from the Rowan County Clerk’s Office.¹ The Court is therefore satisfied that the Rowan County Clerk’s Office is fulfilling its obligation to issue marriage licenses to all legally eligible couples, consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court’s holding in *Obergefell* and this Court’s August 12, 2015 Order. For these reasons, the Court’s prior contempt sanction against Defendant Davis is hereby lifted.”⁷

In the aftermath of Ms. Davis’ release, she made this public statement: “ ‘I don’t want to have this conflict. I don’t want to be in the spotlight. And I certainly don’t want to be a whipping post,’ Ms. Davis said. ‘I am no hero. I’m just a person that’s been transformed by the grace of God, who wants to work, be with my family. I just want to serve my neighbors quietly without violating my conscience.’ Shortly after Ms. Davis addressed reporters, a deputy clerk issued a marriage license to a lesbian couple without incident. Despite Ms. Davis’ claims, several Kentucky officials including the governor said the recently issued licenses are valid.”⁸

Dear reader, I fear the mentality of ultra conservative Christians about maneuvering the courts and legislature halls of our land to impose the laws of God’s kingdom.

“Today in the religious world there are multitudes who, as they believe, are working for the establishment of the kingdom of Christ as an earthly and temporal dominion. They desire to make our Lord the ruler of the kingdoms of this world, *the ruler in its courts* and camps, *its legislative halls*, its palaces and market places. They expect Him to rule through legal enactments, enforced by human authority. *Since Christ is not now here in person, they themselves will*

undertake to act in His stead, to execute the laws of His kingdom. The establishment of such a kingdom is what the Jews desired in the days of Christ. They would have received Jesus, had He been willing to establish a temporal dominion, to enforce what they regarded as the laws of God, and to make them the expositors of His will and the agents of His authority. But He said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world.’ John 18:36. He would not accept the earthly throne.”⁹ Emphasis supplied by author.

“Not by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the implanting of Christ’s nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit. ‘As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.’ John 1:12, 13. Here is the only power that can work the uplifting of mankind. And the human agency for the accomplishment of this work is the teaching and practicing of the word of God.”¹⁰

If we truly want to make a long-lasting change in society, it is first by allowing God’s transforming grace to change us into the likeness of His Son. It is by exemplifying the principles of God’s Kingdom of love, grace and righteousness in our daily life. It is by ministering to people in the gay/lesbian community as Jesus would: loving the sinner, but hating a lifestyle that it is contrary to His original design. “I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. God’s purpose in this is that people should fear Him. Whatever exists today and whatever will exist in the future has already existed in the past. For God calls each event back in its turn.” Ecclesiastes 3:14-15. New Living Translation. The Lord is seeking to restore His Edenic plan. Finally, it is by becoming genuine friends of those that struggle with homosexuality, ministering to their needs; and in due time, when we have won their trust, bid them: “Let’s follow Jesus.”

¹ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2377864-miller-et-al-v-davis-et-al-pacer.html>.

² http://www.huffingtonpost.com/james-peron/stupidity-not-religion-pu_b_8086824.html Accessed on 9/28/15.

³ Ibid.

⁴ <http://www.adventist.org/en/beliefs/living/marriage-and-the-family/> Accessed on 9/28/2015.

⁵ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/james-peron/stupidity-not-religion-pu_b_8086824.html Accessed on 9/28/15.

⁶ “While the Status Report reflects that Plaintiffs’ marriage licenses have been altered so that “Rowan County” rather than “Kim Davis” appears on the line reserved for the name of the county clerk, Plaintiffs have not alleged that the alterations affect the validity of the licenses. Nor do the alterations impact the Court’s finding that the deputy clerks have complied with the Court’s Order.” <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2377864-miller-et-al-v-davis-et-al-pacer.html> Accessed on 9/28/15.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34247029> Accessed on 9/27/2015.

⁹ White, Ellen G. *The Desire of Ages*, p. 509, (1898).

¹⁰ Ibid.



KID’S CORNER

Dangerous Digging

By Lynell Andelian

Paul was always thinking of things to do but sometimes his thinking got him into trouble. Mother could always tell when he was up to something because he would get really quiet. One day as mother was sitting at her sewing machine, Paul walked through the house and out to the barn. In a little while he came back through with two shovels, one was large and one was small. Mother just watched as he carried them out the front door. She thought about asking him what he was doing, but there didn’t seem to be any harm in using a shovel or two. Perhaps he was finishing his chore of filling the holes in the driveway with gravel as he was asked to do. His younger brother was playing down the road at the neighbor’s house so she didn’t have to keep an eye on him. Mother turned her attention back to her sewing project.

Less than an hour went by and there was Paul again on his way through the back door and heading to the barn. Mother looked up from folding the laundry as he came back through the house and this time he was carrying a rake. Again mother thought she should ask him what he was doing but decided he must need a rake to smooth the gravel over the filled holes in the driveway. Mother was happy to think that Paul was using his time to get some work done in the yard. Since he was homeschooled, he had time after his studies to help around the home. Everyday mother prayed that her boys would grow up to be strong, hard working men and that God would protect them. She

END TIME NEWS



The Bible

Yes, the Bible is full of violence, but that’s not why it’s been banned in many countries. Across Central Asia, publishing, importing and distributing religious literature is restricted to prevent “extremism.” In Malaysia, Malay-language Bibles are prohibited outside the confines of churches to protect “national security.” In North Korea, possessing a Bible is illegal because, well, pretty much everything is banned there. Governments often monitor and restrict communities of believers they fear might challenge their rule. They do so by cutting off access to Holy Scripture and outlawing proselytization, all while pretending to champion freedom of religion or belief in their constitutions. Don’t believe the propaganda. Do keep an eye on Bible balloons dropping the Word of God into hostile territories.

(Continued) “Kid’s Corner”

knew that it would take more than a couple of angels to get her boys raised to manhood.

Before too much longer Paul appeared again on his way out to the barn, this time when he came back through the house he was carrying a bucket. Now mother’s curiosity got the best of her so she asked him what he was doing? He gave a shrug of his shoulders and told her he was playing at Tracy’s house in their field. Mother watched as Paul headed down the road swinging the bucket as he went.

Now mother knew that boys could get into a lot of trouble if they were left to their own imagination so she thought she should take a walk down the road to Tracy’s house to see what the boys were up to. When she arrived at Tracy’s house, she knocked on the door and Tracy’s mother said come in. She was cooking food in the kitchen and she was surprised to see her friend at the door. Mother asked her if she knew what the boys were doing and she told her about the shovels, rake and bucket that Paul brought from the barn to their house. Tracy’s mother said the boys and Tracy’s two sister’s had been very secretive all day and she didn’t know what they were up to. Both mothers decided to take a walk out to the field to find out what was going on.

As they approached the small hill in the field they saw shovels and dirt flying in the air. Someone was digging and as they got closer mother’s heart almost stopped for fear. The boys had dug a huge hole in the side of a small hill and the girls were so far back in the hole that mother couldn’t see them. The sod above their heads was about a foot deep. If that sod had caved in, all the children could have been trapped under heavy dirt that could kill all of them. The boys tried to explain that they were digging a clubhouse underground and they were going to use boards to hold up the dirt roof. Paul quit talking when he saw the upset look on his mother’s face. He knew she meant business when she told him to fill in the hole immediately and he knew that now was not the time to argue with her.

That night when Paul’s father came home they had a long talk about the danger they had been in and what might have happened if something caused the ground to cave in on the girls. Paul and his brother Luke learned an important lesson. Mother and father were grateful that God must have sent His angels to protect all the children that day from their dangerous digging!!!

Health Nugget



The Fresh Air Challenge #2

By Janelle Klein, MSN, FNP-BC

Last month I proposed a math challenge to discover how much the oxygen would be decreased and how much the carbon dioxide would be increased if two people stayed in an air tight room for 12 hours. Here are answers:

The oxygen would decrease to about 18.6%

The carbon dioxide would increase to about 1.8%.

Recall from last months health article that carbon dioxide levels as low as 2-3% are toxic to the body. A level of 1.8% is very close to a problem.

While our bedrooms are not completely airtight, an obvious correlation can be made to a bedroom that is closed up tight for the night. The hours of sleep are wonderful times to get a large block of fresh outdoor air. So the moral of the challenge is that you understand the importance of having fresh air circulating in your home and work place at all times.

Compiled below are several statements from the pen of Ellen White that eloquently help us apply these concepts:

“Those who have not had a free circulation of air in their rooms through the night generally awake feeling exhausted and feverish, and know not the cause. It was air, vital air, that the whole system required, but which it could not obtain. Upon rising in the morning,... clothing should be removed piece by piece from the bed, and exposed to the air. The windows should be opened, the blinds fastened back, and the air allowed to circulate freely for several hours, if not

(Continued) “Health Nugget”

all day, through the sleeping apartments. In this manner the bed and clothing will become thoroughly aired, and the impurities will be removed from the room.” *Counsels on Health*, p. 58.1.

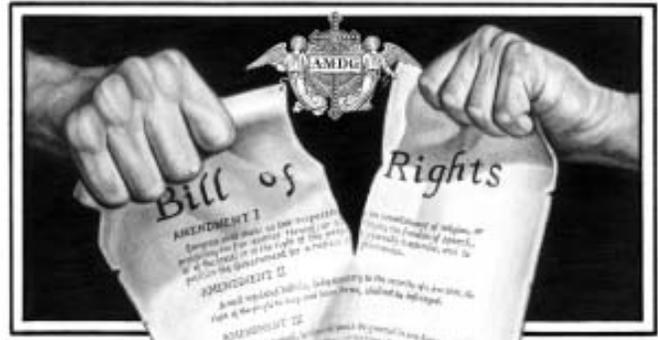
“Many have been taught from childhood that night air is positively injurious to health, and therefore must be excluded from their rooms. To their own injury they close the windows and doors of their sleeping apartments, to protect themselves from the night air which they say is so dangerous to health. In this they are deceived. In the cool of the evening it may be necessary to guard from chilliness by extra clothing; but they should give their lungs air. . . . Many are suffering from disease because they refuse to receive

Many are suffering from disease because they refuse to receive into their rooms at night the pure night air.

into their rooms at night the pure night air. The free, pure air of heaven is one of the richest blessings we can enjoy.” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 527, 528 (1870).

“Air, air, the precious boon of heaven which all may have, will bless you with its invigorating influence if you will not refuse it entrance. Welcome it, cultivate a love for it, and it will prove a precious soother of the nerves. Air must be in constant circulation to be kept pure. The influence of pure, fresh air is to cause the blood to circulate healthfully through the system. It refreshes the body and tends to render it strong and healthy, while at the same time its influence is decidedly felt upon the mind, imparting a degree of composure and serenity. It excites the appetite, and renders the digestion of food more perfect, and induces sound and sweet sleep.” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 702.2.

So throw those windows open and let the benefits of fresh air multiply the restorative benefits of sleep!



Liberty of Conscience and Education

By Emily Duffield

In Pope Francis’ recent address to Congress he said, “...A delicate balance is required to combat violence perpetrated in the name of a religion, an ideology or an economic system, while also safeguarding religious freedom, intellectual freedom and individual freedoms. But there is another temptation which we must especially guard against: the simplistic reductionism which sees only good or evil; or, if you will, the righteous and sinners. The contemporary world...demands that we confront every form of polarization which would divide it into these two camps.

“...We must move forward together, as one, in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good.”

He is calling for all Americans to come together and support one another, for the common good. But according to the pope, seeing only good or evil—righteous and sinners—is a temptation we must guard against. This is against the strait testimony of Scripture:

Psalm 1:5-6, “Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”ⁱ

Therefore, if we as true Protestants call sin by its right name, we are setting ourselves against Rome and the pope. This is taking away our religious freedom and it is being done all under the name of protecting religious freedom.

Speaking of specific American men and women, he said: “...These men and women, for all their many differences and limitations, were able by hard work

(Continued) “Liberty of Conscience . . .”
and self-sacrifice—some at the cost of their lives—
to build a better future. They shaped fundamental val-
ues which will endure forever in the spirit of the
American people. . . . This year marks the one hundred
and fiftieth anniversary of the assassination of Presi-
dent Abraham Lincoln, the guardian of liberty. . . .
Building a future of freedom requires love of the com-
mon good and cooperation in a spirit of subsidiarity
and solidarity.”ⁱⁱ

This sounds all nice and flowery, but we must not
forget that he is a Jesuit, the pope, and the Antichrist.
He seems to be speaking highly of Abraham Lincoln,
but is he really?

Every principle of the Papacy that existed in past ages exists today.

“The Roman Church now presents a fair front to
the world, covering with apologies her record of hor-
rible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike
garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of
the Papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The
doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held.
Let none deceive themselves. The Papacy that Prot-
estants are now so ready to honor is the same that
ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when
men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to
expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and
arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and
princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her
spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she
crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the
Most High.

“...It is a part of her policy to assume the character
which will best accomplish her purpose; but beneath
the variable appearance of the chameleon she con-
ceals the invariable venom of the serpent. ‘Faith ought
not to be kept with heretics, nor persons suspected of
heresy’ (Lenfant, volume 1, page 516), she declares.
Shall this power, whose record for a thousand years
is written in the blood of the saints, be now acknowl-
edged as a part of the church of Christ?”ⁱⁱⁱ

How did Lincoln feel about Rome and the
Society of the Jesuits?

“I feel more and more, every day, that it is not

**against the Americans of the South, alone, I am
fighting, it is more against the Pope of Rome, his
perfidious Jesuits and their blind and blood-thirsty
slaves.... Here is the real danger of our position.
So long as they will hope to conquer the North,
they will spare me; but the day we will rout their
armies (and the day will surely come, with the help
of God), take their cities, and force them to submit;
then, it is my impression that the Jesuits, who are
the principal rulers of the South, will do what they
have almost invariably done in the past. The
dagger or the pistol of one of their adepts, will do
what the strong hands of the warriors could not
achieve.**

**“This civil war seems to be nothing but a politi-
cal affair to those who do not see, as I do, the se-
cret springs of that terrible drama. But it is more
a religious than a civil war. It is Rome who wants
to rule and degrade the North, as she has ruled
and degraded the South, from the very day of its
discovery.she is paralyzing, by a civil war, the
arms of the soldiers of Liberty. She divides our
nation, in order to weaken, subdue and rule it.**

**“...For it is a fact, which is now evident to me,
that, with very few exceptions, every priest and
every true Roman Catholic is a determined enemy
of Liberty....if the American people could learn
what I know of the fierce hatred of the generality
of the priests of Rome against our institutions, our
schools, our most sacred rights, and our so dearly
bought liberties, they would drive them away, to-
morrow, from among us, or they would shoot them
as traitors....The history of these last thousand
years tells us that wherever the Church of Rome
is not a dagger to pierce the bosom of a free na-
tion, she is a stone to her neck, and a ball to her
feet, to paralyze her and prevent her advance in
the ways of civilization, science, intelligence, hap-
piness and liberty.**

**“This war would never have been possible with-
out the sinister influence of the Jesuits. We owe it
to Popery that we now see our land reddened with
the blood of her noblest sons.... The Protestants of
both the North and the South would surely unite
to exterminate the priests and the Jesuits, if they
could...the plots made in the very city of Rome to
destroy this Republic, and if they could learn how
the priests, the nuns, and the monks, who daily**

(Continued) **“Liberty of Conscience . . .”**

land on our shores, under the pretext of preaching their religion, instructing the people in their schools, taking care of the sick in the hospitals, are nothing else but the emissaries of the Pope, of Napoleon, and the other despots of Europe, to undermine our institutions, alienate the hearts of our people from our constitution, and our laws, destroy our schools, and prepare a reign of anarchy here as they have done...wherever there are any people who want to be free.”^{iv}

We will see in this country a movement that will exercise the power of religious legislation and will, when fully developed, “manifest the same intolerance and oppression that have prevailed in past ages. Human councils then assumed the prerogatives of Deity, crushing under their despotic power liberty of conscience; and imprisonment, exile, and death followed for those who opposed their dictates. If popery or its principles shall again be legislated into power, the fires of persecution will be rekindled against those who will not sacrifice conscience and the truth in deference to popular errors. This evil is on the point of realization.”^v

This is beginning to happen to our country. We are losing our liberty in the name of liberty. How have we come to this state?

A consideration of another Republic in history—the Roman Empire—with our country “the home of the free and the land of the brave”

“That empire, proud of its conquests, and exceedingly jealous of its claims, asserted its right to rule in all things, human and divine. In the Roman view, the State took precedence of everything....

“Man with all that he had was subordinated to the State; he must have no higher aim than to be a servant of the State; he must seek no higher good than that which the State could bestow. Thus every Roman citizen was a subject, and every Roman subject was a slave. ‘The more distinguished a Roman became, the less was he a free man. The omnipotence of the law, the despotism of the rule, drove him into a narrow circle of thought and action, and his credit and influence depended on the sad austerity of his life. The whole duty of man, with the humblest and greatest of the Romans, was to keep his house in order, and be the obedient servant of the State.’ — Mommsen.”^{vi}

This set the people up to be totally compliant; they were complete slaves and machines of the State; and when popery began to arise they fell for it as the bird to the snare and the Dark Ages were the result. How did Rome come to such a state? It was through their education.

“If the nations desire anything better to appear in their characters than appeared in the characters of Greece and Rome, they will have to give their youth an education better than that of Greece and Rome, their minds will have to be fed with something vastly different from the foolishness, the chicanery and the abominations generally that are found in the classical literature of Greece and Rome.”^{vii}

Is this any different in our country?

“The forces that wrought in Greece and Rome are the chief forces at work in the great nations today: they are deliberately chosen to be the chief and all-guiding forces for today.

“All through Europe, and all over the United States, today, the leading and all controlling forces in education are Greek and Roman. And by compulsory education laws it is sought to oblige all to surrender to these forces. But as originally these forces only ruined Greece and Rome, to compel people to surrender to these forces is only to compel them to the way of ruin.”^{viii}

“We have never invested as much in public education as we should have because we’ve always had kind of a private notion of children: your kid is yours and totally your responsibility. We haven’t had a very collective notion of these are our children. So part of it is we have to break through our kind of private idea that kids belong to their parents or kids belong to their families, and recognize that kids belong to whole communities.”^{ix}

“Each year the child is coming to belong more to the State and less and less to the parent....”^x

“Plans are underway to replace community, family, and church with propaganda, education, and mass media....the State shakes loose from Church, reaches out to SchoolPeople are only little plastic lumps of human dough.”^{xi}

“Education, scientifically defined, in the subsumption of the individual.”^{xii}

“In our dream, we have limitless resources, and the *people yield themselves with perfect docility to our molding hand*. The present educational conven-

(Continued) “Liberty of Conscience . . .”

tions fade from our minds; and, unhampered by tradition, we work our own good will upon a grateful and responsive rural folk. We shall not try to make these people or any of their children into philosophers or men of learning or of science. We are not to raise up from among them authors, orators, poets, or men of letters. We shall not search for embryo great artists, painters, musicians. Nor will we cherish even the humbler ambition to raise up from among them lawyers, doctors, preachers, politicians, statesmen, of whom we now have ample supply. . . . For the task that we set before ourselves is a very simple as well as a very beautiful one: to train these people as we find them for a perfectly ideal life *just where they are* . . . an idyllic life under the skies and within the horizon, however narrow, where they *first open their eyes*.”^{xiii}

Is this not the very thing that was in Rome? Every Roman citizen was a slave of the State. The whole duty of man, with the humblest and greatest of the Romans, was to keep his house in order, and be the obedient servant of the State.

The best way to change society is through the academic and educational sphere. And our schools in this country are the Prussian/Jesuitical method and style of education—pure Roman Catholic.

Pagan textbooks in a Christian school! Pagan standards in a Christian education!

“Greece and Rome were absolutely pagan. Their education, their ideals, their literature, were essentially pagan. And what place can paganism ever properly have in Christian education? Pagan textbooks in a Christian school! Pagan standards in a Christian education! The things are positively contradictory. . . . To give the pagan classics a more prominent place in any study than is given to the Bible, is certainly nothing else than to allow that the author of paganism is worthy to be believed and followed more than is the Author of Christianity.”^{xiv}

“But,” you may say, “Rome was pagan, and today we don’t have paganism.” Notice the following quote:

“Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, the mystery of iniquity

carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. . . . The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.

“This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of the ‘man of sin’ foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan’s power,—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.”^{xv}

“It is certain that Christianity, in ancient times, and at its revival in modern times, found, and held, and proclaimed, that the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God, is the only true and sufficient basis of an all-round education for Christians. Disregard of this principle in the early days of Christianity developed the Papacy; and disregard of this principle in these last days of Christianity is developing through Protestantism a repetition of the course of the Papacy.

“To professed Protestantism today, the Bible is not held in any true sense as an educational book. The science of the unbelieving world, the philosophy and the literature of ancient Greece and Rome, have a far larger place than has the Bible, in that which is recognized by Protestants as education. The highest course in college or university is the classical; . . . This is true, even with those who are studying for the ministry of the gospel of Christ. But how the study, for years, of literature which is essentially Pagan can be a preparation for the preaching of the gospel which must be wholly Christian, no one has attempted to explain.”^{xvi}

If our schools are Jesuit style education then we have paganism in our schools, for Roman Catholicism is no more than baptized paganism. She is the enemy of all liberty, and when she gets into our schools and educates our children we will see a decline into greater religious and civil darkness than has ever been known before; we will see our society

(Continued) “**Liberty of Conscience . . .**”

crumble and our liberty vaporize in the smoke kindled to exterminate of those who oppose her.

When, by the Protestant Reformation, the Bible was translated into the native tongue of the people from the original languages rather than the corrupted Latin Vulgate, and the world began to shake off the bands of Rome that bound them in darkness and ignorance, Rome began to tremble. Rome knew that though she could slay them by sword and fire, the blood of martyrs was seed. She knew the Protestants educated their children in the way of the Lord by the Holy Scriptures and that this made them almost impregnable; for they nor their children, when given this education would bow the knee to Rome. The only way she might overthrow the Reformation was by the education of their children.

“Throughout Christendom, Protestantism was menaced by formidable foes. The first triumphs of the Reformation past, Rome summoned new forces, hoping to accomplish its destruction. At this time the order of the Jesuits was created, the most cruel, unscrupulous, and powerful of all the champions of popery.

There was no crime too great for them to commit, no deception too base for them to practice.

Cut off from earthly ties and human interests, dead to the claims of natural affection, reason and conscience wholly silenced, they knew no rule, no tie, but that of their order, and no duty but to extend its power. The gospel of Christ had enabled its adherents to meet danger and endure suffering, undismayed by cold, hunger, toil, and poverty, to uphold the banner of truth in face of the rack, the dungeon, and the stake. To combat these forces, Jesuitism inspired its followers with a fanaticism that enabled them to endure like dangers, and to oppose to the power of truth all the weapons of deception. There was no crime too great for them to commit, no deception too base for them to practice, no disguise too difficult for them to assume. Vowed to perpetual poverty and humility, it was their studied aim to secure wealth and power, to be devoted to the overthrow of Protestantism, and the

re-establishment of the papal supremacy.”^{xvii}

“Romanism, with keen appreciation of the vast issues at stake, and with far-reaching calculations as to the future, is employing every possible means to gain and hold the commanding and decisive position when the crisis which is sure to come in our national life, shall be upon us. She is pouring in her millions of devotees from other lands to wield the sovereign ballot here. She is commanding them by her highest authority to take an active interest in political affairs, and to subordinate all political conduct to the advancement of the Roman Catholic Church. She is determined to control the common school system of our country, or to break it up and substitute for it her own parochial schools in which her rapidly-multiplying youth shall be molded to her own liking, and prepared to do without question her own authoritative bidding. Not satisfied with holding as at present the balance of power as between the two great political parties, and receiving rich pay first from one and then from the other of these parties for her united vote that is sure to turn the tide of victory whichever way it goes, she aspires to positive and absolute direct control of our national life. And the ratio of the numerical increase of her youth will with absolute certainty bring this about, if her youth are not by the maintenance of our common schools molded into true and loyal American citizens. And this education of her own youth is what Rome is now with all her energies setting herself to accomplish.”^{xviii}

Therefore in the Jesuit Oath is an admonition from the Jesuit’s superior:

“My son, heretofore you have been taught to act the dissembler. Among the reformers to be a Reformer among the Calvinists to be Calvinist among the Protestants to be a Protestant and obtaining their confidence to seek even to preach from their pulpits. You have been taught your duty as a spy, to ingratiate yourself into the confidence of heretics of every class and character, as well as *among the schools and universities.*”^{xix}

“When appearing as members of their order, they [Jesuits] wore a garb of sanctity, visiting prisons and hospitals, ministering to the sick and the poor, professing to have renounced the world, and bearing the sacred name of Jesus, who went about doing good. But under this blameless exterior the most criminal and deadly purposes were often concealed. It was a

(Continued) “Liberty of Conscience . . .”

fundamental principle of the order that the end justifies the means. By this code, lying, theft, perjury, assassination, were not only pardonable but commendable, when they served the interests of the church. Under various disguises the Jesuits worked their way into offices of state, climbing up to be the counselors of kings, and shaping the policy of nations. They became servants to act as spies upon their masters. *They established colleges for the sons of princes and nobles, and schools for the common people; and the children of Protestant parents were drawn into an observance of popish rites.* All the outward pomp and display of the Romish worship was brought to bear to confuse the mind and dazzle and captivate the imagination, and thus the *liberty for which the fathers had toiled and bled was betrayed by the sons.* The Jesuits rapidly spread themselves over Europe, and wherever they went, there followed a *revival of popery.*”^{xx}

It is through the education that the liberty for which our fathers toiled and bled for is being betrayed into the hands of Rome. If we see a revival popish doctrines and principles in this country we know that the Jesuits are indeed in our land; and they are and have been teaching our children and youth.

The Lord Jesus came to this world to set men free from Satan and sin;¹ to put into their very souls the true principle of liberty, a liberty which is so righteous that it will not allow itself to be an occasion to gratify the flesh nor a cloak for iniquity. When men’s minds are enlightened by the Spirit of God, a liberty so holy is instilled in their consciences that they are free from all men; they will not bow to any law or creed, but that in the Word of God, and yet are made so humble and gentle by the love of Christ that they are willing to become the servant of all in order to share with them that same gospel of liberty that has set their souls free. This is true liberty and freedom for “if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”^{xxii}

In giving men this freedom, Christ by His infinite gift, when received into the heart, bound the recipient by an everlasting, obedient, and unswerving allegiance to Him as their Lord and King and the benefactor of the world. He is “God...manifest in the flesh.”^{xxiii} For “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto

them;”^{xxiv} “they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”^{xxv} And He “hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”^{xxvi} For since “all power is given unto” Him “in heaven and in earth;”^{xxvii} He sent His disciples to go and preach this everlasting gospel of freedom to every creature, and teach them to observe all things whatsoever He commanded them.

To us the Word of God and the word of God alone is the absolute authority: for “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”^{xxviii} To us, obedience to this word through faith in Christ, is eternal life, and shows

To us the Word of God and the Word of God alone is the absolute authority:

our allegiance to God. The word of God is as much higher above the word of the pope or the Jesuits, as the government of God is greater than was the government of Rome.

The controversy between Protestantism and Romanism is not the clashing between individuals alone. It is a conflict between antagonistic principles. Therefore, it is a battle between Christianity and Rome; it is a battle between Christ and Satan, light and darkness, truth and error; between liberty and bondage. Christianity proclaims the principle of genuine liberty, true education, the rights of conscience and of the individual; while Rome asserts the dogma of tyranny, the complete captivation of the individual, and his total enslavement to the State and the Church in all things, religious as well as civil. These two things are diametrically opposed.

“The purpose of these early Christian parents [in the first century], as of the ancient Jews, was to train up their children in the fear of God. In order that the children might be exposed as little as possible to the corrupting influence of heathen association, their education was conducted within the healthful precincts of home. As a result, they grew up without a taste for debasing pleasures; they acquired domestic tastes; and, when the time came, they took their place as consistent and earnest workers in the church...

“...The early reformers realized that they could not hope to succeed if their children were educated by

(Continued) “Liberty of Conscience . . .”

Roman Catholic teachers. Luther says that ‘the Bible must be studied; teachers must be provided; schools must be established.’ ‘He felt that to strengthen the reformation it was requisite to work on the young, to improve schools, and to propagate through Christendom the knowledge necessary for a profound study of the Holy Scriptures. This, accordingly, was one of the objects of his life; he saw it in particular at the period which we have reached, and wrote to the councilors of all the cities of Germany calling on them to found Christian schools.’—D’aubigne’s *History of the Reformation*,’ bk. 10, chap. 9.

“The early reformers found it necessary to have their own courses of study, text-books, teachers, methods, principles, etc. They separated themselves completely from the popular schools of the day. It required courage and faith in those days to take such a stand, and it will require even more courage and faith for those who are preparing for translation to take the stand which the testimonies are pleading for them to take. They knew that if their children should go to the schools where the popular education was given they would receive the mark of the Papacy, or the beast. Those who are living up to the light at the present time, will see, even more clearly, that if their children continue to go to the popular schools, they will receive such principles as will compel them to assist in giving life to the image to the beast. Any one who has a knowledge of the Third Angel’s Message, and who will take the trouble to examine the studies and methods of the popular system of education, can see that the books are filled with those errors which will oblige those who are receiving their education from them to take the dreadful step which will bring upon the world a religious and civil darkness, greater than has ever been known before.

“The command found in Revelation 18:4, ‘come out of her, my people,’ means to come out of those institutions which will place in the minds of our young people, principles which are apt to make them join the class of worshipers of which we read in 2 Timothy 3:5: ‘having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.’ As faithful watchmen, we should be just as desirous of getting our children out of the popular schools as we are to call the older people out of the popular churches. The popular churches are only a product of worldly education, so to get at the root

of the matter, we must separate ourselves from that which creates the condition in which all the religious world, at present, finds itself.”ⁱ

“The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.”ⁱⁱ

ⁱ See also Revelation 22:11.

ⁱⁱ <http://time.com/4048176/pope-francis-us-visit-congress-transcript/>

ⁱⁱⁱ E.G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 571.1-2. See also *The Great Controversy*, p. 59.3; 580.2; *The Great Controversy (1888)*, p. 234.2; Library of Congress, Catalog Card Number, 66-43354.

^{iv} Charles Chiniqy, *Fifty Years in the Church of Rome*, p. 696-699

^v E.G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 712.1

^{vi} A.T. Jones, *The Two Republics* (1891), p. 139.2-140.1.

^{vii} A.T. Jones, *American Sentinel*, July 22, 1897, p. 450.10.

^{viii} A.T. Jones, *American Sentinel*, July 15, 1897, p. 433.3-4.

^{ix} Melissa Harris-Perry, msnbc. <http://cnsnews.com/news/article/msnbc-we-have-break-through-idea-kids-belong-their-parents>

^x Ellwood Cubberley, *Conceptions of Education* 1909. As sited in *Atlantean Conspiracy*, p.134.2.

^{xi} Edward A. Ross, *Social Control*, 1901. As sited in *Atlantean Conspiracy*, p.134.1.

^{xii} US Commissioner of Education, William Torrey Harris, 1906. As sited in *Schooled*. <http://www.beltofruthministries.org/schooled/>

^{xiii} Frederick T. Gates, *Publications of the General Education Board, Occasional Papers, No. 1, The Country School of To-Morrow*, p. 6.1; emphasis added.

^{xiv} A.T. Jones, *American Sentinel*, July 29, 1897, p. 465.3-4.

^{xv} E.G. White, *Great Controversy*, p. 49.2-50.1.

^{xvi} A.T. Jones, *The Place of the Bible in Education*, p. 37.1-2.

^{xvii} E.G. White, *Great Controversy*, p. 234.2

^{xviii} A.T. Jones, *American Sentinel*, March 14, 1895, p. 81.17.

^{xix} Library of Congress, *The engineer Corps of Hell*, 1883; emphasis added. As sited in *A Lamp in the Dark—The Untold History of the Bible* (Documentary).

^{xx} E.G. White, *Great Controversy*, p. 235.1; emphasis added.

^{xxi} Hebrews 2:14-15.

^{xxii} John 8:36.

^{xxiii} 1 Timothy 3:16.

^{xxiv} 2 Corinthians 5:19.

^{xxv} John 17:3.

^{xxvi} 2 Corinthians 5:19.

^{xxvii} Matthew 28:18.

^{xxviii} Matthew 4:4.

^{xxix} E.G. White, *Special Testimonies on Church Schools*, p. 36.1-38.1.

^{xxx} E.G. White, *Education*, p. 57.3.



The Bible's Built-in Dictionary

By Martin Klein

One of the most valuable characteristics of the King James Version of the Bible is its built-in dictionary. Not only did the translators preserve the Hebrew and Greek poetry and literary devices, not only did they give a transparent feel of the style and cadence of the original languages, but they preserved the repetition and redundancy that allows the Bible to interpret and define all its own words.

Professor Gerald Hammond of the University of Manchester reminds English Bible readers that this dictionary is available only in the King James Bible. "The context defines the word and gives it its specific meaning.... It constantly redefines and recontextualizes words. By ignoring this fact, modern translators frequently diminish the status of the text they translate.... A modern translator...perceives the word only as it appears in the lexicon... The literary loss is large...." No reader of these modern versions can perceive, as they can easily in the Authorized Version KJV, the narrative's economical linking ...The Renaissance practice is more faithful to the original text...The repetition of key-words is so prominent in many biblical narratives that one can still follow it...especially if one uses the King James.ⁱ

"By removing 'redundant' wording and by defining the words only from the lexicon, rather than from the Bible itself, modern translations lose the most important key to understanding Scripture as God in

tended it to be understood. The NIV, for example, has over 60,000 less words than the King James Version of the Bible"ⁱⁱ

"Modern translators...now mask the techniques of repetition which are so basic to the literary effects of the Bible... The Renaissance i.e. KJV translators' practice worked better. They were, for a start, shrewdly perceptive of the need to reproduce very close repetition, as, for instance, within a single verse. The reader of a modern version... can find no such pattern.... Again, the modern versions do not allow their readers such an insight...Too often the contrast between old and new versions shows up not merely an imperiousness ignorance on the part of the modern versions toward the Bible's literary effects, but a real desire to suppress them..."ⁱⁱⁱ

Understanding the Bible's built-in dictionary is a simple yet profound way to allow Scripture to be its own interpreter. When one encounters a word with which he is not familiar, or is not sure of the specific meaning, the Bible's own dictionary will define the words for him.

Example: Chapmen

2 Chronicles 9:14 "Beside that which chapmen and merchants brought."

The repetition of the words in this verse define chapmen. We can see that the chapmen are probably merchants. Webster's definition: seller; a market-man. Because of this feature, most of the World's venerable English dictionaries actually obtained their original definitions from the King James Version of the Bible.

In the above example the definition was found in the verse itself, but this is not always the case; sometimes one must look further abroad.

Example: Adamant

Ezekiel 3:9 "As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead...."

What does adamant mean? Searching for another instance of the word, we find the following verse:

(Continued) “The Bible’s Built-in-Dictionary”

Zechariah 7:12 “They made their hearts as an adamant stone....”

Webster’s definition: A very hard stone.

By comparing the two verses, we discover in Ezekiel that the adamant is very hard, and in Zechariah that the adamant is a stone.

Example: Chambering

Romans 13:13 “...chambering and wantonness...”

Webster’s definition: “wanton”

The redundancy of the verse itself allows us to define chambering and wantonness. But, what if you do not know what wanton means? Repeat the process!

Example: Wantonness

2 Peter 2:18 “...they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness”

Webster’s definition: lewdness; promiscuousness

The text itself defines wantonness as the lusts of the flesh.

Example: Lasciviousness

2 Corinthians 12:21 “...and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.”

Webster’s definition: Loose, wanton, lewd, lustful

This verse defines lasciviousness as uncleanness and fornication, very similar to the Webster’s definition. What if you did not understand the word fornication? Find another instance of the word’s usage.

Example: Fornication

2 Chronicles 21:11 “...caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication...”

2 Chronicles 21:13 “...made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring...”

Webster’s definition: Lewdness, adultery, incest

Here is an example where the answer is not found in the same verse, but in very close proximity. Verse 13 defines fornication as going a whoring, once again very similar to the Webster’s definition.

When looking for definitions to a Bible word, the follow sequence is helpful:

1. Look first at the words next to word in question.
2. If the definition is not there, examine the rest of the words in the verse.
3. If the verse does not define the word in question search the preceding and subsequent verses.
4. If these verses contain no clues, the entire chapter containing the word should be read.
5. If the chapter does not define the word, find other instances of the word in the rest of the Bible.

With each definition, the Bible stated the thought in one way, then repeated the same idea in another. This manner of writing comprises literary devices used by the Bible writers to express their God inspired thoughts, and is a very important feature of Holy Writ. Why did God place this repetition in His Word? To increase the likelihood that people would be familiar with one word or the other; to make certain the reader is not misunderstanding the text; to define words should they fall out of use; to compensate for regional variations; and to aid in memorization through:

- a. Alliteration
- b. Rhyme
- c. Rhythm
- d. Phonoasthesia

Example: Alliteration

Alliteration is the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Revelation 19:21 “...fowls were filled with their flesh.”

Job 30:18 “collar of my coat.”

Revelation 3:18
appear / anoint
counsel / clothed
tried / fire

(Continued) “The Bible’s Built-in-Dictionary”

wretched/rich/raiment

Example: Rhyme

Revelation 3:18

I counsel thee
to buy of me
thou mayest be
thou mayest see

Example: Rhythm

Revelation 3:18

I/coun’/cel /thee’
to/buy’ /of /me’
thou /may’/est /be’
thou /may’/est /see’

Example: Phonoasthesia

The KJV’s plosives, like ‘d’, sound more severe than other sounds.

Therefore the use of ‘damnation’ is “sharper” and more “powerful” (Hebrews 4:12) than the NKJV or NIV’s ‘condemnation.’

When modern Bibles substitute words, even with the same meaning, these literary devices are lost; the built-in dictionary is not preserved; the ability to memorize is reduced; and the Bible’s ability to interpret itself is destroyed.

The following words, almost prophetic in nature, were penned more than 125 years ago: “Up to this day of the world’s history, the Bible has not been seriously meddled with, but the time is coming when it will be; and when, in a sense which is not yet true, it will be true that much that will be in the Book will not be true. Just as soon as the wisdom of this world finds out that the only way to stop the onward progress of the Word of Truth, by which worldliness is condemned, will be by making an ally of the Bible, just as soon as it comes to be known that a statement in the Book settles things for a large class of people, then will it attempt to make the ‘word of God,’ as it will still be called, speak for it instead of for the truth.

And, furthermore, as there shall be false Christ’s, so will there be errors that will pass for principles; and they may very easily creep through the printing press into the old Book itself.

Lovers of the pure Word of God will be in great straits before the Lord comes, if they have not learned to know its flavour by the Spirit that is its life. But those who are in agreement with the Abiding Spirit will not be left to misunderstandings. They shall know and all things shall be brought to their remembrance just at the crisis when such knowledge and remembrance is needed. The Word can always utter itself over and over to the true-hearted, without the help of printers’ ink, as well as in spite of it. Those, however, who have not the principles of God built into the character, will be ‘at sea’ in those days, and will be especially susceptible to any lies that may be printed in the form of the old Bible.”^{iv}

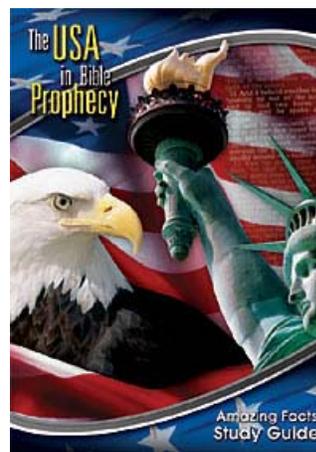
ⁱ Robert Alter, *Literary Guide to the Bible* p. 612, 551, 605, 651-652.

ⁱⁱ KJV: 788,280 (1769 edition of the 1611 King James Bible) - <http://www.biblebelievers.com/believers-org/kjv-stats.html>
KJV: 788,258 - Laurence Vance, *King James His Bible and it's Translators*, p. 74.
Number of Words in NIV 727,969 - http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_many_words_in_NIV_Bible

<http://brandplucked.livepage.apple.comwebs.com/nivmissing64000words.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ Robert Alter, *The Literary Guide to the Bible*, p. 654-655.

^{iv} Henry, Mrs. S.M.I., *The Abiding Spirit*, 1889 Ed., pp. 15-16.



An Amazing Facts Study on

Please read Revelation 13:11-18 before beginning this guide, because these eight verses give a prophetic picture of America in the days ahead.

1. Two world powers are symbolized in Revelation chapter 13. What is the first power?

Answer: The beast with seven heads (Revelation 13:1-10) is none other than the Roman papacy. (See Study Guide 15 for a complete study on this topic.) Remember that beasts in Bible prophecy symbolize nations or world powers (Daniel 7:17, 23).

(Continued) "The USA in Bible Prophecy"

2. In what year was the papacy predicted to lose its world influence and power?

"Power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." Revelation 13:5.

Answer: The Bible predicted that the papacy would lose its world influence and power at the end of the 42 months. This prophecy was fulfilled in 1798, when Napoleon's General Berthier took the pope captive and the papal power received its deadly wound. (For the full details, see Study Guide 15.)

3. Which nation was predicted to arise around the same time the papacy was receiving its deadly wound?

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." Revelation 13:11.

Answer: The papal captivity mentioned in verse 10 took place in 1798, and the new power (verse 11) was seen emerging at that time. The United States declared its independence in 1776, voted the Constitution in 1787, adopted the Bill of Rights in 1791, and was clearly recognized as a world power by 1798. The timing obviously fits America. No other power could possibly qualify.

4. What is the significance of the beast "coming up out of the earth?"

Answer: This nation arises "out of the earth" instead of out of the water as did the other nations mentioned in Daniel and Revelation. We know from Revelation that water symbolizes areas of the world that have a large population. "The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." Revelation 17:15. Therefore, the earth represents the opposite. It means that this new nation would arise in an area of the world that had been virtually unpopulated before the late 1700s. It could not arise among the crowded and struggling nations of the Old World. It had to come up in a sparsely populated continent.

5. What is symbolized by its two lamb-like horns and absence of crowns?

Answer: Horns represent kings and kingdoms, or governments (Daniel 7:24 8:21). In this case, they represent America's two governing principles: civil and religious liberty. These two governing principles have also been labeled "republicanism" (a government without a king) and "Protestantism" (a church without a pope). Other nations since ancient times had taxed

people to support a state religion. Most had also oppressed religious dissidents. But America established something entirely new: Freedom to worship as you wish without government interference or control and with government protection. Absence of crowns signifies a republican form of government, rather than a monarchy. Lamb-like horns denote an innocent, young, non-oppressive, peace-loving, and spiritual nation. Jesus is referred to as a lamb 28 times in Revelation. So this new government was trying to uphold His principles. No other power on earth could possibly fit the characteristics and time slot of the lamb-horned beast, except America.

Special Note: How we wish we could stop right here in Jesus' description of America but we can't, because He didn't. What comes next is jolting and disquieting. America is truly a great country with its freedom of conscience, press, speech, and enterprise the protection it provides its golden opportunities its sense of fair play its sympathy for the underdog and its strong Christian orientation. It is not perfect, but even still a host of people from other countries hasten to become American citizens every year. If America's doors were opened wide, a vast portion of the people of the world would move to the United States at once to "heaven on earth" as they perceive it. Sadly, this richly blessed country will change drastically in the days just ahead, precipitating unparalleled heartache and woe for God's people. We report it with reticence and deep concern.

6. What does it mean when the prophecy in Revelation 13:11 says America will speak "as a dragon?"

Answer: As we learned in Study Guide 20, the dragon is Satan, who works through various governments of the earth to establish his evil kingdom and crush God's church by persecuting and destroying His people. Satan's aim always has been to usurp God's power and throne and to force people to worship and obey him. (See Study Guide 2 for details.) So "speaking as a dragon" means that the United States (under the influence of Satan) will, in the end time, force people to worship contrary to conscience or be punished.

To be continued next month. For more study topics please visit; <http://www.amazingfacts.org>



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