

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

For the Third Quarter 2014

Revival and Reformation

Published by the
General Conference
International Missionary Society
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Reform Movement

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Translation, editing, and design
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INTRODUCTION

“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” Ezekiel 33:11.

In 1914 the Lord called into existence the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement, to keep the flame of truth burning, to defend faithfulness to divine principles in time of crisis, and to prepare a people to be light bearers in the world. This year, 2014, is the centennial of that movement. It has therefore been considered as fitting that the subject of “Revival and Reformation” be studied around the world.

These Sabbath School Lessons were originally written by Elder Oscar Kramer, a Reform Movement pioneer who as a child witnessed the serious crisis within the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1914-1918 in Europe. For decades he stood as a faithful servant of God. When others surrendered the gospel principle of pacifism because of government compulsion, he was one who understood what sacrifice was necessary and with all his strength and the special help of God firmly defended the faith, despite opposition and difficulties of many kinds.

Included in these lessons are (1) the Biblical principles on which revival and reformation are based, (2) the spiritual characteristics of leaders who were used by God to bring about change, (3) Scriptural examples of reformations in ancient Israel, (4) the historical context that brought about the Reform Movement, and (5) what God is doing now to cleanse and seal a people who will be ready to meet Jesus with joy at His second coming.

It is important to search out the issues as well as the Biblical and historical context of this subject, and this special year gives us the opportunity to look back and assess where we are now. Everything that happened in the past directs our hearts and minds to what is ahead.

“The wonderful things to take place in our world—the greatest events of all ages—are incomprehensible to worldly minds; they cannot be explained by human sciences. The powers of heaven shall be shaken. Christ is coming in power and great glory, but His coming is not such a mystery as the things to take place before that event. Man must be a partaker of the divine nature in order to stand in this evil time, when the mysteries of satanic agencies are at work. Only by the divine power united with the human can souls endure

through these times of trial. Says Christ, 'Without Me ye can do nothing.' Then there must be far less of self and more of Jesus.

"External forms cannot take the place of inward piety. The Jewish teachers exalted themselves as righteous; they called all those who differed from them accursed, and closed the gates of heaven to them, declaring that those who had not learned in their schools were not righteous. But with all their criticisms and exactions, with all their forms and ceremonies, they were an offense to God. They looked down upon, and despised the very ones precious in the sight of the Lord. And among the people who claim to believe the doctrines of our faith are those also who are filled with Pharisaism. Unless they are laying hold, moment by moment, of the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour, they will preach Christless sermons, and will become stumbling-blocks to souls who are inquiring the way to be saved. Human devices, human plans, and human counsels will be without power. Only in Christ Jesus will the church near the period of Christ's coming be able to stand. She is required of her Redeemer to advance in piety, to have increased zeal, understanding better as she nears the end that her own 'high calling is of God in Christ Jesus.'" —*The Ellen G. White Materials*, pp. 332, 333.

More than a century ago, the Lord inspired His servant to write: "A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend." —(*Review and Herald*, February 25, 1902) *Christian Service*, p. 42.

Let all Sabbath school teachers and students prayerfully and carefully store up in their hearts and minds the truths impressed by the Holy Spirit that are so necessary today and tomorrow—all for His glory.

—*The brethren of the General Conference
Ministerial Department*

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Sabbath, July 5, 2014

A Call for Revival

“Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God, and striving to conform their lives to its precepts.... God calls for a revival and a reformation.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 626.

DEFINITION

1. What is revival? How is this to be understood spiritually?

ROMANS 13:11 *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

“A period of renewed religious interest.” —*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*. Also, “awakening, in a church or community, of interest in and care for matters relating to personal religion,” “a reawakening of faith or renewal of commitment to religion.”

“Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death.” —(*Review and Herald*, February 25, 1902) *Christian Service*, p. 42.

2. Of what spiritual danger does the church always need to be aware?

REVELATION 2:4 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

“Why not come back to our simplicity and life of fervor? The reason why we are not more joyful is that we have lost our first love. Let us then be zealous and repent,...” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 368.

“The word, ‘Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love,’ is applicable to many living in this time. God calls for immediate repentance and reformation. It is time for a great change to take place among the people who are looking for the second appearing of their Lord. Soon strange things will take place. God will hold us responsible for the way in which we treat the truth. Our purity of faith and action will decide our future.

“God is in earnest with us.... A clear, decided testimony is to be borne, for a people is to be prepared to meet a time of trouble such as

never was since there was a nation.” —(Manuscript 136, 1902) *Medical Ministry*, pp. 37, 38.

THE NEED

3. What are those who have received light to do?

ISAIAH 60:1 *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*

“If there is not an awakening among us who have had so great light and so many privileges, we shall sink to ruin, and our fate will be worse than that of Chorazin and Bethsaida;...” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 529.

“Everywhere people are perishing for lack of a knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us. The members of the church are in need of an awakening, that they may realize their responsibility to impart these truths. Those who have been enlightened by the truth are to be light bearers to the world. To hide our light at this time is to make a terrible mistake. The message to God’s people today is, ‘Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.’” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pp. 455, 456.

4. In view of this, what is it important to do?

ACTS 17:11 *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*

“The end is near, and God forbid that we shall be asleep at this time.” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 362.

“On every hand we see those who have had much light and knowledge deliberately choosing evil in the place of good. Making no attempt to reform, they are growing worse and worse. But the people of God are not to walk in darkness. They are to walk in the light, for they are reformers.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 456.

“Study the Scriptures more earnestly; for their treasures of wisdom and knowledge do not lie upon the surface for the superficial reader.” —*Review and Herald*, February 4, 1890.

SURPRISE FOR THE UNPREPARED

5. How and why will people be surprised at Christ’s second coming?

MATTHEW 24:43 *But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.*

REVELATION 3:3 *Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

“The world, full of rioting, full of godless pleasure, is asleep, asleep in carnal security. Men are putting afar off the coming of the Lord.

They laugh at warnings. The proud boast is made, 'All things continue as they were from the beginning.' 'Tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.' 2 Peter 3:4; Isaiah 56:12. We will go deeper into pleasure loving. But Christ says, 'Behold, I come as a thief.' Revelation 16:15."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 635.

"In these last days many are weighed in the balances and found wanting, because they suffer their minds to be engrossed with things of little importance, while eternal truth is neglected....

"They failed to search the Scriptures."—*Sermons and Talks*, vol. 2, p. 4.

INVITATION AND PROPHECY

6. What true revival must and will come individually and collectively before the end of time?

JOEL 2:12-17 *Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: ¹³ And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. ¹⁴ Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: ¹⁶ Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. ¹⁷ Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?*

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be, among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 464.

"A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work."—*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121.

7. To experience this revival, what must God's people do? See also Luke 11:9-13.

1 JOHN 5:15 *And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

MATTHEW 7:7 *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

"A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. While the people are so destitute of God's Holy Spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the Word; but when the Spirit's power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect."—*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121.

HINDRANCES TO AVOID

8. How should the truths of Scripture be considered? What does the Lord invite every person to do?

JEREMIAH 6:16 *Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*

“It is only as the law of God is restored to its rightful position that there can be a revival of primitive faith and godliness among His professed people. ‘Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.’ Jeremiah 6:16.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 478.

“The old standard bearers knew what it was to wrestle with God in prayer, and to enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit. But these are passing off from the stage of action; and who are coming up to fill their places? How is it with the rising generation? Are they converted to God? Are we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary, or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come.” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 122.

9. What hinders a revival? Who is working both behind the scenes and openly to defeat God’s purposes?

ISAIAH 59:1, 2 *Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

1 PETER 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*

“There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time.” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 124.

“I viewed God’s people as partaking of the spirit of the world, imitating its fashions, and getting above the simplicity of our faith. It seemed that the church at Battle Creek were backsliding from God, and it was impossible to arouse their sensibilities. The testimonies given me of God had the least influence and were the least heeded.... I knew that the Lord had not forsaken His people, but that their sins and iniquities had separated them from God.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 596.

IMPORTANCE OF VERBAL AFFIRMATION

10. What hearty response was often spoken in Biblical times after a message was presented?

1 CHRONICLES 16:36 *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for ever and ever. And all the people said, Amen, and praised the Lord.*

NEHEMIAH 5:13 *Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the Lord. And the people did according to this promise.*

The meaning of the word “Amen” is “so be it”. It was “used to express solemn ratification (as of an expression of faith) or hearty approval (as of an assertion).” —*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*. “Hebrew, *Aman*” was used “to establish, to build up or support, to trust or believe.” —*Strong’s Concordance*, 539, 541.

“Praise the Lord in the congregation of His people. When the word of the Lord was spoken to the Hebrews anciently, the command was, ‘And let all the people say, Amen.’ When the ark of the covenant was brought into the city of David, and a psalm of joy and triumph was chanted, ‘all the people said, Amen, and praised the Lord.’ This fervent response was an evidence that they understood the word spoken, and joined in the worship of God.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 318.

THOUGHT QUESTION

Just as the people in Biblical times responded when they heard heavenly messages, what should we answer today to the call for a revival?

* * *

Dangers of Indifference and Apathy

“Strive to arouse men and women from their spiritual insensibility. Tell them how you found Jesus, and how blessed you have been since you gained an experience in His service. Tell them what blessing comes to you as you sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn precious lessons from His Word. Tell them of the gladness and joy that there is in the Christian life. Your warm, fervent words will convince them that you have found the pearl of great price. Let your cheerful, encouraging words show that you have certainly found the higher way. This is genuine missionary work, and as it is done, many will awake as from a dream.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 38 (1909).

WARNING AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

1. Does it matter whether something is called good or bad? What is at stake in this?

ISAIAH 5:20, 21 *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!* ²¹ *Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

MATTHEW 7:18 *A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.*

“The Lord abhors indifference and disloyalty in a time of crisis in His work.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 148.

“Satan will work with his deceptive power to influence the heart and becloud the understanding, to make evil appear good, and good evil. The stronger and purer the faith of God’s people, and the firmer their determination to obey Him, the more fiercely will Satan try to stir up against them the rage of those who, while claiming to be righteous, trample upon the law of God.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 264.

“The Lord Jesus demands that every soul make a reality of truth. Show that you believe that you are not half with Christ and half with the world.... Indolence and carelessness and frivolity separate the soul from Christ, and Satan comes in to work his will with the poor worldly subject. We have a great truth, but through careless indifference the truth has lost its force upon us. Satan has come in with his specious temptations, and has led the professed followers of Christ away from their Leader, classing them with the foolish virgins.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 130.

2. Of what grave danger is everyone warned—both young and old?

EZEKIEL 33:31, 32 *And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. ³² And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.*

ZEPHANIAH 1:12 *And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil.*

MALACHI 3:14, 15 *Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts? ¹⁵ And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.*

“Will you, young friends, arise and shake off this dreadful indifference and stupor which has conformed you to the world? Will you heed the voice of warning which tells you that destruction lies in the path of those who are at ease in this hour of danger? God’s patience will not always wait for you, poor, trifling souls. He who holds our destinies in His hands will not always be trifled with. Jesus declares to us that there is a greater sin than that which caused the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is the sin of those who have the great light of truth in these days and who are not moved to repentance. It is the sin of rejecting the light of the most solemn message of mercy to the world.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 380.

3. Even though the Lord appreciates beautiful, harmonious music and actions, why can impressive church services, beautiful singing, and wonderful instrumental music not commend anyone to Him?

AMOS 5:21-24 *I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. ²² Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. ²³ Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. ²⁴ But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.*

“Form and ceremony do not constitute the kingdom of God. Ceremonies become multitudinous and extravagant as the vital principles of the kingdom of God are lost. But it is not form and ceremony that Christ requires....

“Gorgeous apparel, fine singing, and instrumental music in the church do not call forth the songs of the angel choir. In the sight of God these things are like the branches of the unfruitful fig tree which bore nothing but pretentious leaves. Christ looks for fruit, for the principles of goodness

and sympathy and love. These are the principles of heaven, and when they are revealed in the lives of human beings, we may know that Christ is formed within, the hope of glory. A congregation may be the poorest in the land, without music or outward show, but if it possesses these principles, the members can sing, for the joy of Christ is in their souls, and this they can offer as a sweet oblation to God.”—*Evangelism*, pp. 511, 512.

RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES OF APATHY

4. If Christ’s stirring appeals arouse no response in one’s heart, what might be the reason?

ROMANS 2:4-6 *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? ⁵ But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; ⁶ Who will render to every man according to his deeds.*

“The reason why there are so many hardhearted men and women in the world is that true affection has been regarded as weakness, and has been discouraged and repressed. The better nature of these persons was stifled in childhood; and unless the light of divine love shall melt away their cold selfishness, their happiness will be forever ruined. If we wish our children to possess the tender spirit of Jesus, and the sympathy that angels manifest for us, we must encourage the generous, loving impulses of childhood.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 516.

5. What will happen if the teachings of truth are regarded with indifference?

EPHESIANS 4:14 *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*

“God calls for men and women of stability, of firm purpose, who can be relied upon in seasons of danger and trial, who are as firmly rooted and grounded in the truth as the eternal hills, who cannot be swayed to the right or to the left, but who move straight onward and are always found on the right side. There are some, who, in time of religious peril, may almost always be looked for in the ranks of the enemy; if they have any influence, it is on the wrong side.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 75.

6. What is another great danger? Why?

MATTHEW 24:48-50 *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; ⁴⁹ And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; ⁵⁰ The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of.*

“Faith in the soon coming of Christ is waning. ‘My Lord delayeth His coming’ is not only said in the heart, but expressed in words, and most decidedly in works. Stupidity in this watching time is sealing the senses

of God's people as to the signs of the times. The terrible iniquity which abounds calls for the greatest diligence and for the living testimony, to keep sin out of the church. Faith has been decreasing to a fearful degree, and it is only by exercise that it can increase." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, pp. 255, 256.

"... Knowledge of the nearness of Christ's coming should not be allowed to lose its force, and we become careless and inattentive, and fall into slumber—into an insensibility and indifference to realities. In slumber we are in an unreal world, and not sensible of the things which are taking place around us...." —(*The Youth's Instructor*, August 25, 1886) *Maranatha*, p. 220.

LESSONS FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DISCIPLES

7. What great weakness did the disciples reveal in a time of crisis? In what danger did this place them?

MATTHEW 26:40, 41 *And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

"But the disciples trusted to themselves. They did not look to the mighty Helper as Christ had counseled them to do. Thus when the Saviour was most in need of their sympathy and prayers, they were found asleep. Even Peter was sleeping.

"And John, the loving disciple who had leaned upon the breast of Jesus, was asleep. Surely, the love of John for his Master should have kept him awake." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 688, 689.

8. Why is the same danger present today?

1 THESSALONIANS 5:6 *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

"Watch, brethren, the first dimming of your light, the first neglect of prayer, the first symptom of spiritual slumber. 'He that endureth to the end shall be saved.' It is by the constant exercise of faith and love that believers are made to shine as lights in the world....

"'Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.' Matthew 26:41. There are stern battles for you to fight. You should put on the whole armor of righteousness and prove yourselves strong and true in your Redeemer's service." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 124, 125.

9. Why has Christ not yet come? What is certain?

2 PETER 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

HEBREWS 10:35-37 *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. ³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. ³⁷ For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

“Our Lord delays because of His longsuffering to usward, ‘not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.’ But when we, with all the redeemed, shall stand upon the sea of glass, with harps of gold and crowns of glory, and before us the immensity of eternity, then we shall see how short was the waiting period of probation. ‘Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching.’” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 485.

“We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel; but for Christ’s sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action.” —(Letter 184, 1901) *Evangelism*, p. 696.

OBTAINING THE VICTORY

10. What is necessary for victory and salvation?

PHILIPPIANS 2:12, 13 *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

HEBREWS 12:4 *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*

1 JOHN 3:2, 3 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

“Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self, and grow into a noble heroism. This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer. Each one has a personal battle to fight. Not even God can make our characters noble or our lives useful, unless we become co-workers with Him. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 487.

* * *

Condition of the Many

“If we have correct ideas of the mission of Christ on earth, and of what our work is, we shall not become discouraged because we are few. Said Christ, when asked if there be few that shall be saved, ‘Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.’ Now He gives the reason: ‘Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.’ Matthew 7:13, 14.” —*Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 232.

GENERAL STATE OF SOCIETY

1. Who is leading the majority of people on earth? How do you know?

EPHESIANS 2:2, 3 *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

1 JOHN 5:19, MARGIN *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth under the wicked one.*

“If numbers were an evidence of success, Satan might claim the pre-eminence; for in this world his followers are largely in the majority.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 143.

“The spirit of the world is no more in harmony with the spirit of Christ today than in earlier times, and those who preach the word of God in its purity will be received with no greater favor now than then. The forms of opposition to the truth may change, the enmity may be less open because it is more subtle; but the same antagonism still exists and will be manifested to the end of time.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 144.

2. What is the general condition of society today?

ROMANS 3:10-18 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ¹³ Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: ¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood: ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways: ¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

“We are living in the midst of an ‘epidemic of crime’ at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud; every day brings its heartsickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering; of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 89.

CAUSE OF OVERWHELMING INIQUITY

3. What is the cause of so much suffering in the world?

ISAIAH 24:5, 6 *The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶ Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.*

“We are living in an age of great wickedness. Multitudes are enslaved by sinful customs and evil habits, and the fetters that bind them are difficult to break. Iniquity, like a flood, is deluging the earth. Crimes almost too fearful to be mentioned are of daily occurrence. And yet men professing to be watchmen on the walls of Zion will teach that the law was designed for the Jews only, and passed away with the glorious privileges that ushered in the gospel age. Is there not a relation between the prevailing lawlessness and crime, and the fact that ministers and people hold and teach that the law is no longer of binding force?” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 219, 220.

“Because of transgression, the curse of God has come upon the earth itself, and upon the cattle, and upon all flesh. Human beings are suffering the result of their own course of action in departing from the commandments of God. The beasts also suffer under the curse.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 411.

4. Why does sin have such power over all humanity?

ROMANS 7:14, 15, 19; 6:16 *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.... ¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.... ^{6:16} Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

“Fallen man is Satan’s lawful captive. The mission of Jesus Christ was to rescue him from his power. Man is naturally inclined to follow

Satan's suggestions, and he cannot of himself successfully resist so terrible a foe, unless Christ, the mighty conqueror, dwells in him, guiding his desires, and giving him strength. God alone can limit the power of Satan." —*Messages to Young People*, p. 51.

OTHER REPRESENTATIONS OF MASSES OF PEOPLE

5. With what is this widespread condition compared?

ISAIAH 60:2, FIRST PART *For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people:...*

JOHN 1:5; 3:19 *And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not....^{3:19} And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

"As error is fast progressing, we should seek to be awake in the cause of God, and realize the time in which we live. Darkness is to cover the earth, and gross darkness the people. And as nearly all around us are being enveloped in the thick darkness of error and delusion, it becomes us to shake off stupidity and live near to God, where we can draw divine rays of light and glory from the countenance of Jesus. As darkness thickens and error increases, we should obtain a more thorough knowledge of the truth and be prepared to maintain our position from the Scriptures." —*Early Writings*, pp. 104, 105.

6. What other symbol illustrates the power controlling multitudes, nations, and people?

REVELATION 17:1, LAST PART, 2, 15 ... *I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:² With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication....¹⁵ And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

"In Revelation 17 an angel explained that waters represent 'peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.' Winds are a symbol of strife. The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 440.

"... Wine of error is made up of false doctrines, such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy and sanctified day. These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various churches, and thus the Scriptures are fulfilled that say, 'For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'" —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 61, 62.

A REMNANT WILL BE SAVED

7. What calamity befell the people on earth in Noah's day? How does that time compare to today?

GENESIS 6:5, 7, 11-13 *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually....⁷ And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them....¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.¹² And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.¹³ And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

“It was not multitudes or majorities that were on the side of right. The world was arrayed against God’s justice and His laws, and Noah was regarded as a fanatic.... ‘The threatenings of God,’ they said, ‘are for the purpose of intimidating, and will never be verified. You need not be alarmed. Such an event as the destruction of the world by the God who made it, and the punishment of the beings He has created, will never take place. Be at peace; fear not. Noah is a wild fanatic.’” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 96.

“The world is increasing in wickedness as in the days of Noah.” —(Letter 279, 1905) *A Call to Medical Evangelism and Health Education*, p. 22.

“The same sins that brought judgments upon the world in the days of Noah, exist in our day. Men and women now carry their eating and drinking so far that it ends in gluttony and drunkenness. This prevailing sin, the indulgence of perverted appetite, inflamed the passions of men in the days of Noah, and led to widespread corruption. Violence and sin reached to heaven.” —*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 11.

8. Even if God’s professed church numbered in the millions today, only what portion would be saved? Why?

ROMANS 9:27 *Esaiahs also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved.*

“The majority of nominal Christians, while they profess to be living for Christ, are really living for the world. They do not discern the excellence of heavenly things, and therefore cannot truly love them. Many profess to be Christians because Christianity is considered honorable. They do not discern that genuine Christianity means cross-bearing, and their religion has little influence to restrain them from taking part in worldly pleasures.” —*Messages to Young People*, p. 374.

“Not all, however, would be ensnared by the enemy’s devices. As the end of all things earthly should approach, there would be faithful ones able to discern the signs of the times. While a large number of professing believers would deny their faith by their works, there would be a remnant who would endure to the end.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 535, 536.

THE STRAIT WAY

9. When it comes to matters of faith and truth, in what can no trust be placed? Why?

EXODUS 23:2 *Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment.*

1 CORINTHIANS 1:19, 20 *For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.*
²⁰ *Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*

“The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord’ in its support....”

“The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 595.

10. How is the way of salvation presented in the Bible? How many will walk that way?

MATTHEW 7:13, 14 *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

JEREMIAH 21:8 *And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death.*

“God sets before man life and death. He can have his choice. Many desire life, but still continue to walk in the broad road. They choose to rebel against God’s government, notwithstanding His great mercy and compassion in giving His Son to die for them. Those who do not choose to accept of the salvation so dearly purchased must be punished.... After the wicked are destroyed from off the earth, all the heavenly host will say, ‘Amen!’” —*Early Writings*, p. 221.

“There are thousands who are traveling the road of darkness and error, the broad road which leads to death, who flatter themselves that they are in the path to happiness and heaven; but they will never find the one nor reach the other.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 438.

“If we take Christ for our guide, He will lead us safely along the narrow way. The road may be rough and thorny; the ascent may be steep and dangerous; there may be pitfalls upon the right hand and upon the left; we may have to endure toil in our journey; when weary, when longing for rest, we may have to toil on; when faint, we may have to fight; when discouraged, we may be called upon to hope; but with Christ as our Guide we shall not lose the path to immortal life, we shall not fail to reach the desired haven at last.” —*Our Father Cares*, p. 134, 135.

* * *

Condition of the Few

“The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the wrongs of God’s professed people.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 266.

STRIVE TO ENTER

1. What did Jesus reply when He was asked how many would be saved? Why is this so?

LUKE 13:23, 24 *Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, ²⁴ Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*

“It is not possible for us to drift into heaven. No sluggard can enter there. If we do not strive to gain an entrance into the kingdom, if we do not seek earnestly to learn what constitutes its laws, we are not fitted for a part in it. Those who refuse to cooperate with God on earth would not cooperate with Him in heaven. It would not be safe to take them to heaven.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 280.

“Man is allotted a part in this great struggle for everlasting life; he must respond to the working of the Holy Spirit. It will require a struggle to break through the powers of darkness, and the Spirit works in him to accomplish this. But man is no passive being, to be saved in indolence. He is called upon to strain every muscle and exercise every faculty in the struggle for immortality; yet it is God that supplies the efficiency. No human being can be saved in indolence. The Lord bids us: ‘Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.’ ‘Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.’ Luke 13:24; Matthew 7:13, 14.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 65.

A VERY SMALL REMNANT

2. What proportion of the population was obedient in the time of ancient Israel? How does that compare to today?

ISAIAH 1:9; 4:3 *Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto*

Gomorrah.... ^{4:3} And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem.

ROMANS 11:5 *Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*

“The outlook was particularly discouraging as regards the social conditions of the people.... Iniquitous practices had become so prevalent among all classes that the few who remained true to God were often tempted to lose heart and to give way to discouragement and despair. It seemed as if God’s purpose for Israel were about to fail and that the rebellious nation was to suffer a fate similar to that of Sodom and Gomorrah.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 306.

“A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the train. It seemed that the whole world was on board, that there could not be one left....

“I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, bound together by the truth, in bundles, or companies.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 88, 89.

3. How many of the millions in Noah’s day were saved?

1 PETER 3:20 *Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*

“Of the vast population of the earth before the flood, only eight souls believed and obeyed God’s word through Noah. For a hundred and twenty years the preacher of righteousness warned the world of the coming destruction, but his message was rejected and despised. So it will be now.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 102.

THE LORD CAN WORK BY FEW

4. Does it take large numbers to achieve victories in God’s cause? Why, or why not?

JUDGES 7:6, 7 *And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. ⁷ And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.*

1 SAMUEL 14:6, LAST PART ... *There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.*

“The three hundred chosen men not only possessed courage and self-control, but they were men of faith. They had not defiled themselves with idolatry. God could direct them, and through them He could work deliverance for Israel. Success does not depend upon numbers. God can deliver by few as well as by many. He is honored not so much by the

great numbers as by the character of those who serve Him.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 549, 550.

5. Why is it not right to compare the size of God’s church with that of other organizations?

DEUTERONOMY 7:7 *The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people.*

REVELATION 12:17 *And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

“If you lower the standard in order to secure popularity and an increase of numbers, and then make this increase a cause of rejoicing, you show great blindness. If numbers were evidence of success, Satan might claim the pre-eminence; for, in this world, his followers are largely in the majority.” —*Counsels on Education*, p. 42.

“Concerning Israel, the Lord declared: ‘The people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.’ Numbers 23:9. To us, as well as to ancient Israel, these words apply. God’s people are to stand alone.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 109.

“Never be ashamed of your faith; never be found on the side of the enemy. ‘Ye are the light of the world.’ Your faith is to be revealed as precious truth, truth which all should have and all must have if they are saved. As a people, we are in the minority. We are not popular. Our enemies will be watching us for evil, to betray us and to ruin our souls. They will not appreciate our motives.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 520, 521.

A REMNANT THAT WILL DO GOD’S WILL

6. Is it sufficient to be baptized and a member of a church? Give your thoughts concerning this.

MATTHEW 22:14; 7:21 *For many are called, but few are chosen....^{7:21} Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

“The word of God plainly tells us that few will be saved, and that the greater number of those, even, who are called will prove themselves unworthy of everlasting life. They will have no part in heaven, but will have their portion with Satan, and experience the second death.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, pp. 293, 294.

“A mere profession of faith in Christ, a boastful knowledge of the truth, does not make a man a Christian. A religion that seeks only to gratify the eye, the ear, and the taste, or that sanctions self-indulgence, is not the religion of Christ....

“It is not enough to believe the theory of truth, to make a profession of faith in Christ.... ‘He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments,’ John wrote, ‘is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: here-

by know we that we are in Him.' 'He that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him.' 1 John 2:4, 5; 3:24." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 317, 562.

7. In what spiritual condition will true believers be found at the end of time?

ZEPHANIAH 3:12, 13 *I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.* ¹³ *The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.* .

REVELATION 14:5 *And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.*

"Every man through whom God works will have to learn that the living, ever-present, ever-acting God is supreme, and has lent him talents to use—an intellect to originate; a heart to be the seat of His throne; affections to flow out in blessing to all with whom he shall come in contact, a conscience through which the Holy Spirit can convict him of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment....

"Before honor is humility. To fill a high place before men, Heaven chooses the worker who ... takes a lowly place before God. The most childlike disciple is the most efficient in labor for God." —*My Life Today*, p. 332.

"Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God.... I saw that none could share the 'refreshing' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action.... Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence." —*Early Writings*, p. 71.

8. What special characteristic marks the remnant church?

EZEKIEL 9:4 *And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.*

MATTHEW 5:4 *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

"The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God....

"At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 211, 209, 210.

9. Why should every person weep and mourn over his sins?

JAMES 4:7-10 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. ⁹ Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

“Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 300.

10. What experience did the disciples need to make? What similar experience is necessary for us today?

ACTS 1:13, 14 *And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. ¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*

“Putting away all differences, all desire for the supremacy, they came close together in Christian fellowship. They drew nearer and nearer to God....” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 37.

“Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death.” —(*Review and Herald*, February 25, 1902) *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 128.

“I have been deeply impressed by scenes that have recently passed before me in the night season. There seemed to be a great movement—a work of revival—going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God’s call. My brethren, the Lord is speaking to us. Shall we not heed His voice?” —(*General Conference Bulletin*, May 19, 1913, p. 34) *Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 402.

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Beware of Emotional, False Revivals

“There is a class of people who are always ready to go off on some tangent, who want to catch up something strange and wonderful and new; but God desires us all to move calmly, considerately, choosing our words in harmony with the solid truth for this time. The truth should be presented to the mind as free as possible from that which is emotional, while still bearing the intensity and solemnity befitting its character. We must guard against encouraging extremists, those who would be either in the fire or in the water.” —*Evangelism*, p. 611.

TRUE AND FALSE REVIVALS

- 1. What is prophesied concerning the rise of supposed prophets who will even perform signs and wonders? What false religious revival will sweep the world in the last days?**

MATTHEW 24:24 *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

DEUTERONOMY 13:1-3, FIRST PART *If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, ² And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; ³ Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams....*

“I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and before the loud cry of the third angel is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches.” —*Early Writings*, p. 261.

- 2. When it is time for God’s true revival, what will Satan do? What will his deceptions be like?**

2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15 *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth, there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.... The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.... There will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 464.

AVOIDING EMOTIONALISM AND SENSATIONALISM

3. Why do supernatural phenomena work in favor of a false revival?

REVELATION 13:13, 14 *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

“Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 624.

4. What means will the powers of evil use to achieve their deceptive goals? Is emotional or sensational preaching recommended by the Spirit of the Lord?

MATTHEW 24:11 *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

2 PETER 2:1, 3 *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies.... ³ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

“Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.’ It is easy to be borne along by the current, and to cry Hosanna with the multitude; but in the calm of everyday life, when there is no special excitement or exaltation, then comes the test of true Christianity. It is then that your heart becomes cold, and your zeal abates, and religious exercises become distasteful to you.

“You positively neglect to do the will of God. Says Christ: ‘Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.’ This is the condition imposed; this is the test that proves men’s characters. Feelings are often deceiving, emotions are no sure safeguard; for they are variable and

subject to external circumstances. Many are deluded by relying on sensational impressions. The test is: What are you doing for Christ? What sacrifices are you making? What victories are you gaining? A selfish spirit overcome, a temptation to neglect duty resisted, passion subdued, and willing, cheerful obedience rendered to the will of Christ are far greater evidences that you are a child of God than spasmodic piety and emotional religion.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 188.

5. What is said of one who cannot control his emotions? Why are emotions not trustworthy?

PROVERBS 25:28; 16:32 *He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls....* ^{16:32} *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

The word “emotion” is not used in the Bible; instead we find this expressed as the “spirit” in man, meaning his inner sensibilities.

“Feelings are often deceiving, emotions are no sure safeguard; for they are variable and subject to external circumstances. Many are deluded by relying on sensational impressions.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 188.

“Religion is not merely an emotion, a feeling. It is a principle which is interwoven with all the daily duties and transactions of life.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 506.

“Satan leads people to think that because they have felt a rapture of feeling they are converted. But their experience does not change. Their actions are the same as before. Their lives show no good fruit.... They are deceived. Their experience goes no deeper than feeling. They build upon the sand, and when adverse winds come their house is swept away.” —*Messages to Young People*, p. 71.

DECEPTIVE SNARES

6. As in his first deception, through what senses does Satan often control minds?

GENESIS 3:6 *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

“In many of the revivals which have occurred during the last half century, the same influences have been at work, to a greater or less degree, that will be manifest in the more extensive movements of the future. There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead. Yet none need be deceived. In the light of God’s word it is not difficult to determine the nature of these movements. Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world, there we may be sure that God’s blessing is not bestowed. And by the rule which Christ Himself has given, ‘Ye shall know them by their fruits’ (Matthew 7:16), it is evident that these move-

ments are not the work of the Spirit of God.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 464, 465.

Appetite, beauty, intelligence. “Satan’s influence is constantly exerted upon men to distract the senses, control the mind for evil, and incite to violence and crime. He weakens the body, darkens the intellect, and debases the soul. Whenever men reject the Saviour’s invitation, they are yielding themselves to Satan. Multitudes in every department in life, in the home, in business, and even in the church, are doing this today. It is because of this that violence and crime have overspread the earth, and moral darkness, like the pall of death, enshrouds the habitations of men.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 341.

7. What will be outstanding in the last days, and what will be lacking?

2 TIMOTHY 3:1, 5 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come....⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

MATTHEW 7:21 *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

LUKE 6:46 *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

“We are not only to say, ‘I believe,’ but to practice the truth. It is by conformity to the will of God in our words, our deportment, our character, that we prove our connection with Him. Whenever one renounces sin, which is the transgression of the law, his life will be brought into conformity to the law, into perfect obedience. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.... The line of demarcation will be plain and distinct between those who love God and keep His commandments, and those who love Him not and disregard His precepts.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 92.

8. What methods, used in false revivals, are not from the Lord?

AMOS 5:23 *Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.*

“The things you have described as taking place..., the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.

“The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time.... A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise, to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit’s working....

“No encouragement should be given to this kind of worship.” —*Select-ed Messages*, book 2, pp. 36, 37.

SHIELDED FROM DECEPTION

9. What change must take place in a person's mind before he can acknowledge Heaven's claims?

ROMANS 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

“The minds of many take so low a level that God cannot work either for them or with them. The current of their thoughts must be changed, their moral sensibilities must be aroused, before they can feel the claims of God.” —*Counsels on Health*, p. 22.

“All true reformation begins with soul-cleansing. It is by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the mind through the power of the Holy Spirit, that a change is wrought in the life.

“By beholding Christ we become changed. If the mind dwells upon temporal things constantly, these things become all-absorbing, affecting the character, so that God's glory is lost sight of and forgotten. The opportunities that are within reach for them to become conversant with heavenly things, are overlooked. Spiritual life dies....” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 105.

10. What alone can keep a Christian from falling amid the last-day deceptions?

2 PETER 1:10 *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12 *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

“The welfare of your soul and your eternal happiness depend upon whether your foundation is built upon Christ. While others are panting after earthly enjoyments, be ye panting after the unmistakable assurance of the love of God, earnestly, fervently crying: Who will show me how to make my calling and election sure? One of the signs of the last days is, that professed Christians are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Deal truly with your own soul. Search carefully. How few, after a faithful examination, can look up to heaven and say: ‘I am not one of those thus described! I am not a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God!’ How few can say: ‘I am dead to the world...’” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 145.

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A True Revival by God's Spirit

“A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. While the people are so destitute of God's Holy Spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the Word; but when the Spirit's power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect. Guided by the teachings of God's Word, with the manifestation of His Spirit, in the exercise of sound discretion, those who attend our meetings will gain a precious experience, and returning home, will be prepared to exert a healthful influence.” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK

1. What is the compelling power behind every true revival?

EPHESIANS 3:16 *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:4 *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.*

“Only the mind and heart cleansed by the sanctification of the Spirit can discern heavenly things.

“Brethren, in the name of the Lord I call upon you to awake to your duty. Let your hearts be yielded to the power of the Holy Spirit, and they will be made susceptible to the teaching of the word. Then you will be able to discern the deep things of God.

“May God bring His people under the deep movings of His Spirit! May He lead them to arouse, to see their peril, and to prepare for what is coming upon the earth!” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 301.

2. Can anyone, by nature, be a Christian? Why, or why not? What brings about the change from darkness to light?

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14, 11 *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned....¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*

“It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them.... Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless.... There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness.” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 18.

3. What did Jesus do before He sent the Holy Spirit in full measure?

JOHN 20:21, 22 *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.*

“Before He left His disciples, Christ ‘breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.’ John 20:22. Again He said, ‘Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you.’ Luke 24:49. But not until after the ascension was the gift received in its fullness. Not until through faith and prayer the disciples had surrendered themselves fully for His working, was the outpouring of the Spirit received.... The gifts are already ours in Christ, but their actual possession depends upon our reception of the Spirit of God.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 327.

4. Before the Holy Spirit is poured out in fullness in the latter rain, what must first be received? What does this accomplish?

HOSEA 6:3 *Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

JOEL 2:23 *Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake.... It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 507.

RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

5. What must the earnest believer in Laodicea do to have clear spiritual eyesight?

REVELATION 3:18, LAST PART ... *And anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

“Therefore we need to be exceedingly careful, and walk humbly before God, that we may have spiritual eyesalve that we may distinguish the working of the Holy Spirit of God from the working of that spirit

that would bring in wild license and fanaticism. 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' Matthew 7:20. Those who are really beholding Christ will be changed into His image, even by the Spirit of the Lord, and will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit of God will inspire men with love and purity; and refinement will be manifest in their characters." —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 142.

"The eyesalve is that wisdom and grace which enables us to discern between the evil and the good, and to detect sin under any guise. God has given His church eyes which He requires them to anoint with wisdom, that they may see clearly;... The divine eyesalve will impart clearness to the understanding....

"Oh, that you individually would apply the eyesalve, that you might see your defects of character and realize how God regards your love of the world, which is crowding out the love of God." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 88, 89, 615.

6. What else must one do to receive the Holy Spirit?

LUKE 11:13 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

"Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50.

EFFECTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ACTIONS

7. What will bring the Holy Spirit into one's life? Have you had this experience?

JOHN 3:3, 5-8 *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....* ⁵ *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.* ⁶ *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* ⁷ *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.* ⁸ *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

"While the wind is itself invisible, it produces effects that are seen and felt. So the work of the Spirit upon the soul will reveal itself in every act of him who has felt its saving power. When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven.... Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 173.

"The influence of the Spirit upon the human mind will regulate it after the divine order. But the Spirit does not work in a manner and power

beyond the human agent's power of resistance." —(Letter 10, 1897) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1159.

8. How will it be seen that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in a person?

GALATIANS 5:22-24 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

"As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 68.

NECESSITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REACH SOULS

9. If the Holy Spirit inspires someone, why can nothing stop him from witnessing?

ACTS 4:19, 20 *But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*

ROMANS 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

"The truth is to be set forth in the power of the Holy Spirit. This alone can make our words effective. Only through the Spirit's power will victory be gained and held. The human agent must be worked by the Spirit of God." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 396.

"If we are forbidden by men to do this work, then we may say, as did the disciples, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.'" —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 69.

10. What must every Christian do as earth's history draws to a close? Why?

COLOSSIANS 4:5 *Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*

EPHESIANS 5:15, 16 *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

"The third angel's message is swelling into a loud cry, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty, and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place. Today you are to give yourselves to God, that He may make of you ves-

sels unto honor, and meet for His service. Today you are to give yourself to God, that you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil surmising, strife, everything that shall be dishonoring to God.” —*Select-ed Messages*, book 1, pp. 190, 191.

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Sabbath, August 16, 2014

The Need for Reformation

“From the light that the Lord has been pleased to give me, I know that He is not pleased with many things which have taken place in reference to the workers. God has not laid every particular open to me, but warnings have come that in many things decided reformation is needed.” —*Counsels on Health*, p. 312.

REFERENCES TO REFORMATION

1. What does “reformation” generally refer to?

JEREMIAH 6:16 *Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*

MALACHI 3:7 *Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?*

HOSEA 6:1 *Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.*

“... Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein.” Jeremiah 6:16.

“Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith—the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work, by prayerful study of the Word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for more than fifty years [as of 1904]. Men may suppose that they have found a new way, that they can lay a stronger foundation than that which has been laid; but this is a great deception.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 297.

“We have wandered away from the old landmarks. Let us return. If the Lord be God, serve Him; if Baal, serve him. Which side will you be on?” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 137.

“Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit.

Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.” —(*Review and Herald*, February 25, 1902) *Christian Service*, p. 42.

PUTTING GOD FIRST

2. What do the first two commandments teach? Of what do we sometimes make a god?

EXODUS 20:3-5 *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. ⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.*

“Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections or his service. Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god....

“The attempt to represent the Eternal One by material objects would lower man’s conception of God.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 305, 306.

3. Who expects man to pay him homage and worship him?

MATTHEW 4:8, 9 *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

“After the gospel has been proclaimed in the world for nearly two thousand years, Satan still presents to men and women the same scene that he presented to Christ. In a wonderful manner he causes the kingdoms of the world in their glory to pass before them. These he promises to all who will fall down and worship him. Thus he seeks to bring men under his dominion.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 14.

NO COMPROMISE WITH DARKNESS

4. What is it impossible for anyone to do? Why?

MATTHEW 6:24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

“Between the worldly man and the one who is faithfully serving God, there is a great gulf fixed. Upon the most momentous subjects—God and truth and eternity—their thoughts and sympathies and feelings are not in harmony. One class is ripening as wheat for the garner of God, the other as tares for the fires of destruction. How can there be unity of purpose or action between them?” —*Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 127.

5. Therefore, with whom can we not come into agreement?

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

“Some are constantly leaning to the world. Their views and feelings harmonize much better with the spirit of the world than with that of Christ’s self-denying followers. It is perfectly natural for them to prefer the company of those whose spirit will best agree with their own. And such have quite too much influence among God’s people. They take part with them, and have a name among them, and are a text for unbelievers and the weak and unconsecrated ones in the church. These persons of two minds will ever have objections to the plain, pointed testimony which reproves individual wrongs. In this refining time these persons will either be wholly converted, and sanctified by obeying the truth, or they will be left with the world, where they belong, to receive their reward with them.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 288.

6. Is there a danger for God’s people to fall away from the truth? How?

HEBREWS 3:12; 12:25 *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.... ^{12:25} See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven.*

“Let us be careful not to neglect the danger signals and the warnings given in His word. Unless heed is given to these warnings, and defects of character are overcome, these defects will overcome those who possess them, and they will fall into error, apostasy, and open sin. The mind that is not elevated to the highest standard will in time lose its power to retain that which it had once gained. ‘Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.’” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 537.

7. How can churches, collectively speaking, fall away from the truth?

ISAIAH 1:4 *Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.*

“Not only is Satan leading the world captive, but his deceptions are leavening the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. The great apostasy will develop into darkness deep as midnight. To God’s people it

will be a night of trial, a night of weeping, a night of persecution for the truth's sake." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 717.

"I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing, and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders. The church has turned back from following Christ her leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 217.

CAUTION AGAINST LUKEWARMNESS AND BACKSLIDING

8. What is the nature of apostasy in the last days? How has that been manifested among Adventists?

REVELATION 3:17 *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.*

"You know not the time of your visitation. The great sin of the Jews was that of neglecting and rejecting present opportunities. As Jesus views the state of His professed followers today, He sees base ingratitude, hollow formalism, hypocritical insincerity, Pharisaical pride and apostasy....

"You are following the same path as did ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God's peculiar people." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 72, 75, 76.

"Unless the church, which is now being leavened with her own backsliding, shall repent and be converted, she will eat of the fruit of her own doing, until she shall abhor herself. When she resists the evil and chooses the good, when she seeks God with all humility and reaches her high calling in Christ, standing on the platform of eternal truth and by faith laying hold upon the attainments prepared for her, she will be healed. She will appear in her God-given simplicity and purity, separate from earthly entanglements, showing that the truth has made her free indeed. Then her members will indeed be the chosen of God, His representatives." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 250, 251.

9. Why is the danger of apostasy also present for Reformers today?

ROMANS 2:21-23 *Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? ²² Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? ²³ Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12 *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

“Only obedience to the requirements of Heaven will keep man from apostasy. God has bestowed upon man great light and many blessings; but unless this light and these blessings are accepted, they are no security against disobedience and apostasy....

“Till the conflict is ended, there will be those who will depart from God.

“... Not one moment can we be secure except as we rely upon God, the life hidden with Christ. Watchfulness and prayer are the safeguards of purity.” —*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 83, 84.

“Never can we safely put confidence in self or feel, this side of heaven, that we are secure against temptation. Those who accept the Saviour, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved. This is misleading. Every one should be taught to cherish hope and faith; but even when we give ourselves to Christ and know that He accepts us, we are not beyond the reach of temptation. God’s word declares, ‘Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried.’ Daniel 12:10. Only he who endures the trial will receive the crown of life. James 1:12.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 155.

10. What false wisdom often leads to apostasy?

1 CORINTHIANS 1:20, 21 *Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*

2 PETER 1:16 *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

“The apostasy prevailing today is similar to that which in the prophet’s day overspread Israel. In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mammon, and in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following after Baal.... It is publicly taught that we have reached a time when human reason should be exalted above the teachings of the Word.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 170.

“No matter who you are or what your life has been, you can be saved only in God’s appointed way. You must repent; you must fall helpless on the Rock, Christ Jesus. You must feel your need of a physician and of the one only remedy for sin, the blood of Christ. This remedy can be secured only by repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Here the work is yet to be begun by many who profess to be Christians.... The blood of Christ will avail for none but those who feel their need of its cleansing power.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 218, 219.

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Biblical Reformations

“Sacred history presents many ... noble examples of men whose characters were formed under divine direction, men whose lives were a blessing to their fellow men and who stood in the world as representatives of God. Among these are Joseph and Daniel, Moses, Elisha, and Paul—the greatest statesmen, the wisest legislator, one of the most faithful of reformers, and, except Him who spoke as never man spake, the most illustrious teacher that this world has known.” —*Education*, p. 51.

IDOLATRY IS A MAJOR RISK

1. What severe punishment came to those who drew others away from divine worship? What should we never do?

DEUTERONOMY 13:6-10 *If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; ⁷ Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; ⁸ Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: ⁹ But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. ¹⁰ And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

“The principles set forth in Deuteronomy for the instruction of Israel are to be followed by God’s people to the end of time.... Never can we afford to compromise principle by entering into alliance with those who do not fear Him.

“There is constant danger that professing Christians will come to think that in order to have influence with worldlings, they must to a certain extent conform to the world. But though such a course may appear to afford great advantages, it always ends in spiritual loss.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 570.

2. What sin should spiritual Israel especially beware of? Why?

LEVITICUS 26:1 *Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God.*

“Idolatry and all the sins that followed in its train were abhorrent to God, and He commanded His people not to mingle with other nations,

to 'do after their works,' and forget God. He forbade their marriage with idolaters, lest their hearts should be led away from Him. It was just as necessary then as it is now that God's people should be pure, 'unspotted from the world.' They must keep themselves free from its spirit, because it is opposed to truth and righteousness." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 369.

3. Can one expect there to be idol worship in the last days?

ISAIAH 2:2, 6-8, 18 *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it....⁶ Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.⁷ Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots:⁸ Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made....¹⁸ And the idols he shall utterly abolish.*

REVELATION 9:20 *And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk.*

"Men today may not pay homage to heathen gods, yet thousands are worshipping at Satan's shrine as verily as did the king of Israel. The spirit of idolatry is rife in the world today, although, under the influence of science and education, it has assumed forms more refined and attractive than in the days when Ahaziah sought to the god of Ekron." —*Prophecy and Kings*, p. 210.

"There is need today of such a revival of true heart religion as was experienced by ancient Israel. Repentance is the first step that must be taken by all who would return to God. No one can do this work for another. We must individually humble our souls before God and put away our idols. When we have done all that we can do, the Lord will manifest to us His salvation...." —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 145.

OUTSTANDING REFORMERS

4. What was Moses' call to Israel when the people fell into apostasy?

EXODUS 32:26 *Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.*

"The Lord abhors indifference and disloyalty in a time of crisis in His work.... His special blessing accompanies the labors of men of action, men who will not be swerved from the straight line of duty, but who with divine energy will inquire, 'Who is on the Lord's side?' (Exodus 32:26), men who will not stop merely with the inquiry, but who will demand that those who choose to identify themselves with the people of God shall step forward and reveal unmistakably their allegiance to the King

of kings and Lord of lords. Such men make their wills and plans subordinate to the law of God.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 148.

5. What decision did the great reformer Elijah call the people to make? What was his experience?

1 KINGS 18:21, 22 *And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. ²² Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.*

“What strange work Elijah would have done in numbering Israel at the time when God’s judgments were falling upon the backsliding people! He could count only one on the Lord’s side. But when he said, ‘I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life,’ the word of the Lord surprised him, ‘Yet I have left Me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal.’ 1 Kings 19:14, 18....

“Through the long years of drought and famine, Elijah prayed earnestly that the hearts of Israel might be turned from idolatry to allegiance to God. Patiently the prophet waited, while the hand of the Lord rested heavily on the stricken land. As he saw evidences of suffering and want multiplying on every side, his heart was wrung with sorrow, and he longed for power to bring about a reformation quickly....

“... It was through faith in the living word that reformation was wrought in the days of Elijah....” —*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 189, 133, 465.

6. How did faithful King Asa carry out a wonderful reformation?

2 CHRONICLES 14:5; 15:1, 2 *Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him.... ^{15:1} And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: ² And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.*

“Greatly encouraged by these words, Asa soon led out in a second reformation in Judah. He ‘put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from Mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the Lord, that was before the porch of the Lord.’ 2 Chronicles 15:8.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 112.

7. Why did ancient Israel go into captivity for seventy years?

JEREMIAH 17:27; 25:11 *But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.... ^{25:11} And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.*

DEUTERONOMY 4:25-28 *When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt*

yourself, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the Lord thy God, to provoke him to anger: ²⁶ I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. ²⁷ And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you. ²⁸ And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

“Moses traced the evils that would result from a departure from the statutes of Jehovah. Calling heaven and earth to witness, he declared that if, after having dwelt long in the Land of Promise, the people should introduce corrupt forms of worship and bow down to graven images and should refuse to return to the worship of the true God, the anger of the Lord would be aroused, and they would be carried away captive and scattered among the heathen.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 295.

REFORMERS AMONG THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL

8. After their return from captivity, who led out in a thorough reformation? How was this carried out?

EZRA 7:10 *For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*

“Many of those who had sinned were deeply affected. ‘The people wept very sore,’ Ezra 10:1. In a limited degree they began to realize the heinousness of sin and the horror with which God regards it. They saw the sacredness of the law spoken at Sinai, and many trembled at the thought of their transgressions....

“This was the beginning of a wonderful reformation. With infinite patience and tact, and with a careful consideration for the rights and welfare of every individual concerned, Ezra and his associates strove to lead the penitent of Israel into the right way.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 622.

9. In addition to Ezra, who proved himself a loyal reformer after the return from the Babylonian captivity? What did he do?

NEHEMIAH 1:6-11; 4:16; 9:1, 2 *Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses. ⁸ Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: ⁹ But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place*

that I have chosen to set my name there. ¹⁰ Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.... ^{4:16} And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.... ^{9:1} Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. ² And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.

"In the work of reform to be carried forward today, there is need of men who, like Ezra and Nehemiah, will not palliate or excuse sin, nor shrink from vindicating the honor of God. Those upon whom rests the burden of this work will not hold their peace when wrong is done, neither will they cover evil with a cloak of false charity. They will remember that God is no respecter of persons, and that severity to a few may prove mercy to many."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 675.

THE SPIRIT OF TRUE REFORMERS

10. Whose spirit will all true reformers reveal? Only how is this possible?

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8, 15; 4:8, 9 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, And became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.... ¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.... ^{4:8} Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. ⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

"Reformers are not destroyers. They will never seek to ruin those who do not harmonize with their plans and assimilate to them. Reformers must advance, not retreat. They must be decided, firm, resolute, unflinching; but firmness must not degenerate into a domineering spirit. God desires to have all who serve Him firm as a rock where principle is concerned, but meek and lowly of heart, as was Christ.... A rude, condemnatory spirit is not essential to heroism in the reforms for this time."—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 151.

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***Please read the Missionary Report
from The Gambia and Senegal on page 51***

9

Sabbath, August 30, 2014

Reformations in the Christian Era

“Under the fiercest persecution these witnesses for Jesus kept their faith unsullied. Though deprived of every comfort, shut away from the light of the sun, making their home in the dark but friendly bosom of the earth, they uttered no complaint. With words of faith, patience, and hope they encouraged one another to endure privation and distress. The loss of every earthly blessing could not force them to renounce their belief in Christ. Trials and persecution were but steps bringing them nearer their rest and their reward.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 41.

PREVIEW OF APOSTASY

1. What did the apostle Paul predict would happen in the first Christian church?

ACTS 20:29, 30 *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.³⁰ Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

2 THESSALONIANS 2:3, 7 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;...⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

“Many had already become partakers of Christ’s sufferings, and soon the church was to undergo a period of terrible persecution. Within a few brief years many of those who had stood as teachers and leaders in the church were to lay down their lives for the gospel. Soon grievous wolves were to enter in, not sparing the flock. But none of these things were to bring discouragement to those whose hopes were centered in Christ.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 528.

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’...

“It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government, and this prepared the way for the development of the papacy—the beast.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 443.

2. What led to this apostasy? How does this apply to the current spirit of ecumenism that is rampant in the world? How does present truth relate to this?

REVELATION 2:2 *I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.*

“Idolaters were led to receive a part of the Christian faith, while they rejected other essential truths. They professed to accept Jesus as the Son of God and to believe in His death and resurrection, but they had no conviction of sin and felt no need of repentance or of a change of heart. With some concessions on their part they proposed that Christians should make concessions, that all might unite on the platform of belief in Christ.

“Now the church was in fearful peril. Prison, torture, fire, and sword were blessings in comparison with this. Some of the Christians stood firm, declaring that they could make no compromise....

“Most of the Christians at last consented to lower their standard, and a union was formed between Christianity and paganism....

“There have ever been two classes among those who profess to be followers of Christ.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 42, 43.

NEED FOR SEPARATION

3. In the early Christian church and in the Middle Ages, what decision did a small number of faithful people make?

ROMANS 16:17 *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

2 CORINTHIANS 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

“After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God.... If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 45.

“There is at the present time great need of caution.... Let us heed the warning: ‘I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ,... and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.’...” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 167.

4. What did the prophecy of the church in the wilderness reveal? What is known about the reformers of that time?

REVELATION 12:6 *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

“But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost.... For centuries the churches of Piedmont maintained their independence; but the time came at last when Rome insisted upon their submission.... There were some, however, who refused to yield to the authority of pope or prelate. They were determined to maintain their allegiance to God, and to preserve the purity and simplicity of their faith. A separation took place. Those who adhered to the ancient faith now withdrew;...” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 64.

MEN OF POWER AND THE SPIRIT

5. According to prophecy, who would rise as the instructor of many? What great reformer sprang up in fourteenth-century England? What can be said of this ray of light?

DANIEL 11:33, 34 *And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. ³⁴ Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.*

“In the fourteenth century arose in England the ‘morning star of the Reformation.’ John Wycliffe was the herald of reform, not for England alone, but for all Christendom. The great protest against Rome which it was permitted him to utter was never to be silenced. That protest opened the struggle which was to result in the emancipation of individuals, of churches, and of nations.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 80.

6. What other heroic reformers in the time of the Middle Ages does history mention? List some of the things they did.

DANIEL 12:3 *And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*

“Workers were raised up who ably defended the faith once delivered unto the saints. History bears record to the fortitude and heroism of these men.... The Waldenses, John Wycliffe, Huss and Jerome, Martin Luther and Zwingli, Cranmer, Latimer, and Knox, the Huguenots, John and Charles Wesley, and a host of others brought to the foundation material that will endure throughout eternity.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 598.

7. What promise applied to Huss and Jerome as reformers in a very difficult time?

REVELATION 2:10 *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

“Hitherto Huss had stood alone in his labors; but now Jerome, who while in England had accepted the teachings of Wycliffe, joined in the work of reform....

“God permitted great light to shine upon the minds of these chosen men,...

“With daily increasing boldness Huss thundered against the abominations which were tolerated in the name of religion; and the people openly accused the Romish leaders as the cause of the miseries that overwhelmed Christendom.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 102, 103.

THE LIGHT OF REFORMATION EXPANDS

8. What great truth caused Martin Luther to enter more boldly upon his work of reformation? What did he do?

EPHESIANS 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*

COLOSSIANS 1:14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.*

“The infamous traffic was set up in the church, and Tetzel, ascending the pulpit, extolled the indulgences as the most precious gift of God. He declared that by virtue of his certificates of pardon all the sins which the purchaser should afterward desire to commit would be forgiven him, and that ‘not even repentance is necessary.’ —Merle D’Aubigné, *History of the Reformation*, b. 3, ch. 1.

“As Tetzel continued his traffic and his impious pretensions, Luther determined upon a more effectual protest against these crying abuses. An occasion soon offered.... Luther, joining the crowds that were already making their way to the church, posted on its doors a paper containing ninety-five propositions against the doctrine of indulgences.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 127-129.

9. What was Luther’s unflinching testimony when he stood before the Imperial Diet?

PSALM 40:9 *I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest.*

MATTHEW 10:18 *And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.*

“Unless therefore I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture or by the clearest reasoning, unless I am persuaded by means of the passages I have quoted, and unless they thus render my conscience bound by the word of God, *I cannot and I will not retract*, for it is unsafe for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other; may God help me. Amen.” —D’Aubigné, *History of the Reformation*, b. 7, ch. 8.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 160.

10. What has almost always been the lot of true reformers and God's children?

HEBREWS 11:36-40 *And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; ³⁸ (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: ⁴⁰ God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*

"The heirs of God have come from garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains, from deserts, from the caves of the earth, from the caverns of the sea. On earth they were 'destitute, afflicted, tormented.' Millions went down to the grave loaded with infamy because they steadfastly refused to yield to the deceptive claims of Satan. By human tribunals they were adjudged the vilest of criminals. But now 'God is judge Himself.' Psalm 50:6. Now the decisions of earth are reversed." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 650.

"In every age God's chosen messengers have been reviled and persecuted, yet through their affliction the knowledge of God has been spread abroad. Every disciple of Christ is to step into the ranks and carry forward the same work, knowing that its foes can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. God means that truth shall be brought to the front and become the subject of examination and discussion, even through the contempt placed upon it. The minds of the people must be agitated; every controversy, every reproach, every effort to restrict liberty of conscience, is God's means of awakening minds that otherwise might slumber." —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 33.

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MISSIONARY REPORT

FROM THE GAMBIA AND SENEGAL

To be read on Sabbath, August 30, 2014

***The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, September 6, 2014***

“Sell that ye have and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that fadeth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Luke 12:33, 34.

In the name of our blessed Redeemer and Lord Jesus Christ, we greet all our brothers and sisters around the world. By the providence of God, the message of Reformation is progressing well in Africa and has entered the Republics of The Gambia and Senegal.

These two countries are located on the Atlantic coast of westernmost Africa. Senegal surrounds The Gambia on three sides and is bordered on the north by Mauritania, on the east by Mali, and on the south by Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. The Gambia is the smallest country on the continent, averaging only 20 miles (32 kilometers) in width. This finger of land borders the banks of the Gambia River for about 200 miles (320 kilometers) above its mouth. Several native dialects are spoken in these two countries, but Malinke (Mandinka) and Wolof are spoken the most. However, the official language of Senegal is French, while the official language of The Gambia is English.

THE GAMBIA

The Gambia gained independence from the United Kingdom on February 18, 1965, and joined the Commonwealth of Nations (from which it withdrew in October 2013). Since its independence, the country has enjoyed relative political stability, with the exception of a brief period of military rule in 1994.

In 2011 while serving in Sierra Leone, I made email contact with a friend in The Gambia and asked him if he had ever heard about the International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement. He was shocked to hear that there were other Adventist organizations. We exchanged emails, and I sent him the website address of the IMS to study. While waiting for him to respond, I wrote to another person in Senegal—a lady who is a former classmate of mine. She wrote back and said that she had heard that I had left the Seventh-day Adventist Church and wanted to know

the reason. I also sent her the website address, and she also became interested. Unfortunately, her fiancé was an Adventist; and when he heard about our communication, he threatened to break off their relationship if she continued communicating with me.

In March 2012, the General Conference was informed about my contact in The Gambia, and I was sent there, arriving on April 1, 2012. The first Sabbath, I visited a church in the capital, Banjul. I made many friends there; and during the week, I visited some of them and asked what their views were regarding the prophesied Reform Movement within the Advent Movement. Some of them had never even heard about the Reform Movement. On the next Sabbath, I went back to the same church. As God would have it, during the Sabbath school, the study was about health and I was able to take an active part in the discussion.

The next day, which was Sunday, to my great surprise, one of the elders from the church came with a policeman, and I was taken to the station to answer some questions that implied that I had come to teach false doctrines in their church. At the station, the Muslim officer asked the elder: “If they [the Adventists] were teaching the right thing, what do they have to fear?” That question set me free. Through these and other providences of God, fifteen interested souls soon afterward accepted the Reform message.

In The Gambia, by far the predominant religion is Islam, practiced by about 90 percent of the country’s 1.7 million inhabitants. Only about 8 percent are Christian, predominantly Roman Catholic; there are also congregations of Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and other small evangelical denominations. Article 25 of the state Constitution protects the rights of citizens to practice any religion that they choose, and intermarriage between Muslims and Christians is common.

Internal pressures from other Christians in the government have prevented us from registering the church. Therefore, we registered as the International Health Organization and now work under it. Five souls have been baptized.

Due to the fertility of the land, the economy is dominated by farming along with fishing and tourism. About a third of the population lives below the international poverty line of US \$1.25 per day. Because of the stability and openness of the country, it is also a fertile land for the gospel.

SENEGAL

Senegal gained its independence from France in 1963 and today has an estimated 13 million inhabitants, 96 percent of whom profess

to follow a Sunni Islam faith. Only 3 percent are Christian, even though some yet unnamed sources claim that Senegal “is highly reputed for its religious tolerance.”

Of the fifteen interested souls in The Gambia, three had contacts in Senegal. Through those contacts, I continued my missionary work and visited Dakar, the capital, beginning April 19, 2012. As a result, we now have three baptized members in Senegal. Even though the church is not yet registered, the few members in Senegal are working to win souls.

The work in The Gambia and Senegal has two primary challenges. First, there is no permanent place of worship. This is why the believers in The Gambia have had to change the place where they worship four times. Second, we have to be very careful how we conduct our evangelism efforts. We thank God that people are responding to the truth through the health message. In addition to a head office and places of worship, your offerings will be used to conduct seminars, supplement local offerings for missionary activities while the work is becoming self-sustaining, secure evangelistic materials, and help provide means for developing the church’s infrastructure.

We praise God for the opportunities we have been granted to share the precious message of the gospel in these two countries. Our appeal to the believers around the world is to give joyfully and generously for the work in The Gambia and Senegal, as the Holy Spirit impresses you. Our prayers are with you and your mission as well.

—Vangarral T. Chengbe
President, The Gambia and Senegal Mission Fields

Special Sabbath School Offering for THE GAMBIA AND SENEGAL

*May the Holy Spirit impress your heart
as you give for these countries!*

10

Sabbath, September 6, 2014

The Adventist Reformation

“God calls upon every church member to dedicate his life unreservedly to the Lord’s service. He calls for decided reformation. All creation is groaning under the curse. God’s people should place themselves where they will grow in grace, being sanctified, body, soul, and spirit, by the truth. When they break away from all health-destroying indulgences, they will have a clearer perception of what constitutes true godliness. A wonderful change will be seen in the religious experience.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 34.

REPAIRING THE BREACH

1. What characterizes the Advent Movement as a true reformation? On what is it founded?

ISAIAH 58:12, 13 *And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. ¹³ If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words.*

“In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired. God’s remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God. In clear, distinct lines they are to present the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue. Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to cooperate with Him in building up the waste places. They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 678.

“I was shown that if the true Sabbath had always been kept, there would never have been an infidel or an atheist. The observance of the

Sabbath would have preserved the world from idolatry.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 76.

2. What happened to the houses of Israel and Judah in the time of Isaiah and Jeremiah? Is a departure from God’s way limited only to ancient times?

JEREMIAH 11:10 *They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.*

ISAIAH 24:5 *The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.*

“The world is defiled under its inhabitants. They have nearly filled up the measure of their iniquity; but that which will bring the heaviest retribution is the practice of iniquity under the cloak of godliness. The Redeemer of the world never spurned true repentance, however great the guilt; but He hurls burning denunciations against Pharisees and hypocrites.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 144.

“Those who have permitted their minds to become beclouded in regard to what constitutes sin are fearfully deceived. Unless they make a decided change they will be found wanting when God pronounces judgment upon the children of men. They have transgressed the law and broken the everlasting covenant, and they will receive according to their works.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 267.

THE SABBATH, A PIVOTAL ISSUE

3. What was prophesied concerning the divine law? Why was this done?

DANIEL 7:25 *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

“Prophecy had declared that the papacy was to ‘think to change times and laws.’ This work it was not slow to attempt. To afford converts from heathenism a substitute for the worship of idols,... the adoration of images and relics was gradually introduced into the Christian worship....

“In the early part of the fourth century, the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman empire.... He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and the heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans....

“Thus the pagan festival came finally to be honored as a divine institution, while the Bible Sabbath was pronounced a relic of Judaism, and its observers were declared to be accursed.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 51-53.

4. At the time of Jesus, how far did the Jews go with their traditions? Does the fact that a tradition has existed for a very long time make it acceptable?

MATTHEW 15:3-6 *But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? ⁴ For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. ⁵ But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; ⁶ And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*

ECCLESIASTES 8:12 *Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: ¹³ But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.*

“Reforms must be entered into with heart and soul and will. Errors may be hoary with age; but age does not make error truth, nor truth error. Altogether too long have the old customs and habits been followed. The Lord would now have every idea that is false put away from teachers and students. We are not at liberty to teach that which shall meet the world’s standard or the standard of the church, simply because it is the custom to do so.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 142.

5. In which of the Ten Commandments is God’s seal found? What elements of a seal does it contain?

EXODUS 20:8-11 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: ¹⁰ But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

“The seal of God’s law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Law-giver.... When the Sabbath was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it, by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator’s memorial and the sign of His authority.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 451, 452.

AREAS OF REFORMATION

6. What message of reform is being sounded all over the world?

REVELATION 14:6, 7 *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, ⁷ Saying*

with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

“This message, if heeded, will call the attention of every nation and kindred and tongue and people to a close examination of the Word, and to the true light in regard to the power that has changed the seventh-day Sabbath to a spurious sabbath.... The Sabbath memorial, declaring who the living God is, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, has been torn down, and a spurious sabbath has been given to the world in its place.”—*Selected Messages*, book 2, pp. 105, 106.

7. What other message of reform is being proclaimed, and for what purpose?

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19, 20; 3:16, 17 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.... ^{3:16} Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

“Reform, continual reform, must be kept before the people, and by our example we must enforce our teachings. True religion and the laws of health go hand in hand. It is impossible to work for the salvation of men and women without presenting to them the need of breaking away from sinful gratifications, which destroy the health, debase the soul, and prevent divine truth from impressing the mind. Men and women must be taught to take a careful review of every habit and practice, and at once put away those things that cause an unhealthy condition of the body, and thus cast a dark shadow over the mind.”—*Counsels on Health*, p. 445.

8. What type of healing is included in health reform?

2 KINGS 20:1-3, 7 *In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. ² Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, ³ I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.... ⁷ And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.*

JOHN 9:6, 7 *When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, ⁷ And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.*

“There are many ways of practicing the healing art; but there is only one way that Heaven approves. God’s remedies are the simple agencies of nature, that will not tax or debilitate the system through their powerful properties. Pure air and water, cleanliness, a proper diet, purity of

life, and a firm trust in God, are remedies for the want of which thousands are dying; yet these remedies are going out of date because their skillful use requires work that the people do not appreciate.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 443.

“Our institutions are established that the sick may be treated by hygienic methods, discarding almost entirely the use of drugs....

“Drugging should be forever abandoned; for while it does not cure any malady, it enfeebles the system, making it more susceptible to disease.” —*Healthful Living*, pp. 246, 244.

9. What else is an integral part of the Adventist Reformation? What is an abomination to God?

1 TIMOTHY 2:9, 10 *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; ¹⁰ But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

DEUTERONOMY 22:5 *The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.*

“My views were calculated to correct the present fashion, the extreme long dress, trailing upon the ground, and also to correct the extreme short dress, reaching about to the knees, which is worn by a certain class. I was shown that we should shun both extremes....

“There is an increasing tendency to have women in their dress and appearance as near like the other sex as possible, and to fashion their dress very much like that of men, but God pronounces it abomination.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 464, 457.

10. In what other area of life will reform take place? Why?

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14, 15 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

LEVITICUS 20:24, LAST PART *I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people.*

ISAIAH 48:20 *Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob.*

“The Lord would have His people bury political questions. On these themes silence is eloquence.... We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political scheme....

“What are we to do, then? Let political questions alone....

“It is a mistake for you to link your interests with any political party, to cast your vote with them or for them.” —*Gospel Workers*, pp. 391, 393.

* * *

Crisis and Reformation

“The law of God is the foundation of all enduring reformation. We are to present to the world in clear, distinct lines the need of obedience to His law. The great reformatory movement must begin in the home. Obedience to God’s law is the great incentive to industry, economy, truthfulness, and just dealing between man and man.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 489.

BIBLICAL PACIFISM

1. According to the Lord’s teaching and example, how are one’s enemies to be treated? What activities will not be part of the Christian’s life?

MATTHEW 5:39, 44; 26:52 *But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also....*

⁴⁴ *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you....* ^{26:52} *Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.*

“Satan delights in war; for it excites the worst passions of the soul, and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 589.

“I was shown that God’s people, who are His peculiar treasure, cannot engage in this perplexing war, for it is opposed to every principle of their faith. In the army they cannot obey the truth and at the same time obey the requirements of their officers. There would be a continual violation of conscience.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 361.

THE ORIGINAL ADVENTIST POSITION

2. What position did the Adventist General Conference take originally following the inspired vision?

EPHESIANS 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.*

The Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference addressed a “Statement of Principles” to the governor of Michigan on August 3, 1864:

“To His Excellency, Austin Blair, Governor of the State of Michigan:

“We, the undersigned, Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, respectfully beg leave to present for your consideration the following statements: “The denomination of Christians calling themselves Seventh-day Adventists, taking the Bible as their rule of faith and practice, are unanimous in their views that its teachings are contrary to the spirit and practice of war; hence, they have ever been conscientiously opposed to bearing arms. If there is any portion of the Bible which we, as a people, can point to more than another as our creed, it is the law of ten commandments, which we regard as the supreme law, and each precept of which we take in its most obvious and literal import. The fourth of these commandments requires cessation from labor on the seventh day of the week, the sixth prohibits the taking of life, neither of which, in our view, could be observed while doing military duty. Our practice has uniformly been consistent with these principles. Hence, our people have not felt free to enlist into the service. In none of our denominational publications have we advocated or encouraged the practice of bearing arms; and, when drafted, rather than violate our principles, we have been content to pay, and assist each other in paying, the \$300 commutation money. And while that provision remained of universal application, we did not deem any public expression of our sentiments on this question called for.

“We would further represent that Seventh-day Adventists are rigidly antislavery, loyal to the government, and in sympathy with it against the rebellion.

“But not having had a long existence as a distinct people, and our organization having but recently been perfected, our sentiments are not yet extensively known. The change in the law renders it necessary that we take a more public stand in the matter. For this reason we now lay before Your Excellency the sentiments of Seventh-day Adventists, as a body, relative to bearing arms, trusting that you will feel no hesitation in endorsing our claim that, as a people, we come under the intent of the late action of Congress concerning those who are conscientiously opposed to bearing arms, and are entitled to the benefits of said laws.

JOHN BYINGTON

J. N. LOUGHBOROUGH

GEORGE W. AMADON

General Conference Executive Committee of Seventh-day Adventists
Battle Creek, Michigan, August 2, 1864.”

—F.M. Wilcox, *Seventh-day Adventists in Time of War*, p. 58.

3. Which of the three provisions available to them did the Adventists prefer?

“... When drafted, rather than violate our principles, we have been content to pay, and assist each other in paying, the \$300 commutation money.” — F.M. Wilcox, *Seventh-day Adventists in Time of War*, p. 58.

“It is said that the next draft will take about one in three able-bodied men, liable to the draft. And it is supposed that this proportion of Seventh-day Adventists will be drawn; that is, one in three. In this case if each should pay into the treasury \$100.00, the same would be sufficient to pay \$300.00 for all drawn in the coming draft.” —Elder James White, *Review and Herald*, January 24, 1865.

4. In what were the Adventist believers everywhere instructed?

ACTS 4:19; 5:29 *But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye....* ^{5:29} *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

“We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God’s word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A ‘Thus saith the Lord’ is not to be set aside for a ‘Thus saith the church’ or a ‘Thus saith the state.’ The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 69.

A TIME OF CRISIS

5. Exactly fifty years later, in 1914 when World War I began, what did some European leaders do under government pressure?

ISAIAH 5:20, 21 *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!* ²¹ *Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

“While we stand on the fundamentals of the Holy Scriptures, and seek to fulfill the precepts of Christendom, keeping the Rest Day (Saturday) that God established in the beginning, by endeavoring to put aside all work on that day, still in these times of stress, *we have bound ourselves together in defense of the ‘Fatherland,’ and under these circumstances we will also bear arms on Saturday (Sabbath).* On this point we take our stand on the Scripture found in 1 Peter 2:13-17.” —Elder H.F. Schubert, President, to the German War Ministry, August 4, 1914 (emphasis ours).

“... At the outbreak of the war, the leaders of the Adventist organization in Germany, of their own accord, advised all their military service members, in all the land, under the pressing circumstances and need of the Fatherland to do their duties required of them as citizens, according to the Scripture; and earnestly to do on Saturday (Sabbath) as other warriors do on Sunday.” —Elders L.R. Conradi, H.F. Schubert, P. Drinhaus, Dresden, March 5, 1915.

A REMNANT TAKES THE BIBLICAL POSITION

6. How many Adventists were led astray? How many remained faithful?

ROMANS 11:3-5; 9:27 *Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. ‘But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thou-*

sand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. ⁵ Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.... ^{9:27} Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved.

“At the beginning of the war our [S.D.A.] denomination divided into two parts. While ninety-eight percent of our membership took the position on Bible ground that it was their conscientious duty to defend the Fatherland with weapons, and that also on the Sabbath, and this united position of the leaders was at once forwarded to the War Department, two percent, however, did not submit themselves to this united resolution....” —S.D.A. statement in *Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten* (Dresden Latest News), April 12, 1918.

7. What happened to the few faithful believers? Did they separate from the truth?

ISAIAH 66:5 *Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.*

ZEPHANIAH 3:19 *Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.*

“Two percent, however, did not submit themselves to this united resolution, and therefore had to be disfellowshipped because of their unchristian conduct.” —*Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten*, April 12, 1918.

“During the course of the war there were nevertheless isolated members among them [S.D.A.'s] which did not confess their own conscientious scruples publicly before the government, but rather withdrew secretly from their duties, and furthermore walked from town to town to entice others in word and writing to take the same step. Called to account for this by the church, because of their stiff endurance in their position and as threatening the internal and external peace, they had to be disfellowshipped from the church.” —*Berliner Lokalanzeiger* (Berlin Local News), August 24, 1918.

8. Therefore, who is responsible for the crisis among Seventh-day Adventists?

ISAIAH 3:12, LAST PART; 9:16 ... *O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths....* ^{9:16} *For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.*

“Any departure from the revealed standard by leaders called to be examples and exponents of the will of God, must bring confusion into the ranks of His people. Honest souls are perplexed and confused over what ought to be plain and clear. In such a situation the people are left to one of two conclusions only; there is no alternative. They must condemn the practice of such leaders and hold to the Lord's standard themselves, or they must conclude that if such leaders are approved and accepted of

God, then the Lord must not be so particular as they had supposed in regard to exact obedience to His standard, and so decide that they too may depart from it, and still hope to be accepted of God.” —*The Medical Evangelist*, vol. 9, no. 2, p. 9.

9. What erroneous teaching of the Adventist General Conference did the apostate European leaders take hold of?

1 PETER 2:16 *As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.*

“We have taken the position that each one should act according to his own conscience in this matter.” —A.G. Daniells, General Conference President (1920), *Protokoll der Verhandlung mit der Gegenbewegung von 21. bis 23. Juli 1920 in Friedensau*, p. 36.

“We grant to each of our church members absolute liberty to serve their country, at all times and in all places, in accordance with the dictates of their personal conscientious convictions.” —Resolution of European Committee, Gland, Switzerland, January 2, 1923, *Review and Herald*, vol. 101, No. 10, March 6, 1924, p. 4.

10. Why are members of God’s church never at liberty to “set up a standard of duty for themselves”? What are the consequences when every man does what is right in his own eyes?

ROMANS 2:21-24 *Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? ²² Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? ²³ Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? ²⁴ For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.*

JUDGES 17:6 *In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

“Were men free to depart from the Lord’s requirements and to set up a standard of duty for themselves, there would be a variety of standards to suit different minds and the government would be taken out of the Lord’s hands. The will of man would be made supreme, and the high and holy will of God—His purpose of love toward His creatures—would be dishonored, disrespected.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 51, 52.

11. What is absolutely necessary for one to be able to endure in the coming crisis? What is the Lord’s purpose for individual members and for His church?

EPHESIANS 4:14; 5:27 *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;... ^{5:27} That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

HEBREWS 13:9, FIRST PART *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace.*

“God is sifting His people. He will have a clean and holy church. We cannot read the heart of man. But the Lord has provided means to keep the church pure.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 99.

“Sin and sinners in the church must be promptly dealt with, that others may not be contaminated. Truth and purity require that we make more thorough work to cleanse the camp from Achans. Let those in responsible positions not suffer sin in a brother. Show him that he must either put away his sins or be separated from the church.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 147.

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12

Sabbath, September 20, 2014

The Shaking or Sifting

“Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land,... that we may know what is coming.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 287.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SIFTING

1. What did Jesus tell Simon would soon come about? What will happen among God’s people in the end times?

AMOS 9:9 *For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.*

LUKE 22:31, 32 *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:³² But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

Online dictionaries define “shaking” as “To cause to move to and fro with jerky movements,” “to cause to lose stability or waver,” “to remove or dislodge by jerky movements.” The definition of “sift” is: “To separate or separate out by or as if by putting through a sieve.” —*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*.

“I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads....

“Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God, and murmur against Him....

“My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 269, 271.

2. Before what main event will this cleansing process take place? For what purpose?

MALACHI 3:3 *And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.*

ISAIAH 1:25 *And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin.*

“I know that a work must be done for the people, or many will not be prepared to receive the light of the angel sent down from heaven to lighten the whole earth with His glory. Do not think that you will be found as vessels unto honor in the time of the latter rain, to receive the glory of God, if you are lifting up your souls unto vanity, speaking perverse things, in secret cherishing roots of bitterness.” —*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, pp. 327, 328.

“I saw that none could share the ‘refreshing,’ unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action.” —*Early Writings*, p. 71.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE TRUE WITNESS AND THE SHAKING

3. What statement of Christ as the True Witness to the Laodicean church causes a shaking? How?

REVELATION 3:14-17 *And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.*

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans.” —*Early Writings*, p. 270.

“Men and women must be awakened to the duty of self-mastery, the need of purity, freedom from every depraving appetite and defiling habit.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 74.

“While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake, for it is the True Witness who speaks, and His testimony must be correct.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 253.

4. What is the only way to keep from being “spued out,” or rejected forever?

REVELATION 3:18 *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

“The True Witness counsels us to buy of Him gold tried in the fire, white raiment, and eyesalve. The gold here recommended as having been tried in the fire is faith and love. It makes the heart rich; for it has been purged until it is pure, and the more it is tested the more brilliant is its luster. The white raiment is purity of character, the righteousness of Christ imparted to the sinner. This is indeed a garment of heavenly texture, that can be bought only of Christ for a life of willing obedience. The eyesalve is that wisdom and grace which enables us to discern between the evil and the good, and to detect sin under any guise.... Christ is the depository of all graces. He says: ‘Buy of Me.’” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 88, 89.

ACCEPTING THE MESSAGE

5. What will be revealed in the life of one who has accepted the message to the Laodiceans? What has been your personal experience with this?

MATTHEW 7:20 *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

ISAIAH 62:10 *Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.*

“This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth.” —*Early Writings*, p. 270.

“No line of truth that has made the Seventh-day Adventist people what they are is to be weakened. We have the old landmarks of truth, experience, and duty, and we are to stand firmly in defense of our principles, in full view of the world.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 17.

“Death before dishonor or the transgression of God’s law should be the motto of every Christian. As a people professing to be reformers, treasuring the most solemn, purifying truths of God’s word, we must elevate the standard far higher than it is at the present time. Sin and sinners in the church must be promptly dealt with, that others may not be contaminated.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 147.

6. What is the great danger for God’s people when a crisis comes? What will those who remain faithful until the end receive?

REVELATION 3:3; 2:10 *Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come*

upon thee.... ^{2:10} *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

“There is a prospect before us of a continued struggle, at the risk of imprisonment, loss of property, and even of life itself, to defend the law of God, which is made void by the laws of men. In this situation worldly policy will urge an outward compliance with the laws of the land, for the sake of peace and harmony. And there are some who will even urge such a course from the Scripture: ‘Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.... The powers that be are ordained of God.’” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 712.

“Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 81.

GOD’S INSTRUMENTS

7. Whom does God use as His instruments to give the message of the hour to His people and to the world?

ISAIAH 43:10 *Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.*

“Our Redeemer sends His messengers to bear a testimony to His people. He says: ‘Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.’ Revelation 3:20. But many refuse to receive Him. The Holy Spirit waits to soften and subdue hearts; but they are not willing to open the door and let the Saviour in, for fear that He will require something of them. And so Jesus of Nazareth passes by.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 262.

8. What was Gideon’s experience before victory was achieved? How are conditions in the church and the world today similar to those existing at that time?

JUDGES 7:2-7 *And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. ³ Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. ⁴ And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. ⁵ So he brought down*

the people unto the water: and the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. ⁶ And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. ⁷ And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

“I was shown the people of God, and saw them mightily shaken....

“The number of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out, and left by the way....” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 179, 182.

“Soon God’s people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal....

“To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 136.

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 608.

SEALING OF GOD’S SERVANTS

9. In God’s final work of salvation, what will the saints receive to be prepared to meet the Lord?

REVELATION 7:4 *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

“An angel with a writer’s inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus ... throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, ‘It is done.’ And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Jesus made the solemn declaration, ‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.’

“Every case had been decided for life or death....

“All heaven had united with Jesus, as they heard the fearful words, ‘It is done. It is finished.’ The plan of salvation had been accomplished, but few had chosen to accept it.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 279-281.

“The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice....” —*Early Writings*, p. 15.

10. Since the shaking, or purification, will occur before the latter rain, what responsibility do God’s people have?

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and*

what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

1 JOHN 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

“I saw that decided efforts should be made to show those who are unchristian in life their wrongs, and if they do not reform, they should be separated from the precious and holy, that God may have a clean and pure people that He can delight in. Dishonor Him not by linking or uniting the clean with the unclean.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 117, 118.

“Few are listening for the voice of God, and ready to accept truth in whatever guise it may be presented. Often those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching obliged to leave the church of their fathers, that they may render obedience.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 232.

“Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God’s people is finished, we shall receive the outpouring of the Spirit of God. Angels from heaven will be in our midst.” —*Maranatha*, p. 212.

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Sabbath, September 27, 2014

The Reward of Loyalty

“God calls upon His people to be bright lights in the world shining amid the darkness of sin. Living the life of the Life-giver brings its reward. He went about doing good. This, every true follower of His will do, filled with a sacred sense of his loyalty to God and his duty to his fellow beings. Through the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, Christians are to grow in grace, constantly drawing nearer perfection of character.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 177.

THE LORD BRINGS THE REWARD

1. What will Christ bring with Him when He comes? For whom?

REVELATION 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

MATTHEW 16:27 *For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.*

“Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, ‘to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Revelation 22:12. Before His coming, then, the character of every man’s work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ’s followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.”
—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 310.

2. Where will all appear before the reward is given? What does this call for?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

“The cases of the righteous dead have been passing in review before God. When that work shall be completed, judgment is to be pronounced upon the living. How precious, how important are these solemn moments! Each of us has a case pending in the court of heaven. We are individually to be judged according to the deeds done in the body....

“If we have any regard for our souls’ salvation, we must make a decided change. We must seek the Lord with true penitence; we must with deep contrition of soul confess our sins, that they may be blotted out.”
—*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 125.

3. What do the impenitent heap up for themselves?

ROMANS 2:4, 5 *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? ⁵ But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.*

“Oh, fearful histories will be opened to the world at the judgment—histories of sins never confessed, of sins not blotted out! Oh, that these poor souls might see that they are heaping up wrath against the day of wrath! Then the thoughts of the heart, as well as the actions, will be revealed. I tell you, my brethren and sisters, there is need of humbling your souls before God. ‘Cease to do evil,’ but do not stop here; ‘learn to do well.’ You can glorify God only by bearing fruit to His glory.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 146.

SECURE RESERVES AND THE REWARD

4. Where should our riches be deposited?

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19 *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who*

giveth us richly all things to enjoy; ¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; ¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

“As you regard your eternal interest, arouse yourselves, and begin to sow good seed. That which you sow, you shall also reap. The harvest is coming—the great reaping time, when we shall reap what we have sown. There will be no failure in the crop; the harvest is sure. Now is the sowing time. Now make efforts to be rich in good works, ‘ready to distribute, willing to communicate,’ laying up in store for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that ye ‘may lay hold on eternal life.’” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 31.

5. What will be a special blessing for both young people and adults?

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11-13 *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

“Young men and women should regard a good character as a capital of more value than gold or silver or stocks. It will be unaffected by panics and failures, and will bring rich returns when earthly possessions shall be swept away. The youth need a higher, nobler view of the value of Christian character. Sin blinds the eyes and defiles the heart. Integrity, firmness, and perseverance are qualities which all should seek earnestly to cultivate; for they clothe the possessor with a power which is irresistible, a power which makes him strong to do good, strong to resist evil, strong to bear adversity. It is here that true excellence of character shines forth with the greatest luster.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 656.

“... Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. A noble, all-round character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 331.

6. What reward will Christ's faithful servants receive at the end?

MATTHEW 25:21, 23 *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.... ²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

“It is the faithfulness, the loyalty to God, the loving service, that wins the divine approval. Every impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God, is noted in the books of heaven, and in the day of God the workers through whom He has wrought will be commended.

“They will enter into the joy of the Lord as they see in His kingdom those who have been redeemed through their instrumentality.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 361.

7. What great joy will they experience in receiving the final reward?

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

“Glorious will be the reward bestowed when the faithful workers are gathered about the throne of God and the Lamb. When John in his mortal state beheld the glory of God, he fell as one dead; he was not able to endure the sight. But when mortal shall have put on immortality, the ransomed ones are like Jesus, for they see Him as He is.... They are partakers with Him in the joy of beholding souls saved through their instrumentality to praise God through all eternity.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 467.

“When Christ’s followers give back to the Lord His own, they are accumulating treasure which will be given to them when they shall hear the words, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant;... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.’ ‘Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.’ Matthew 25:23; Hebrews 12:2. The joy of seeing souls redeemed, souls eternally saved, is the reward of all that put their feet in the footprints of Him who said, ‘Follow Me.’” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 523.

8. What is awaiting the overcomer?

2 TIMOTHY 4:7, 8 *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

“To win a perishable prize, the Grecian runners spared themselves no toil or discipline. We are striving for a prize infinitely more valuable, even the crown of everlasting life. How much more careful should be our striving, how much more willing our sacrifice and self-denial!” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 312.

“In a subordinate sense we should all have respect unto the recompense of the reward. But while we appreciate the promise of blessing, we should have perfect confidence in Jesus Christ, believing that He will do right, and give us reward according as our works have been. The gift of God is eternal life, but Jesus would have us not so anxious concerning rewards, as that we may do the will of God because it is right to do it, irrespective of all gain.” —*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 339.

9. On what condition is the eternal crown promised?

JAMES 1:12 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

“The Lord will never forsake the soul that trusts in Him and seeks His aid. The crown of life is placed only upon the brow of the overcomer. There is, for everyone, earnest, solemn work for God while life lasts.... Not only have we each a work to do for our own souls, but we have also a duty to arouse others to gain eternal life.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 70, 71.

10. What great joy will the redeemed share?

REVELATION 21:10, 11 *And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.*

“In the Bible are revealed visions of the future glory, scenes pictured by the hand of God, and these are dear to His church. By faith we may stand on the threshold of the eternal city, and hear the gracious welcome given to those who in this life cooperate with Christ, regarding it as an honor to suffer for His sake. As the words are spoken, ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father,’ they cast their crowns at the feet of the Redeemer, exclaiming, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.... Honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.’ Matthew 25:34; Revelation 5:12, 13.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 601, 602.

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