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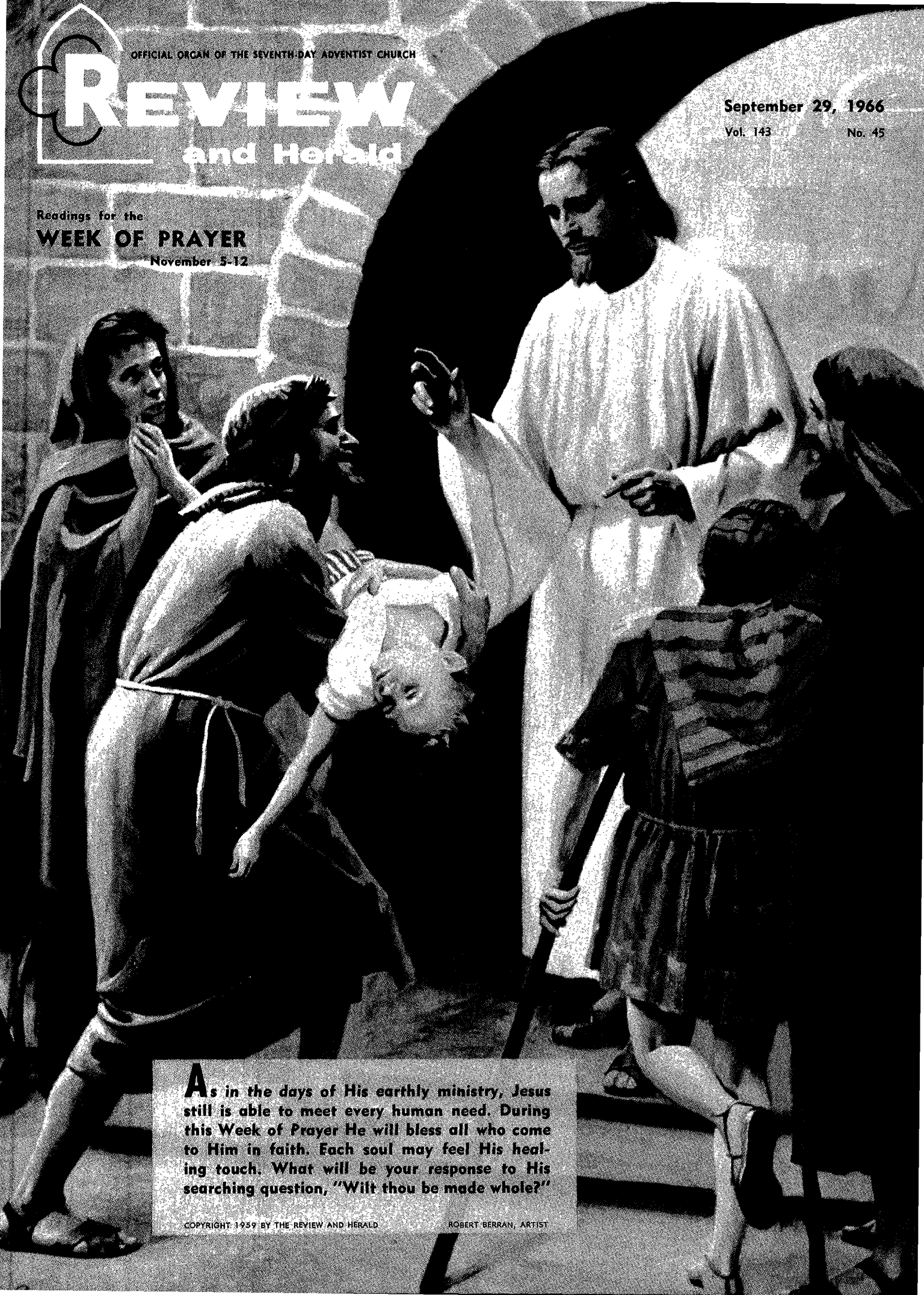
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Readings for the

## WEEK OF PRAYER

November 5-12



**A**s in the days of His earthly ministry, Jesus still is able to meet every human need. During this Week of Prayer He will bless all who come to Him in faith. Each soul may feel His healing touch. What will be your response to His searching question, "Wilt thou be made whole?"

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ROBERT BERRAN, ARTIST

# The Loyal Heart

**T**HE theme for this year's Week of Prayer readings is *loyalty*, with special emphasis on its importance as a stabilizing factor in the experience of the Advent people as they await the coming of the Lord. The appointed readings consider various aspects of loyalty as a Christian grace, centering in the believer's personal loyalty, as a good soldier of the cross, to Christ the Captain of his salvation. Growing out of this personal relationship is loyalty to the blessed hope that Jesus will soon return, as He promised. This blends into loyalty to the Advent message, by which Heaven summons all men everywhere to prepare for the fulfillment of that glorious promise. The Advent message is a call to be loyal to God's voice—to His revealed will in all things.

Those who are loyal to Christ will also be faithful to the great gospel commission, and participate actively in the proclamation of the judgment-hour message. Advent youth in particular are challenged to be loyal to life, that is, to the great opportunities and responsibilities of a life dedicated to Christ. Wholehearted allegiance to Christ will lead a person to be loyal also in word and deed to the church He established, which is His appointed agency on earth for preparing a people to meet Him in peace.

Loyalty is usually thought of as unswerving allegiance to one's friends, family, and country. It consists of faithfulness in meeting a person's obligations to others, and is prompted by confidence in them and devotion to them. Loyalty to Christ springs from confidence in Him and personal devotion to Him. But genuine loyalty is more than an attitude of mind and a course of action pursued out of a sense of duty; it is motivated by love. It comes from the heart. It is the gift of oneself to others. Loyalty is a priceless treasure because it motivates a person to live—and if necessary, to die—for others. Little wonder that the world reserves its highest esteem, honor, and praise for those whose spirit of loyalty inspires them to heroic deeds in which personal interests are forgotten.

Faith in the heart bears the fruit of faithfulness in action. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews records the glowing examples of many heroes of faith who proved their loyalty to God in times of old. In each instance faith led to faithfulness, always in the face of seemingly coercive incentives to be unfaithful. It is under such circumstances that the star of loyalty shines brightest.

Looking forward with prophetic eyesight to the days immediately preceding the coming of the Son of man, the writer of Hebrews appealed to God's people

not to cast away their confidence in His promise. "Ye have need of patience," he explained. Confidence in the promise inspires patience to await its fulfillment, and patience results in steadfast loyalty. Only those who have been confident, patient, and loyal, the writer goes on to say, will receive the promise. Soon, very soon, "he that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10:35-37). It is in the setting of this admonition that, in the following chapter, he cites the roster of the faithful of ages past, and having done so, summons us to follow their glorious example, "to run with patience the race that is set before us." It is our high privilege and calling to be loyal in our day as they were in theirs.

"The season of distress before God's people will call for a faith that will not falter. His children must make it manifest that He is the only object of their worship, and that no consideration, not even that of life itself, can induce them

to make the least concession to false worship. To the loyal heart the commands of sinful, finite men will sink into insignificance beside the word of the eternal God. Truth will be obeyed though the result be imprisonment or exile or death.

"As in the days of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, so in the closing period of earth's history the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right. He who walked with the Hebrew worthies in the fiery furnace will be with His followers wherever they are. His abiding presence will comfort and sustain. In the midst of the time of trouble,—trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—His chosen ones will stand unmoved. Satan with all the hosts of evil cannot destroy the weakest of God's saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them, and in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as a 'God of gods,' able to save to the uttermost those who have put their trust in Him."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 512, 513.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OFFICERS

## Meet the Writers

[At the time these articles are being prepared for publication—the spring of 1966—the writers are engaged in service for the church in the respective lines of activity noted below.—EDITORS.]

**Sabbath, November 5.** Down through the years the voice of God's appointed messenger to the remnant people summons them to remain loyal to Christ. With events in the world testifying to the soon fulfillment of all that the prophets have written, the opening message of this Week of Prayer calls us to an individual renewal of allegiance to the Captain of our salvation.

**Sunday, November 6.** For about seventy years the blessed advent hope has burned brightly in the heart and in the words of H. M. S. Richards, and millions around the world have heard his witness to that hope. His personal loyalty to it has inspired countless thousands of others to be faithful also. This message is a personal invitation to every Seventh-day Adventist to trim his personal lamp of faith.

**Monday, November 7.** God has greatly blessed the evangelistic ministry of E. E. Cleveland, both in the United States and in many great cities of the world. He speaks to people's hearts in a way that has won thousands to faith and loyalty to the Advent message. For twelve years Elder Cleveland has been an associate secretary in the General Conference Ministerial Association.

**Tuesday, November 8.** M. E. Cherian is president of Spicer Memorial College, in India, senior college for the Southern

Asia Division, where he is respected and loved as an administrator and Bible teacher. His training and service have focused on cultivating the spirit of loyalty in Adventist youth.

**Wednesday, November 9.** John Loor, one of our younger workers, is now pastor of the Arlington church in the Southeastern California Conference. His ministry for the youth has been especially effective. He served in the Potomac Conference for a number of years before going to the Pacific Coast.

**Thursday, November 10.** Author of Thursday's message, "Loyalty to the Great Commission," is W. Duncan Eva, now an associate secretary of the General Conference. Before coming to Washington, Elder Eva gave many years of dedicated service to his homeland, South Africa, in educational, evangelistic, and administrative lines of endeavor.

**Friday, November 11.** In "Loyalty to Life" Lawrence Nelson speaks to and for the young people of the church. Before coming to the MV Department of the General Conference, where he is presently giving leadership to the worldwide MV Target evangelism program, Elder Nelson labored for sixteen years as a local and union conference MV secretary.

**Sabbath, November 12.** Appropriately, readings for the Week of Prayer conclude with a clarion appeal from R. R. Figuhr, president of the General Conference, for loyalty to the church as Christ's appointed agency on earth for the salvation of men.

(Reading, Sabbath, November 5, 1966)

# Loyalty to Christ

By ELLEN G. WHITE

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ."—Phil. 3:13-18.

**T**HIS warning in regard to the perils of the people of God is given by one who knew. The enemies of the cross of Christ will put on the garments of light. This they did in Paul's day. As the apostle saw the power of their influence for wrong, he warned the people with weeping not to give them encouragement. They were enemies of Christ, "whose end is destruction, . . . who mind earthly things."

"For our conversation is in heaven," Paul continues; "from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved." "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 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. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Is Christ soon to come in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory? Is the end of all things at hand? If so, those who claim to be followers of Christ must work in proportion to their faith. Our part is not to wait in idle expectancy, but to act in accordance with our faith in the word of God. Vigilant waiting is to be combined with earnest watching. In view of the solemn events soon to take place, every soul who has been

privileged to hear the truth is to work earnestly.<sup>1</sup>

The Lord abhors indifference and disloyalty in a time of crisis in His work. The whole universe is watching with inexpressible interest the closing scenes of the great controversy between good and evil. The people of God are nearing the borders of the eternal world; what can be of more importance to them than that they be loyal to the God of heaven?

All through the ages, God has had moral heroes; and He has them now,—those who, like Joseph and Elijah and Daniel, are not ashamed to acknowledge themselves His peculiar people. 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.<sup>2</sup>

"Ye are my friends," Christ said, "if ye do whatsoever I command you." . . . We

are not in a dreamland of inaction. We are soldiers of Christ, enlisted in the work of showing our loyalty to Him who has redeemed us. What we are in the heavenly home, when saved, eternally saved, will be the reflection of what we now are in character and holy service. Shall we not show our loyalty by keeping God's commandments here, in this our place of probation? Shall we not raise the standard of loyalty to the God of heaven, irrespective of consequences, unheeding the reviling and hatred of the churches that have apostatized from the service of their Creator?<sup>3</sup>

Let no one yield to temptation and become less fervent in his attachment to God's law because of the contempt placed upon it; for that is the very thing that should make us pray with all our heart, and soul, and voice, "It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law." Therefore, because of the universal contempt, I will not turn traitor when God will be most glorified and most honored by my loyalty.

What! Shall Seventh-day Adventists relax their devotedness when all their capabilities and powers should be placed on the Lord's side; when an unflinching testimony, noble and uplifting, should come from their lips? "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold." When the law of God is most derided and brought into the most contempt, then it is time for every true follower of Christ, for those whose hearts have been given to God, and who are fixed to obey God, to stand unflinchingly for the faith once delivered to the saints.<sup>4</sup>

## Not Ashamed of Our Faith

We are not at all ashamed of our faith, Seventh-day Adventism, for it is the very best specification we can have. We are waiting for the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Men may scoff and ridicule our faith, but this should not provoke or surprise us. All these demonstrations do not make the truth error, neither do they make error truth. We take our stand firmly and unmovably upon the platform of the Word of God. . . . Eternal realities must be kept before the mind's eye, and the attractions of the world will appear as they are—altogether profitless. . . . We are

## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGES for the WEEK OF PRAYER

To Be Read in All  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Churches

NOVEMBER 5 to 12  
1966



pilgrims and strangers who are waiting, hoping, and praying for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

If we believe this and bring it into our practical life, what vigorous action would this faith and hope inspire; what fervent love one for another; what careful holy living for the glory of God; and . . . what distinct lines of demarcation would be evidenced between us and the world!\*

### By Beholding We Become Changed

The Lord has a people on the earth, who follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. He has His thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Such will stand with Him on Mount Zion. But they must stand on this earth, girded with the whole armor, ready to engage in the work of saving those who are ready to perish. Heavenly angels conduct this search, and spiritual activity is demanded of all who believe present truth, that they may join the angels in their work.

We need not wait till we are translated to follow Christ. God's people may do this here below. We shall follow the Lamb of God in the courts above only if we follow Him here. Following Him in heaven depends on our keeping His commandments now. We are not to follow Christ fitfully or capriciously, only when it is for our advantage. We must choose to follow Him. In daily life we must follow His example, as a flock trustfully follows its shepherd. We are to follow Him by suffering for His sake, saying, at every step, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." His life practise must be our life practise. And as we thus seek to be like Him, and to bring our wills into conformity to His will, we shall reveal Him.

Are we following Christ with unswerving loyalty, keeping His life of perfect obedience, of purity and self-sacrifice, ever before us, that, by beholding, we may become changed into His image? Do we strive to imitate His fidelity? If we educate ourselves to say, Be thou my Pattern; if by the eye of faith we see Him as a living Saviour, we shall be strengthened to follow Him. Then with the undefiled we shall follow Him in the future life. As eye- and heart-witnesses, we can bear testimony to His majesty; for by faith we have been with Him in the holy mount.\*

### Loyal to Our Captain

The dangers and difficulties before us are increasing as we near the heavenly rest. Satan is filled with deadly hatred against all who are seeking to gain the land which was once his home. His envy has lost none of its bitterness since he

was excluded from the brightness and glory of Heaven. Before his fall an enemy to Christ, seeking to rob Him of His honor and glory, he is no less His enemy now. He has determined to take the world captive. He sees that his time is short, that a mightier than he will soon take away his power, and he will make one last mighty effort against Christ and His church.

Now is the time for the friends of Jesus to be decided, faithful, and valiant for the Captain of their salvation. . . . There are great difficulties and trials before us. It will require strong courage and persevering effort to go forward. But all now depends on our faith in the Captain who has led us safely thus far. Shall we let unbelief come in now? Shall we weakly yield to distrust and fear? Shall we compromise with the world, and turn away from the heavenly Canaan? Shall we make extensive plans for this life, as did the inhabitants of the old world, planting, building, marrying, and giving in marriage?

### The End at Hand

The solemn message for this time has a certain sound which we all should heed. The signs of the times tell us that the end of all things is at hand. Prophecies fulfilled have become facts of history, clearly defining our position. We are standing upon the verge of the eternal world. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many is waxing cold. Instead of this, love for God, love for purity, truth, and holiness, should be increasing in our hearts. The increase of wickedness around us should awaken in us more earnest zeal and stronger determination. The faith of God's true people, manifested, as was Noah's, by their works, should stand as a beacon of warning to the world. If our works do not correspond with our profession, we present to the world a false light, and thus lure them on to destruction.

Our Lord forewarned His people that iniquity would abound in the last days, and would have a paralyzing influence upon true godliness. Wickedness is seen and heard and felt all around us. It seems to permeate the very atmosphere, and affects the faith and love of God's professed people. It is difficult to hold fast Christian integrity. The fact is, much which is current in our day as Christianity is indebted for its very existence to the absence of persecution. When the test of fiery trial comes, a great proportion of those who profess the faith will show that their religion was hollow formalism. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, their faith grows feeble and becomes extinct.

The days in which we live are days of peril. Carelessness, levity, love of pleas-

ure and selfish gratification, are seen in the lives of very many professed Christians. Is this the time for Seventh-day Adventists to lose their faith and grow cold and formal? God forbid! Shall we turn traitor at the very moment when God would be most glorified by our steadfast adherence to principle? Shall we turn from the heavenly attractions now, when we can almost see the glories on the other shore? We are living in the most important period of earth's history. By maintaining our allegiance to God, we may bear the noblest testimony for Christ and the truth.

The true Christian will cling to the promises of God more firmly now than ever before. His heart is where he has laid up his treasure—in Heaven. When right principles are despised and forsaken, then the true and loyal will show their warmest zeal and deepest love; then they will stand most firmly for truth, unpopular though it be. The true soldier will be ready to fight the battles of the Lord when his enemies appear strongest; and it is then that the victory will be most complete and triumphant.

### To Witness in Words and Works

Brethren and sisters of like precious faith, shall we give heed to the last warning message? Is this a time to use the Lord's money in ministering to our pride and ambition?—a time to add land to land, or to build grand houses for ourselves and our children?—a time to lay up our treasures and fix our affections here? The Lord is coming. In His great mercy He has delivered us from the darkness of error, and has permitted the bright beams of truth to shine into our souls. We should manifest our gratitude by so reflecting the light from Heaven in our words and works, that others may be led to believe the truths we advocate.\*

Zeal for God and His cause moved the disciples to bear witness to the gospel with mighty power. Should not a like zeal fire our hearts with a determination to tell the story of redeeming love, of Christ and Him crucified? It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of the Saviour.

If the church will put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, withdrawing from all allegiance with the world, there is before her the dawn of a bright and glorious day. God's promise to her will stand fast forever. He will make her an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Truth, passing by those who despise and reject it, will triumph. Although at times apparently retarded, its progress has never been checked. When the message of God meets with opposition, He gives it additional force, that it may exert greater influence. Endowed with divine energy,

it will cut its way through the strongest barriers, and triumph over every obstacle. . . .

In the Bible are revealed visions of 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 co-operate 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 forever and ever" [Matt. 25:34; Rev. 5:12, 13].<sup>8</sup>

#### SOURCES

- <sup>1</sup> *Review and Herald*, April 12, 1898, p. 229.
- <sup>2</sup> *Prophets and Kings*, p. 148.
- <sup>3</sup> *Review and Herald*, April 12, 1898, pp. 229, 230.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, June 8, 1897, p. 354.
- <sup>5</sup> *That I May Know Him*, p. 357.
- <sup>6</sup> *Review and Herald*, April 12, 1898, p. 230.
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Nov. 29, 1881, pp. 337, 338.
- <sup>8</sup> *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 600-602.

(Reading, Sunday, November 6, 1966)

## Loyalty to the Blessed Hope

By H. M. S. RICHARDS

MANY years ago a father had to leave home on a long journey.

Just before he left he took his little three-and-a-half-year-old boy upon his knee to talk to him about his trip. The boy said, "Daddy, when will you be coming back again?" The father knew that he could not explain to such a little fellow that he would be back in September. The boy would not understand it. He knew nothing about the months, about dates or times or seasons, so the father said, "Listen, son, when you see the leaves on the trees turning red and brown and yellow, and beginning to fall to the ground, then you can be sure that father is coming back very soon."

The next day the father left home. During the months of July and August the little boy would walk with his mother out in the forest and keep looking at the trees, and he would talk about his absent father. Slowly the days and weeks went by until it was early September, then mid-September. Then, though the boy did not notice it very much, the leaves on the trees were slowly changing color. One night there was a mighty wind and millions of leaves came down, filling the sidewalks and the gutters, sweeping through the forests. The next morning when he went out and saw these leaves in great piles he began to kick them into the air. Soon he began to shout, and his mother heard him say, "Hurrah, hurrah! Daddy's coming soon!"

There's expectation all over the world today. The forests are turning color, the leaves are falling. These signs of the times are appearing. Jesus said, "When these

things begin to come to pass"—what, be negligent? be careless? pay no attention? be sad and gloomy? No, indeed. "Then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

The great future of every child of God may be dawning, for the coming of the Lord draweth near. There are many Old Testament prophecies that point to the second coming of Christ and the great events that are to occur in connection with the setting up of His kingdom of glory. There is the great prophecy of the second chapter of Daniel, with its four successive kingdoms—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

There was the division of Rome's great empire into the modern nations of Europe, and their troubled history down to the present hour. According to Daniel 2: 44: "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed."

Whenever I read the second chapter of Daniel I think of the words of the song that so many of us at one time could repeat from memory:

"First, the Assyrian kingdom ruled the world,  
Then Medo-Persia's banners were unfurled;  
And after Greece held universal sway,  
Rome seized the scepter—Where are we today?

"Down in the feet of iron and of clay,  
Weak and divided, soon to pass away;  
What will the next great, glorious drama be?  
Christ and His coming, And eternity."

The second coming of Christ is imminent; the setting up of His kingdom is the next mighty event in the history of the human race. Did not Jesus say that "when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (Matt. 25:31)? Where there's a throne, there's a king. Where there's a king, there's a kingdom.

We remember also the words of Jesus about His return. He said He would return: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3). Our Saviour is a true witness. He will do exactly as He promised. He will return to this world. He will come back again.

Turning to the book of Revelation, which is particularly Christ's book—it is called "the revelation of Jesus Christ"—we find in the sixth chapter the last part of the great prophecy of the seven seals. In the twelfth and thirteenth verses we read about the opening of the sixth seal: "And, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."

#### Three Events in History

Notice here three great events in history. As we near the end of the prophecy of the seven seals we find three historical events that can be assigned dates. So this seal is dated, and we can know when it began; first the mighty earthquake, then the black sun and the moon as blood, then the falling of the stars. The first five seals bring us down into the days of the great Protestant Reformation. Was there "a great earthquake" after this, an earthquake that has been noted as one of the greatest of history? Yes, indeed; the Lisbon earthquake of November 1, 1755. This event exerted a profound influence on the world. Books have been written about it. Not only the earth was shaken, but the philosophy and religious views of the people were mightily shaken by this earthquake. Voltaire, the great skeptic, wrote a book about it.

Not long after this earthquake the sun became black. A very dark day occurred on May 19, 1780, and that night the full moon looked like blood. Then came the falling stars, on November 13, 1833. Suppose these events had taken place in reverse order, or had been mixed up in some other way. The infidel or the skeptic could laugh at the Word of God. But no; these events occurred in the exact order in which the Bible had predicted.

History proves that God spoke the truth. We are living *after* these three events took place; in other words, after verse 13 of Revelation 6.

Now notice verses 14-17: "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" We are living now between verses 13 and 14 of Revelation the sixth chapter. The great earthquake, the black sun, the falling stars—these events have taken place; but the departing of the heaven as a scroll has not yet occurred, nor the great prayer meeting in which skeptics, infidels, and all the unsaved will be praying, not to God, but to mountains and rocks.

#### Mentioned Frequently in Scripture

We should love the truth of our Lord's appearing because of the large place it occupies in Scripture, and because God loves it. If frequency of mention is one measure of its importance, it must be one of the supreme truths of Scripture. Baptism is mentioned only about twenty times in seven Epistles. It is not once named in the other fourteen. The Lord's Supper is mentioned less than half a dozen times in the New Testament, and in twenty of the twenty-one Epistles it is not alluded to at all. The second coming of Christ is spoken of more than three hundred times in the New Testament. According to some readers that is about one verse in every twenty-five or thirty. God must think a great deal of this truth of the second coming of Christ or He would not speak about it so much in His Word.

Why should we not be loyal to such a message, to such a great truth? How is it possible for a person to believe the Bible as the Word of God and still not be loyal to this great and wonderful truth of the second coming of our Lord, yes, the *imminent* coming of our Lord? The word "imminent" means impending, something that hangs over, something that will take place. We know not the hour, as Jesus has said, but we can see the signs and know that in His providence He is keeping it before our eyes so that we shall be preparing ourselves for it. Our faith in the coming of the Lord will be tested; and one reason that some people have lost their faith in it is that they have been setting dates for it—in their own minds if not openly. Some say that God has delayed His coming, or He may never come. Here is the danger. The Scripture says, "Ye have need of patience, [that

... ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10: 36, 37). The word here translated "patience" is translated elsewhere as "endurance" or "faithfulness."

In James 5:7 we are told to "be patient . . . unto the coming of the Lord." We need to have trust, we need to endure in this faith, for according to the prophecies of Scripture, this glorious message of the second coming of Christ will be preached worldwide. We read this in Revelation 14, beginning with the sixth verse, right down to verse 14.

#### Time to Renew Our Faith

This, my fellow believers, is the time to renew our faith in this great and wonderful and comforting truth of the coming of our Lord. We find our salvation from sin and our hope of eternal life in the first coming of our Saviour and His atoning death upon the cross for us. We find our sanctification through the indwelling of the blessed Holy Spirit, ministering this righteousness of Jesus to us here and now. We shall find our final and instantaneous glorification at the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven.

Friends, if we lose hope, we lose everything. And this is a *blessed* hope, because it is a hope that comes from God, and looks to God for its fulfillment. We are looking to Jesus Christ and His glorious appearing, which is our blessed hope. Why? Because it brings to this world the Blessor Himself, even Jesus our Lord, and because it will therefore bring all the blessings promised to the people of God from the beginning of time.

Certainly, friends, things will not go on forever as they have been going, and are now going. A great change for the better will come because the Changer Himself, the Lord of creation and redemption, has promised to return. No wonder that promise brings a hope to our hearts, which is called "that blessed hope." That is what we really long for. It is what sustains us in health and in sickness, in poverty and in prosperity, in tranquillity and in trouble.

My father was a preacher of this blessed hope, and memory just now goes back to my boyhood. It seems that I can hear his earnest words repeating Matthew 24:36-42, ending with this line: "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." There at the end of the platform, in the big tent, sat my

#### Giving and Having

*A meditation on Luke 6:38*

By MYRTLE LEORA NELSON

"The more you pick, the more you have,"

The gardener said one day,

As I walked among the blossoms

In the spring-filled month of May.

"The more you give, the more you have"—

Traveling the happy way.

mother at the little organ. It seems that I am there now, watching her. I can hear her sweet voice beginning to sing, at the close of father's sermon:

"We know not the hour of the Master's appearing,

Yet signs all foretell that the moment is nearing

When He shall return—'tis a promise most cheering—

But we know not the hour."

I am so glad that my brother and I grew up with our first childhood memories filled with God's promises of this blessed hope. We have always had something to live for, something to look forward to. Now father has fallen asleep in Jesus, but we know that when the Saviour comes he will awake in His likeness whose gospel he faithfully preached.

It is wonderful to live with a great hope in the heart. Dostoevski was right when he said, "The secret of a man's being is not only to live, but to have something to live for." I am glad that my grandfather and my father preached this message of hope in Christ—hope for this world, hope for the world to come. I am glad that I can preach it, and that my sons are preaching it.

"While pilgrims here we journey on  
In this dark vale of sin and gloom,  
Through tribulation, hate, and scorn,  
Or through the portals of the tomb,  
Till our returning King shall come  
To take His exile captives home,  
O! what can buoy the spirits up?  
'Tis this alone—the blessed hope."

—ANNIE R. SMITH

The wonderful message of our crucified, risen, and soon-coming Lord is reaching out to earth's remotest bounds, and the gospel in this setting is preparing a people to meet the Saviour when He comes. As it goes out, it must make the world better. It must care for the sick and the troubled. It must be a healing, helpful, holy, redeeming message. "For the hope of Israel" (Acts 28:20) the apostle Paul was bound with a chain. It is for the hope of God's people that we must sacrifice and labor and pray until the day-break and the shadows flee away, and the King is here again.

"When the ones we've loved so much  
Vanish from our sight and touch;  
When their words of love and cheer  
Fall no longer on our ear;

"When they yield their latest breath  
To the mystery of death;  
When our tears fall soon and late,  
In a house that's desolate—

"Peace to thee! In Christ they sleep;  
They are His to love and keep.  
Hush! To every murmur dumb,  
It is only till He come."

—H. M. S. RICHARDS

(Reading, Monday, November 7, 1966)

# Loyalty to the Advent Message

By E. E. CLEVELAND

CHRISTIANITY is the sum total of the life and teachings of Christ our Lord. This constitutes the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The revelation of the character of Christ to the world is our mission. That He taught and lived is our message. To be true to Christ is to accept *the message*.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church possesses the apostolic message in its purest form. Herein verily are the teachings of the disciples of Christ and the wisdom of the prophets. That this pearl of great price should be entrusted to men is in itself an honor. Total commitment to it is Heaven's requirement.

In ages past men have risked their lives to deliver God-given messages. Moses faced Pharaoh and all of the might of Egypt to speak for Jehovah. "Let my people go!" he thundered repeatedly. Jonah advanced on wicked Nineveh with the word of God upon his lips, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." Noah became the favorite butt of antediluvian jokes for declaring the message God gave him. Elijah courted the wrath of Jezebel for challenging Israel to choose whom they would serve. Daniel could face Nebuchadnezzar with a message refuting the king's dream of perpetual dominion because he was sure of God's voice.

Requisite to faithfulness, then, is faith. Faith that the message is of God. Faith that its words are His will. Faith that the Author of the message will be the protector of the messenger. This is the secret of loyalty—confidence. Yes, confidence that the message we bear is of God.

## What Is "the Message"?

1. We are saved from sin by God's grace *alone*.

2. Living faith is manifested in obedience to God's law and in Christian service.

3. The seventh-day Sabbath is a sign of allegiance to God. The Scriptures fully support the seventh day as the Sabbath of the Lord.

4. Sin is being dealt with fully and finally in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary.

5. The dead, now unconscious in their

sleep, will be awakened in one or the other of the two resurrections.

6. The principle of self-denial includes tithing, dietary reform, and dress reform. We believe with the apostle Paul that Christians should not conform to this world.

7. We believe in the second coming of Christ, and that it will be literal and visible. And further, we believe that Christ is coming soon! We know not the day nor the hour, but we do know "the times and the seasons." Lack of specific knowledge will not postpone the event. Then let us as individuals cultivate a sense of expectancy, through prayer and Bible study.

8. We believe in the ultimate triumph of right. One day soon "the kingdoms of this world" will "become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ." We believe in the fiery purification of the earth and an earth made new by re-creation.

9. We believe in global conquest through the gospel, which must be preached in all the world to every creature.

10. We believe in all that the prophets have written, and that the prophetic gift has been manifested in Ellen G. White, for the spiritual good of the body of Christ.

This message of composite truth has made us what we are, and as long as we are true to it we will ever be an "holy priesthood" and a "peculiar people."

## Why Some Become Discouraged

It has been my duty through the years to deal with some who had deserted the faith. Chief among the reasons given for apostasy is disappointment with some fellow believer, a poor example set by someone in whom they once had confidence. This may involve mistreatment from an unexpected source. While we recognize that all Christians should rightly represent the faith, it would be sheer folly to deny the existence of "ares." This was so of the original twelve. There will be sinners in Zion until the "harvest." The Christian must always differentiate in his thinking between the message and the misguided practitioner. The message itself is true, and our loy-

alty is to Christ and to it. This is the key to our fellowship with, and love for, one another. Man cannot love Christ whom he has never seen, and at the same time hate his brother whom he sees every day.

Others become discouraged because of repeated personal transgressions. Perhaps there is an evil habit that lingers on, and the struggle to overcome it has been futile. Rather than be tormented by a guilty conscience, the discouraged one seeks solution in apostasy. He feels that he can never find deliverance from the habit—hence he seeks to escape his conscience. This he cannot do without destroying a portion of himself. Apostasy only deepens his misery. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" (Isa. 57:21). The solution to the problem of transgression is *repentance*: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

What is repentance? And how does one repent? By definition, repentance is "a change of attitude." "Repent . . . for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" literally means "stop resisting Heaven's attempt to change your life, and let God change your attitudes." Perhaps this is the true meaning of the psalmist's prayer, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10). We are not naturally sorry for sin. Godly sorrow must be created in us. It is in this sense that the renewed saint is a "new creation."

Granted that repentance is an act of God in man, there yet remains the question of man's part in the redemptive plan. What must I do to be saved? "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Rom. 2:4). Yes, there is something we can do. We can all meditate daily on "the goodness of God."

"When waves of affliction sweep over the soul,

And sunlight is hidden from view;  
Whenever you are tempted to doubt or complain

Just think of His goodness to you."

His goodness reached its climax on the cross at Calvary, where "he was wounded for our transgressions" and "bruised for our iniquities" (Isa. 53:5). Are you earnestly seeking deliverance from a besetting sin? Does your passion for spiritual freedom outweigh your love for sin? In short, do you really want to break a habit? Then spend some time each day meditating on the significance of the cross. Concentrate until the light breaks through, *for it will*. When we fully sense our unworthiness of the least of Heaven's favors, and yet find ourselves the beneficiaries of Heaven's choicest gift—this alone can break our hard heart and turn us to God.

"Then sings my soul, my Saviour God,  
to thee—

How great thou art!"

There are others who depart from the faith, as a result of honest doctrinal confusion. This usually occurs when a member contents himself with being "in the truth" while failing to study sufficiently for the truth to literally be "in him."

### Study God's Word

There is no safeguard against doctrinal apostasy except the personal study of the Word of God. There is no substitute for this. The devil knows this. He bends every effort so to occupy our time that we will neglect this. "I just don't have the time to study," is an excuse often heard. Time must be found to do this. We "find" time to do whatever else we please. Determine in your heart, my brethren, that you will spend some time each day in personal Bible study. In short, "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

Some of our people spend valuable time reading literature critical of the faith, and listening to broadcasts of the same nature. They have not established their faith through prayer and the study of God's Word, and their minds are unprepared for the assaults made upon it.

Enemies of the faith abound on every hand, and not all of them are outside of the church. "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29, 30). In recent years attacks on the church and its leadership have increased from without and within. Ills, real and imaginary, have been exploited to undermine confidence. Some members feed on the speeches and writings of these critics, to their own detriment, little knowing that by accepting them they are embracing the preaching of wolves covered in sheep's wool. "Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His church. Nothing is guarded by Him with such jealous care. Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 42.

"The different parties of professed Advent believers have each a little truth, but God has given *all these truths* to His children who are being prepared for the day of God. . . . He will let His chosen and beloved understand it, without their going to have their minds enlightened by hearing those who are in darkness and error."—*Early Writings*, p. 124. (Italics supplied.)

The church has always had to contend with the twin extremes of fanaticism and skepticism. Personal study of the Scriptures is the only safeguard against both. "Our minds should not be thus diverted, but should be occupied with the present truth, and seeking wisdom that we may obtain a more thorough knowledge of our position, that with meekness we may be

able to give a reason of our hope from the Scriptures."—*Ibid.*, p. 125.

### Be Faithful

My father was a soldier in World War I. Upon entering the Army, he volunteered the information that he was a Seventh-day Adventist and that, as such, he could not work on the Sabbath. "The Army recognizes no Sabbath," he was told, "therefore you will work this coming Saturday."

The next Sabbath he was led to a pile of gravel, handed a shovel, and ordered to work. Six soldiers with loaded guns stood ready to execute him on the spot. "I can't, sir," was his calm reply. "Why can't you?" shouted the sergeant. "Because this is the Sabbath," father answered. A court-martial was convened, during which my father was subjected to the cruelest abuse in an effort to break his will. But with Bible in hand and a prayer on his lips he stood his ground.

The commanding officer dismissed the other officers, ordered my father to be seated, sat directly in front of him and stared at him for what seemed to be an eternity. Finally he spoke, "Soldier, open your book and give a reason for the hope that is within you!" For the next hour a private was teacher and his commanding officer the pupil. At the close of the study the commander smiled and said, "I congratulate you, soldier, for knowing what you believe. I know all about Seventh-day Adventists. They are good people. My family is in the care of a Seventh-day Adventist maid. You may have your Sabbaths off. But don't teach that religion to the other soldiers around here, or we won't have an army."

## God Knows

By Mrs. L. Zweigle

God knows every tear that falls,  
And all our wandering ways;  
He knows what is best for us  
Through all our earthly days.

Our Father calls the worried hearts  
To leave everything in His care;  
He loves and understands us,  
For He's always standing near.

God may give, or take away—  
It's all for our own good.  
We must believe and trust in Him,  
In every way we should.

He's watching over His children,  
And some He has called to rest,  
To sleep in His loving grace—  
For God knows what is best.

Someday in His great kingdom  
The faithful will have a place;  
In the beautiful New Jerusalem  
We will meet Him face to face.

My father was able to give a reason for the hope that he had. Can you?

"Be thou faithful unto death. . . ." If this is to be our own experience, we must cultivate a continual personal relationship with Christ. We must come to understand that sin is more than breaking rules. Sin insults God. Sin offends Him. Conversely, righteousness is more than obeying rules; it is pleasing Him.

Through prayer and Bible study we may so cultivate His friendship as to shield us against apostasy, now and ever. "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

### Beware of Private Judgment

Finally, some are lost to the faith because of private judgment. They become captivated by a "fresh revelation" which, after a while, assumes the dignity of "new light." While great care should be exercised in the treatment of new positions, our hearts should be in constant readiness to respond to every Heaven-sent revelation.

1. Nothing should be accepted that does not harmonize with Bible-established positions previously taken.

2. New light should be tested as to pertinency and significance. One should ask himself the question, "Will this new position contribute to the upbuilding of the kingdom of God?" We should have little patience with "new light" merely for new light's sake.

3. Is the bearer of "new light" a person of sound mind and Christian experience?

4. Does the bearer of "new tidings" have the respect of his own family? Is there a sound, healthy, balanced Christian atmosphere in his own home?

These questions will help the believer to evaluate any new position advanced, from whatever source. "I saw that the shepherds should consult those in whom they have reason to have confidence, . . . before they advocate new points of importance, which they may think the Bible sustains. Then the shepherds will be perfectly united and the union of the shepherds will be felt by the church. Such a course I saw would prevent unhappy divisions, and then there would be no danger of the precious flock being divided and the sheep scattered without a shepherd."—*Ibid.*, pp. 61, 62.

The decision to stand firm in the faith, come what may, must be made now. Faith to survive an emergency must be acquired in advance, or the intensity of the storm may inundate the soul. Those who remain faithful under pressure do so because all along they have practiced faith, and strengthened it through daily prayer and meditation on God's Word. It was thus with righteous Enoch, who "walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (Gen. 5:24). So may it be with us.



(Reading, Tuesday, November 8, 1966)

# Loyalty to God's Voice

By MALIAKAL E. CHERIAN

**L**OYALTY to the voice of God is the very heart of Adventism. God's voice represents His will, and loyalty to it implies faithfulness and firm adherence to that will. It springs from an unwavering faith in, and a deep personal devotion to, God. It may be truly said that such an attitude has characterized the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church from its very inception.

Loyalty to God's voice led William Miller and his associates to proclaim the Advent message of 1844. It caused our spiritual forefathers to maintain their trust and confidence in God in spite of the great Disappointment. The same loyalty compelled our pioneers to reject many of the traditional doctrines of Christendom and to accept only what the Bible teaches.

In this context consider the basis of our doctrines—salvation in and through Christ alone, the immutability of the moral law including the Sabbath, the nature of man and the state of the dead, the heavenly sanctuary and its services, creationism, the Spirit of prophecy, stewardship, the imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ—just to mention a few. What else can account for the philosophy of life that prevails among us as a people? Is not the same loyalty the motivating force for the outreach of our church in temperance, and in medical and welfare ministries? We may safely conclude that this church is the result of unflinching loyalty to God's voice.

These facts commit us personally to two distinct positions. First, the acknowledgment that without an undeviating loyalty to God's revealed will there could have been no Seventh-day Adventist Church. Second, our identification with this church today presupposes a total commitment of loyalty to God's voice. Our spiritual pilgrimage in the Adventist Movement cannot have relevancy without this personal and complete commitment. The Lord says, "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live" (Isa. 55:3).

The world has raised many voices to catch the attention and the hearts of men. Therefore we must discern and listen to God's voice. It is the only voice that has validity in terms of our salvation. God speaks to us clearly and personally. Our

lives testify to its veracity. Many times we have lifted our hearts and cried unto the Lord. In our hour of despair and discouragement, sin and sorrow, pain and perplexity, our souls long for the voice of One who loved us unto death and is able to save us "to the uttermost." With the psalmist we echo our inner feelings: "Unto thee will I cry, O Lord, my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit" (Ps. 28:1).

## God Communicates With Us

Our hope is in God's communicating with us. The uniqueness of our Christian faith is the fact that we serve a God who can and does answer. A lifetime of experience with the Lord under a variety of situations and circumstances constrained David to say, "In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul" (Ps. 138:3). It is the voice of God that sustains us; without it we should be like those who go down into the death pit—without hope, without a future, without security. It is God's voice that gives direction to our lives, meaning and purpose to our existence.

Unfortunately, our lives are so tangled up with the material things of the twentieth century and the selfishness of our own hearts that we seldom hear Him speak. To keep our hearts in tune with heaven, our lines of communication to God's throne of grace must remain open, and our spiritual senses alert to hear the voice of God. Many times in the affairs of men, and in our own lives, God has spoken with that certainty in which He alone can speak, but preoccupation with our own selves and with the unregenerate desires of our hearts has caused that voice to go unheard. It is only as we lay aside every weight, and the sins that so easily beset us, and give expression to the prayer, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth" (1 Sam. 3:9), that we shall be able to hear the still small voice from the heavenly courts.

Yes, we must listen to God's voice. But that is not enough. We also need to respond to that voice by obedience. Loyalty implies and demands obedience, and there can be no genuine loyalty without unreserved obedience. The Master Him-

self said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine" (John 7:17). Obedience is the test of loyalty. There is no substitute.

The story of King Saul is pertinent. He was rejected as king of Israel because of disobedience to the voice of God. The Lord had commanded Saul to destroy the Amalekites utterly, and all their sheep and oxen. But Saul spared their king, and "the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs" (1 Sam. 15:9). He tried to cover up his disloyalty with an excuse that sounded reasonable and justifiable. He said he had "spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord" (verse 15). One may be tempted to ask, Could Saul have done anything more pleasing for the Lord? Yet Saul rationalized with the declaration, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord" (verse 20).

There is something better than sacrifice. Speaking on behalf of the Lord, Samuel said, "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (verse 22). Then he directed these fateful words to the one who was disloyal to the voice of God: "Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king" (verse 23).

To us, members of the remnant church, this has special significance. Our obligation to be loyal to God's voice is in direct proportion to the mercy He has shown us in revealing His will. To no other people in the entire history of man has the will of God been more clearly and unmistakably revealed than to us. Of no people has the Lord demanded greater obedience or loyalty.

What are the ways through which God's voice is heard in our experience today? Some people raise the question, How can I know for sure that God is speaking to me, when obviously the devil also has agencies to speak to us? There is no need to be perplexed about this. We can discern the voice of God distinctly.

## God Speaks in the Bible

First of all, God speaks to us through the Bible. It is His Holy Word and revealed will. It is His voice. It will "make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." It "is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Loyalty to the Scriptures will make you "perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:15-17). It will be a "lamp" unto your feet and a "light" unto your path (Ps. 119:105). Finally, the Word is "life" (John 1:4). This is the reason Adventists are known as the people of the Word. Ellen G. White told us years ago: "In the Bible the will of God is revealed to His children. Wherever it is read, in the family circle, the school, or the church, all should give quiet and devout

attention as if God were really present and speaking to them."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 84.

God also speaks to us through the Spirit of Prophecy. The church of God today faces unparalleled dangers, for the devil is out "to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ," which "is the spirit of prophecy" (Rev. 12:17; 19:10). Thank God for the Spirit of Prophecy in these last days, when we face great problems, perplexities, and persecutions. "In these days He speaks . . . by the testimonies of His Spirit."—*Our Firm Foundation*, vol. 1, p. 261.

While the Spirit of Prophecy is not "a new rule of faith" (*Early Writings*, p. 78), it is "a lesser light" to lead us to the "greater light," the Bible. It was given "to correct those who err from Bible truth," and "for the comfort of His people" (*ibid.*). It is an inspired commentary on the Bible. It is to guide and direct us in the way we should go.

"There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 148. The Lord's messenger also warned, "I am authorized from God to tell you that not another ray of light through the *Testimonies* will shine upon your pathway until you make a practical use of the light already given."—*Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 666.

### Through the Spirit

God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit. He is our constant and unerring guide and divine Comforter, sent to us by Jesus Christ from the Father. He will teach us all things, guiding us into all truth (John 14:16, 26). As a divine messenger He will reveal things to come, and bring to our remembrance the promises of God (John 14:26; 16:13). He will direct us in the way of godliness, teaching the saints and edifying the church (Isa. 30:21; John 15:26). He helps us in our infirmities (Rom. 8:26). Therefore our need today "is the quickening influence of the Holy Spirit of God," and we have the promise that this is "the time of the latter rain, when the Lord will give largely of His Spirit."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 512. Hence we are exhorted to "hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 2:7). This calls for our loyalty.

The combined ministry of these three agencies—the Holy Scriptures, the Spirit of Prophecy writings, and the Holy Spirit—constitutes God's means of communicating His will to us. In them we hear His voice. If we study God's Word with the help of the Spirit of Prophecy, and seek His face in prayer and meditation, the Holy Spirit will speak to us and show us the path in which to walk.

Sacred history is replete with the experiences of those who have been loyal to the voice of God. Noah, early in the history of our race, demonstrated his loyalty by preaching about impending destruction by flood and by preparing an ark to save his house.

Abraham "departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him," "not knowing whither he went" (Gen. 12:4; Heb. 11:8), thus revealing loyalty to the voice of God. He obeyed again by offering to sacrifice his only son, and thus became the father of the faithful and the inheritor to "a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10).

Moses "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter" (verse 24), and "forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king" (verse 27). He chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (verse 25). For this loyalty to His voice, God honored Abraham, and he rose to become one of the greatest personalities in all history, and an heir to the greater riches in Jesus Christ.

On the way to Damascus, Paul heard the voice of God and responded, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" The pledge of loyalty made on that day enabled him to declare before an unbelieving and questioning monarch more than a quarter of a century later, "O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision" (Heb. 26:19). To a companion in service he wrote: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7).

In later years Martin Luther stood against the combined forces of the Holy Roman Empire and the Catholic Church because of his loyalty to the voice of God. A soldier accosting him on the way to the Diet of Worms, asked him, "Are you the man who is to overturn popedom? How will you accomplish that?" He replied, "I rely on Almighty God whose orders I have."

As Luther neared the city of Worms, Spalatin, the chaplain of his friend Elector Frederick, sent word to him imploring him on no account to think of entering the city. Luther answered, "Go and tell your master that if there were at Worms as many devils as there are tiles on the roofs, yet would I go in." Such is the loyalty we crave for ourselves.

As Luther came to the door of the imperial palace and the hall where he was to be tried, the veteran general Freundsberg, touching his shoulder, remarked, "Little monk, you have before you an encounter such as neither I nor any

other captains have seen the like of even in our bloodiest campaigns." With those words ringing in his ears Luther stood before that august assembly of lords, kings, ecclesiastical prelates, and the Roman emperor to declare his unwavering loyalty to the voice of God in the words, "Here I stand. I can do no other!"

### The Advent Pioneers Heard God

Our immediate spiritual heritage is not devoid of loyalty and devotion. In fact, Adventism is the result of loyalty. The Millerites had earnestly preached the second advent of Christ and the end of this world by October 22, 1844. It was the event upon which they focused their attention and staked their hopes. However, October 22 came and went. Its passing was a terrible disappointment, and resulted in frustration, confusion, division, fanaticism, and a sense of defeat and loneliness. This was deepened by the taunts of their enemies. But those saints refused to be disloyal to God's voice. They earnestly sought to know the mind of God, and submitted themselves to His will. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the result, and we have the privilege of being a part of it today.

In those days of disappointment, confusion, distress, and uncertainty, the voice of God came to a devout, physically stricken, seventeen-year-old maiden. Ellen G. White ever remained loyal to that voice. She rose "to take up the burden and to speak for God, doing so faithfully and well for seventy years. From her pen came twenty-five million words, published in forty-three books and four thousand periodical articles."—*Our Firm Foundation*, vol. 1, p. 207.

Time would fail us to tell of James White, Joseph Bates, J. N. Andrews, S. H. Haskell, J. N. Loughborough, Uriah Smith, George I. Butler, and scores of others who were loyal to the voice of God and thereby laid the foundation for the greatest demonstration of God's saving power in the last days of this world's history. They were all men and women of like passions as we are, but became stalwarts in the cause of God because they were loyal to His voice.

Those who are likewise loyal to God's voice will go triumphantly through the perilous days ahead, to enter into the kingdom of God. We long to be in that victorious company of saints. Thank God, this can be our privilege. Let us look unto Jesus "the author and finisher of our faith." Let us earnestly pray that God in His infinite mercy and love will grant to us each one this mind of Jesus, a mind which made Him loyal and obedient to His Father's voice "unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8).

Listen to God's voice. Take time to study the Word and the Spirit of Prophecy writings, and to meditate and pray. "To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Heb. 4:7). "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isa. 30:21).

### The End of the Road

By STELLA KENNEDY SALISBURY

The nearer I come to the end of the road,  
The dearer Christ is to me;  
The pleasures of earth grow ever more dim  
As I draw closer and closer to Him.

(Reading, Wednesday, November 9, 1966)

# Loyalty to Principle

By JOHN LOOR

IN THE eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews we read the following words: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward" (verses 24-26). The choice of a lifetime confronted Moses. He could have everything that the natural heart craves, or he could choose to cast his lot with the people of God. Moses' choice involved a number of key factors. Although not on as great a scale, humanly speaking, each of us living right now has a similar choice to make. Four factors stand out in bold relief in the choice of Moses. The same four confront us in the choice that faces us in this critical year of the sophisticated sixties.

1. One factor involved money and material advantage. Notice Hebrews 11:26 again: "Esteeming the reproach of Christ *greater riches* than the treasures in Egypt." There was enough treasure in Egypt to dazzle even John Paul Getty, whom many people consider the wealthiest man on earth today. All this Moses turned down for the cause of Jesus Christ. In the language of our day, he could have had a fabulously beautiful home that would make the most ornate mansion of earth today look like a peasant's cottage—a television set in every room, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, two new high-priced automobiles every year, or even every month, plus much more. But to him, his relationship with his Lord was more important than all the money in the world, and everything that money could buy.

How important is Jesus to us in 1966? Is there any price for which we would sell our relationship to Him? May we love Jesus more than money or anything that money can buy. May we have the spirit of a certain missionary who, some years ago, was asked to leave his Christian work and become a representative for a great oil company. He was offered a salary of \$10,000. At that time \$10,000 had much more purchasing power than it does today. When he refused, he was

offered \$20,000. Again he refused. The next offer was \$25,000. Still this dedicated man of God refused to put secondary things first. Finally, the company told him to set his own salary. The missionary replied in these words: "The salary you offered me first is large enough, for at present I am making only about \$1,200 a year. It is not your salary that is too small. It is your job. I have a bigger job than you can possibly offer."

When Jesus went to the cross of Calvary, He showed us that we were the most precious consideration in all the universe, more important even than the riches of heaven. How highly do we prize our relationship to Christ and this glorious third angel's message that He has entrusted to us?

## Pioneers Sacrifice

As we consider who shall have first place in our hearts now, and in our plans for the future, let us pray God that the sacrificial spirit of our Advent pioneers will be paramount in our own souls. Have you ever taken time to read something of what they did for Christ and His church in the material realm? Here is an excerpt from a letter written by Ellen G. White to a certain Brother Howland, dated April 16, 1852:

"We are just getting settled in Rochester. We have rented an old house for one hundred and seventy-five dollars a year. We have the press in the house. Were it not for this, we should have to pay fifty dollars a year for office room. You would smile could you look in upon us and see our furniture. We have bought two old bedsteads for twenty-five cents each. My husband brought me home six old chairs, no two of them alike, for which he paid one dollar, and soon he presented me with four more old chairs without seating, for which he paid sixty-two cents. The frames are strong and I have been seating them with drilling. Butter is so high that we do not purchase it, neither can we afford potatoes. We use sauce in the place of butter, and turnips for potatoes. Our first meals were taken on a fireboard placed upon two empty flour barrels. We are willing to endure privations if the work of God can be advanced."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, pp. 90, 91. Is the spirit of our pioneers

still living? It can be, in your heart and mine! God grant us this kind of spirit. They have handed the torch of truth to us. May we not permit this great torch to be extinguished in a materialistic mud puddle.

## A Name

2. The second major factor in the choice of Moses, and in ours today, is the one involving position, or prestige, or a name. Down deep in most human hearts, regardless of age, is a desire to really be somebody. Most of us won't admit it, but this is realism. I am told that in the British Museum in England you can see a number of Egyptian mummies. I also understand that some were kings of Egypt. How many of you know even one of their names? How many of you, before you picked up this reading today, ever heard of Moses? The point is obvious. It helps one to understand what true position, true prestige, and a true "name" really are. We often hear the word "star" used these days in the world of commercial sports, or in the theatrical world, or, as some put it, in the political firmament.

Would you really like to be a star? In the true sense of the word I would very much like to be one, and I believe that you would too. Would you like to know how to become a *true* star? Your success formula is found in 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." These stars will shine on a marquee that can never be broken by vandals or darkened by the devil. If you want to be an eternal star, give your heart unreservedly to Jesus Christ. He can change your sinful heart if you will completely surrender to Him and lay your all on the altar of dedication and service.

The call of the world is a call to selfishness. The call of Jesus Christ is a call to unselfishness. John Ruskin said: "When a man is wrapped up in himself he makes a pretty small package." Do you see why Christ pleads with us to give our lives completely to Him and His cause? He wants us to *really* be somebody. During this Week of Prayer the blessed Saviour invites you to hitch your spiritual wagon to far more than any earthly star. He invites you to cement your soul to Himself, the Sun of Righteousness, the Light of the world. Then life will really be aglow for you, and you will know of a surety that you are really living the abundant life.

A story of two brothers vividly illustrates what constitutes a name. There were two boys in the Taylor family in England a number of years ago. The older said that he must make a name for the family, so he turned his face toward Parliament and "fame." The younger decided to give his life to the service of Christ and duty. Hudson Taylor, the missionary, died, beloved and known on every continent, but when someone looked in a certain en-

cyclopedia some time ago to see what the other son had done, he found merely these words, "The brother of Hudson Taylor."

As we further evaluate the choice of Moses we now find that his is a position, his is a name, his is prestige, that no man on earth can rival or match. In this vital week, may you love Jesus so much that you will count it the greatest position of prestige in all the world to be able to take your place in loyalty and service under the blood-stained banner that bears the name of the King of kings.

### Life Stimulus

3. The third factor that confronts you as you make your choice of a lifetime—one that confronted Moses also—is the question of life stimulus. Or, to put it more plainly, the intrigue of thrills, pleasure, and a good time. People today are seeking pleasures as they have never sought them before. No one wants boredom. All want a meaningful life and a stimulating experience. This is another paramount reason why Jesus should have first place in your life. Align your life with His program. It is the most challenging, thrilling, fascinating, and stimulating experience that you can ever know.

Unfortunately, but realistically, most of the young men and women of America today are drinking at broken cisterns on this count. Not long ago the Educational Testing Service had 13,000 American college students fill out questionnaires indicating their major interests in college. The majority named social life, extracurricular activities, athletics, forming friendships, and carrying on "college traditions." About the same time a national magazine ran a striking article entitled "How Much Freedom Should College Students Have?" Some excerpts that should make any of us with Christian principles think most soberly about where we are living in the stream of time are as follows: "At Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, a few weeks ago, students gained permission for girls to visit the boys' dormitories every day in the week. On weekends they can stay until midnight." "At Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, late last year, officials banned liquor at school parties and students rose in protest. Three hundred marched on the president's home, chanting, 'We want booze!'" Some pictures accompany the article. One shows two fellows and two girls in a fraternity house room. Below this picture we read: "Cornell University students have study date in fraternity house room. [May I say, parenthetically, how naive can some people be?] Dormitory room dates are permitted too." Another picture shows a young man pouring himself a drink of liquor in his room. Below this picture we read: "Fraternity member at an Ivy League school pours a drink at small bar in his room."

When we consider these things, which more and more characterize our day, we do well to consider anew the words of 2 Peter 3:11: "What manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" What a thrill and privilege it is to heed the heavenly admonition of Philippians 2:15: "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."

We have a real clue as to the wisdom of Moses' choice in Hebrews 11:25: "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Satan never tells you about these things being just "for a season." His TV commercials and jingles are silent in this important area. He never tells the starting-off smoker that he could wind up someday with a chain on him, yellowed fingers, tainted breath, and possibly in the terminal, heartbreaking stages of lung cancer. He never tells the son or daughter of God about to take that first social drink that someday he or she could end up as an alcoholic with a departed wife or husband and emotionally scarred, disappointed children.

He never tells the Christian man or woman about to deviate ever so slightly from the pathway of moral purity how thoroughly greased the toboggan slide of moral impurity really is, or of the curse of venereal disease, or of the shambles of a shattered character and body that could result, or of the regrets that always come in those future quiet and lonely moments, or of the scars that could be left on two lives (or more), or of the skeletons in family closets that have an annoying way of tumbling out later in the cold, hard light of day, and of the tears and the chagrin of soul that always follow.

Fellow members of God's remnant church, in the name of the Lover of your souls I challenge you to be different. Do you really want a good time? Do you really want the most meaningful and truly stimulating life? Here is the way, in Psalms 16:11: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures [not for a season, but] for evermore." This is a superlative. It cannot be excelled. If you really want a thrilling life, free from malignant boredom, put yourself in touch with Jesus Christ through prayer, the faithful study of His Word and the testimony of Jesus, and service in His church.

Speaking of the thrill that comes as we respond to the call of Christ to service in His cause and for others, we all would do well to consider the experience of Mark Newbold. Mark lives in Riverside, California. Mark is a "ham" radio operator. Many of you will recall reading of the flood disaster in northern California less than two years ago. In the heart of this tragic episode Mark picked up a trans-

mission from the Klamath River area. The call was from Philip Bradley, telling of a woman on a ranch in that area with a badly broken leg who required immediate assistance. The ranch had been cut off from the nearest community by the floods. Mark responded, and had his mother telephone a message to Civil Defense, which in turn was transmitted over the national attack warning system to the California disaster office in Sacramento, the State capital. One and a half hours later the woman was under a doctor's care. Mark, a "ham" operator for just a little more than a year, said later in retrospect, "I got kind of shook up; my hand was shaking. . . . I just didn't think things like that happened. I'd never even heard a call like that before."

By the wonderful speaking of the Holy Spirit to your heart at this moment, may you hear a call, the like of which you have never heard before. Mark Newbold responded to his call. As a result, he knew real joy, a real thrill, real satisfaction in his heart. As you respond to God's call to your heart during this Week of Prayer you will know real joy, real thrill, real satisfaction and meaning in your life.

### We Must Choose

4. In evaluating your choice of a lifetime, the question of money and material advantage is important. The factor of position and prestige is significant. The matter of intrinsic stimulus for life is highly relevant to the choice of any person. But the greatest consideration of all that confronts each of us at this moment—and every moment of our lives—is what I choose to call the *loving call of Jesus to follow Him*. This is a personal issue, and we have only two choices, by the very nature of our existence in this present world. Either we can accept Him as our Saviour and Lord, or we can reject Him. There is no third position. There is no "spiritual Switzerland" in the great controversy between Christ and Satan. I invite you to make this choice in the light of Calvary.

Stop, turn away from current "materialistic madness," and let the glow of the neon tube fade away. Turn your face toward the smitten Lamb of God, hanging between heaven and earth for you and me. Here, dear friends, is where we really make our choice. When we really see Jesus on Golgotha's tree, with blood-matted hair under a crown of thorns, nail-pierced side, torn hands spiked to the arms of the cross, and faithful feet riveted to that same cross, here is where we really make our decision. What will you do with Jesus?

Today can be a day you will never forget in your relationship to your Saviour, if you are willing. In this climactic hour may our choice be the same as that of Moses. May Jesus, His truth, and His church have first place in our hearts and in all of our plans, for this present world and for eternity.



(Reading, Thursday, November 10, 1966)

# Loyalty to the Gospel Commission

By W. DUNCAN EVA

FOR six thousand years total war has raged between the forces of good and evil. We are in the midst of the final, decisive battle being fought in earth's last hour. This battle "is not against human foes, but against cosmic powers, against the authorities and potentates of this dark world, against the superhuman forces of evil in the heavens" (Eph. 6:12, N.E.B.).\* The stakes are high, the issues are tremendous, the foe is ruthless and determined, and will use every evil device he knows to accomplish his purpose. This is no hour for wavering and irresolution, for cowardice and compromise, which are the fruits of uncertain and doubtful allegiance to truth and right. This is the hour for unflinching courage and unswerving loyalty to Jesus our King.

It is upon this courage and loyalty of God's church and His people that in large measure truth's final triumph depends. It is to the church that God has committed the gospel of salvation. She must take the message of His love to all the world, for it was to her that He gave the commission to "go . . . , and teach all nations" (Matt. 28:19). She is the theater of His grace, in which He exhibits the glories of His saving power. Her sons and daughters demonstrate faithful allegiance to God in an age of faithlessness, and in her the final and full display of the love of God is made. The vindication of the name and character of God before the universe is bound up in His providence, and by His will with His people.

How have we measured up in the year that is passing, brethren and sisters, to this great responsibility, this sacred trust? Has the record of the church's loyalty been such that it pleases God as her response to the measure of His love for her and His confidence in her? Or, to press the same question closer to us as individuals, has our personal record of loyalty, service, and devotion contributed to the witness of His church what our Saviour rightfully expects?

Let us consider three aspects of this matter of our loyalty to the Lord and His work.

Are we living up to the light that God has given us? His Spirit brings truth home to our hearts, but it is obedience to truth, by divine grace, that imparts to the witness of our lives a convincing quality which can come from no other source. The Holy Word declares that "it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching" to save men (1 Cor. 1:21). That "preaching" is not to be "with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Cor. 2:4), power that comes from living by the grace of God in loyal harmony with what we believe.

There is a kind of proclamation of the third angel's message that often means only doom and denunciation, for it drives unconverted men to despair. It offers no way out of sin. But the true preaching by those who have found the righteousness that is "the work of the Spirit through faith" (Gal. 5:5, N.E.B.)\* points men to the way of escape from sin and judgment. They see demonstrated, in such lives, what God's saving message is able to do.

Such a demonstration is a vital part of the third angel's message. The angel not only announces the fearful doom of those who receive the mark of the beast; his message draws attention to a people in whose lives the fruits of loyalty to the Saviour are to be seen. It is said of them, "Here the fortitude of God's people has its place—in keeping God's commands and remaining loyal to Jesus" (Rev. 14:12, N.E.B.).\* So we repeat for emphasis, it is loyalty to Jesus and His law on the part of God's children that gives meaning to the third angel's message. This transforms it from a message of doom to one of glorious hope.

Such a witness cannot become fully effective in one or two days. Time is required to produce fortitude, the patient endurance of the saints. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. It is day by day dependence on the grace of God, through the Spirit's power, that produces a Christ-like character that enables one to keep God's commands and remain loyal to Jesus under all circumstances. Then the personal witness of our lives and their influence as a part of the corporate witness

of the church become the vital factors in the "foolishness of preaching."

How well this is illustrated in the life of eight-year-old Patricio Delatorre, the "little Luther" of Ecuador. His parents are Catholics, but at the request of his older sister, who is a faithful Adventist teacher at a denominational school, he attended that school. Young though he was, in his life the Holy Spirit worked that greatest of all miracles—conversion. Alarmed, his parents sent him to an isolated Catholic school. They did not say that he was an Adventist, but in a few days everyone at the new school knew of his faith. It took courage, but he would not go to mass, neither would he read prayers from a book. Instead, he prayed to God from his heart morning and evening and at meals. He would not worship the Virgin nor attend classes on Sabbath. Questioned by the priests about the tenets of his faith, he could say little except to express his determination to be true to his God. He was physically punished, denied food, and confined alone, but he would not yield. When it was found that his example was influencing other children, he was taken before the bishop as "our little Luther."

The bishop asked several questions about the Adventist religion. Weeping, but with head erect, Patricio answered, "I do not know much of my religion but I know that I will be true to it until I die." Asked if he knew who Luther was, in the same manner he answered, "I do not know very much about him, but I will be like him."

The bishop ordered the priests, "Take little Luther back, respect his faith, and leave him in peace. The country of Ecuador needs boys like him."

## Measuring Up to Responsibility

Let us consider the next aspect by asking a question. Are we also loyal to our Lord in actual obedience to His great commission? The early disciples were, for only a few short years later Paul wrote that the gospel had been "proclaimed in the whole creation under heaven" (Col. 1:23, N.E.B.).\* Our task in these last times, as we have always understood it, is the finishing of the work, the bearing of witness so clearly that in the final crisis no one will be able to say before the judgment bar of God, "I did not understand the issues, nor had I the opportunity to grasp their significance."

For Seventh-day Adventists, the Great Commission is amplified by the three angels' messages. They relate the everlasting gospel to these times, both with regard to the solemn judgment hour that has come and to the modern apostasy that characterizes this age. They make the fulfilling of Christ's commission a matter of life and death urgency for the church and for the doomed world. How are you measuring up to your responsibilities?

There is your neighbor, first of all. Do you know him? Does your life and that

\* The New English Bible, New Testament. © The Delegates of the Oxford University Press and the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press 1961.

of your family represent God's church aright? Are you praying for him, pleading that God will use you to help him? Have you spoken to him of the perils of these times and tactfully tried by every reasonable means to get through to him with the message? When the channels of communication break down, do you humbly and sincerely try to build them up again? Is your primary purpose in life to live so that God can use you to reach men with His truth?

And what of casual acquaintances, the commuters who sit beside you, the blood-bought souls you meet in your business contacts, the man who works across the bench from you or the girl at the next desk, the fellow students in the school you attend, or the folks at the corner store? What is the influence of your life and your words? Is your witness sweet and Christlike, yet direct and purposeful?

If your church needs you in its organized work at home or abroad, are you willing to make the sacrifices involved, to endure cheerfully the disadvantages and inconveniences? How many calls there are for nurses, teachers, doctors, ministers, that remain unfilled! Is it possible that when you hear the call, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isa. 6:8), you think of a dozen others, but not of yourself? And could God be wanting you to respond?

Or, if you do hear the call and decide to "go," is there some reserve? Are you saying, perhaps, "I'll spend a term overseas—a short one—then I will come back, having done my part." Perhaps you should look a little more closely at Isaiah's experience. He, too, wondered how long his term of service in the toughest spot in the work would be. In some anguish, after the glamour had been stripped off the job and the hard facts of a difficult task laid bare, he asked, "Lord, how long?" (verse 11). Will it be one term, or two, or even more?

The answer came back, clear and unequivocal: The matter is not a question of time but of loyalty to the finishing of a task. In effect God said, "Isaiah, if you accept this call you are to stand at your post of duty until the work is done and human probation closes—'until the cities be wasted without inhabitant and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate.'"

Such, too, is our call. In these times, understanding God's purposes as we do, could we honestly offer Him less? Should not the response of every one of us be like that of Paul: "I am debtor. . . . So, as much as in me is, I am ready. . . . For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 1:14-16). If this were our heartfelt response, many things that are now hazy in our minds and consciences would come into clear focus and there would be some great changes in God's cause. Our hospitals and sanitariums would be able to secure Adventist personnel; certain over-

seas calls that have waited long would be filled speedily with talented, consecrated, and qualified workers.

When Isaiah saw God in His church, enfeebled and defective as it was in that day, his faith increased, his courage grew, he understood the work required of him, and heard and responded to the call of duty. Certainly in these times God asks and expects no less of all of us—complete dedication to His work, and ready obedience to His Great Commission.

### Supporting God's Cause

Our loyalty to the Lord and His work is to be demonstrated in yet another way. Not all can go, but all, including those who go, can support the cause of God in accordance with the divine plan of tithes and freewill offerings. The work, which was begun in sacrifice, will be finished in the same spirit. Surely fulfilling signs show that this is the time when loyal identification with the cause of God demands that we do what we have always known we must do—give systematically, in a truly sacrificial spirit, for the finishing of the work.

In the city of Miyazaki in southern Japan are an aging couple. They subsist on a monthly salary of 8,000 yen, or about U.S.\$22.50. Though the cost of living is high, the sister blind, and her husband not physically strong, they are the most faithful givers in the church. Never is there an offering to which they do not contribute sacrificially, giving coins they had planned to use for something else. Their home is an old ramshackle house, their clothes are not worth much, they own no car, not even a bicycle, they have no telephone, and there is not even a stove in their house to keep them warm in winter. But there is a fire burning in their hearts, and a longing to see Jesus come soon. Does that same fire burn in your heart and mine? Earth may judge this faithful couple to be of little account, but they stand high in God's estimation. They have the faith, the loyalty, and the simple wisdom to invest in what endures. Their eternal dividends will never tarnish.

In Ladysmith, South Africa, an African believer, tithing his cattle as the Bible instructs, was dismayed when the rod fell on a thin and sickly cow. He felt ashamed

to present the animal to the Lord as tithe, and so he prayerfully tended it, spending generously of his scanty means upon it, until it was in excellent condition. With a joyful heart he then gave it to God.

Only our best is good enough for God. When we honestly, conscientiously, gladly, willingly, and loyally return to Him what is His share as a partner with us, not only are we richly blessed as individuals, but the cause of God is prospered with means on which Heaven's blessing rests and with a spiritual influence that enlarges and enriches the church. The loyal and faithful spirit of the people of God—rich and poor alike—is a resource of the church the value of which cannot be overestimated.

If you have been loyal in this matter of tithes and offerings, will you not now confirm your resolve to continue to be so to the end? If you have been less than loyal, for your own sake and that of the church, will you not make the past right and pledge to God all that He asks—and more? No investment is safer, and none will yield greater or more certain dividends. One of these will be a stronger love for heavenly things. Jesus did not say, "Where your heart is, there will be your treasure." That is the simple and sometimes terrifying truth. But He said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). Let us, then, resolutely and firmly place our treasures where we want our hearts to be.

As you and I again consider our personal relation to the Lord's Great Commission, let us look first at the cross, speaking its message of mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation to all men, setting its example of selfless service, and demonstrating the unchallenged superiority and certain triumph of the way of love. Then let us remember that in God's plan the long domination of sin is to come to an end, that He whose right it is must reign in everlasting righteousness, and that these are the days when that reign is to begin. Events are rushing prophecy after prophecy to fulfillment. Though much remains to be done, God will speedily finish His work "for the Lord's sentence on the land will be summary and final" (Rom. 9:28, N.E.B.).\* God calls us urgently to live up to our privileges and responsibilities, to declare by our life and conversation our allegiance to our King, and to remain loyal to Him no matter what may happen. In such an hour can we honestly and seriously offer Him less?

### A Paradox

By BOYD E. OLSON

Oh, why is it for us so hard  
To live the humble Christlike life?  
And why is the record often marred  
By sin, mistakes, and inward strife?

The answer is, We are not dead.  
When self we daily crucify  
And live by faith in Christ instead,  
We then in truth can testify  
A life for self is one misled.  
We cannot live unless we die.

"Bring near Thy great salvation,  
Thou Lamb for sinners slain,  
Fill up the roll of Thine elect,  
And take Thy power and reign!

"Appear, Desire of nations,  
Thine exiles long for home;  
Show in the heavens Thy promised sign;  
Thou Prince and Saviour, come!"  
—HENRY ALFORD

(Reading, Friday, November 11, 1966)

# Loyalty to Life

By LAWRENCE NELSON

TODAY scientific achievements have provided the world with so many wonders that the majority of people living in this hour have been led to believe that salvation can be achieved only through the techniques of scientific investigation. The result is a philosophy something like this: Nothing shall be acceptable unless it is a proved fact. Faith is to be considered outmoded, a thing of the past.

In reality, times have changed little over the centuries. Think of the occasion when Christ told His disciples that heaven was a real place of "many mansions," whose center was the eternal throne of God. Philip's eyes filled with wonder as he listened. Mansions in glory! What is the meaning of this? Christ is going into heaven to prepare a place for His disciples? Then, as he pondered these thoughts, Christ declared, "I will come again."

Philip's feeble Christian experience found this difficult to accept. If only he could be sure. If only he could see. "Lord," he cried, "shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us."

Every eye looked toward the Son of God. Slowly but assuringly Jesus answered, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, shew us the Father?" (John 14:8, 9).

The lesson is for all. To know Jesus is to know God the Father. In like manner the Christian youth of this faithless generation should live such a Christlike life through unashamed daily witnessing that others will clearly envision the likeness of Jesus in all that he does. To be acquainted with such a youth is to be pointed to the Saviour. What a privilege to witness for God in this hour of earth's history!

In the early years when our work was not so well established, some of our ministers were sent to open new areas, and this situation made it impossible for their children to attend church school. On one occasion the teen-age daughter of one of our evangelists found it necessary to attend public school for a year while her father labored to establish a church in a new area. The young Adventist aroused the curiosity of the students. Her class-

mates were charmed by her friendly disposition and Christlike attitude, but were puzzled by her unwillingness to conform to many of their ways.

"What makes you so different?" they asked one day.

For a moment Mary was lost for words. Then she said, "Well, you see, I am a Seventh-day Adventist."

"A what? A Seventh-day Adventist? We've never heard of that. What is a Seventh-day Adventist?"

Again Mary's teen-age mind groped for words. "A Seventh-day Adventist is just what I am!"

What a priceless evaluation of oneself, if it can be given honestly. How many of us could answer thus? Is it not the purpose of God for each of us to witness, by every act of life, that we are indeed joined together with Christ, and in truth a Seventh-day Adventist?

## Citadels for Divinity

How much is implied in the word "loyalty"?

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20, 21). There can be only one conclusion. The kingdom of God begins in the heart.

Christ is the source of all life. "In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underrived."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 530. "He that hath the Son hath life" (1 John 5:12). By surrendering our hearts to Jesus as His abode, we become citadels for divinity. This enthronement of Christ must be our first business if we would have life in its fullness in this world, and partake of its eternal nature through the ceaseless ages to come.

John spoke of Christ, "In him was life" (John 1:4). "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:26). The Son of God added, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

God has given us an example of loyalty that will never be equaled. It is beyond the grasp of man to comprehend how God could give His Son for lost humanity, yes, even to be cruelly murdered! Jesus gave His promise of redemption.

His promises are sure. He was loyal, even unto death. With such an example of unswerving loyalty and love, we too should be ready to make any sacrifice for our Saviour.

Sons and daughters of God can see clearly through the eyes of fulfilling prophecy that the end is just upon us, that the coming of Jesus is even at the door. "Behold, I come quickly." In view of this reality, every youth should be stirred to the depths of his soul. God's youthful army, who now number more than half a million, should be in the forefront of the battle in the closing hours of this world's history. Just think of what can be accomplished for Christ through the youth!

"There is no limit to the good you may do. If you make the word of God the rule of your life, and govern your actions by its precepts, making all your purposes and exertions in the fulfilling of your duty a blessing and not a curse to others, success will crown your efforts. You have placed yourself in connection with God; you have become a channel of light to others. You are honored by becoming co-laborers with Jesus; and no higher honor can you receive than the blessed benediction from the lips of the Saviour: 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'"—*Messengers to Young People*, p. 125.

## Lasting Impressions Daily Engraved Upon Others

Lasting impressions are engraved upon others every day. Seventh-day Adventist young men and young women, are you using your lives to create a desire for holiness within the lives of those who surround you? Or are you unconsciously exerting an influence that instills greed for gain and love for selfish, empty honor? Our influence will be right when our hearts are cleansed and sustained by divine power, for out of the heart "are the issues of life."

"Nothing is apparently more helpless yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness, and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour. God would send every angel in heaven to the aid of such an one, rather than allow him to be overcome."—*Ibid.*, p. 94.

"Choose poverty, reproach, separation from friends, or any suffering, rather than to defile the soul with sin. Death before dishonor or the transgression of God's law, should be the motto of every Christian."—*Ibid.*, p. 80.

If our daily witnessing is to be effective, we need to be charged with Heaven's current of divinity. But this power can never work in us unless we are thoroughly insulated and separated from the evil of this world. Then those with whom we come in contact will also feel the heavenly current.

How often we have heard these words: "God calls for you, young men. He calls for whole armies of young men who are

large-hearted, and large-minded, and who have a deep love for Christ and the truth."—*Ibid.*, p. 224.

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!"—*Ibid.*, p. 196. A consecrated, well-trained army of youth is God's answer to the spiritual manpower shortage of this hour.

#### Active Missionary Volunteers

The church is stirred by the evangelistic zeal of its youth today. Reports from around the earth indicate that more than a quarter of a million Missionary Volunteers are now actively engaged in giving Bible studies through Operation Fireside; preaching in Voice of Youth meetings; joining hands with their pastors in Friendship Teams that are reaching tens of thousands through organized visitation projects; conducting MV branch Sabbath schools, and tutoring Bible students of the Faith for Today and Voice of Prophecy Bible schools. More than one hundred thousand such projects have been operated in the past three years. The results have been tremendous—more than 60,000 baptisms. Have you personally had a part? Have you shared in the great joy of fellowshiping with Christ through evangelism?

The heaven-born conviction of youth evangelistic witnessing must be given first place within the leadership of the Advent youth. Our greatest personal need is for a full revelation of Jesus within the heart of every youth of the church. Such an experience can be realized only by a full surrender of the heart and in sharing with others the lovely Saviour.

We have been told repeatedly: "We can impart only that which we receive from Christ; and we can receive only as we impart to others. As we continue imparting, we continue to receive; and the more we impart, the more we shall receive. Thus we may be constantly believing, trusting, receiving, and imparting."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 370. The church must ever select leadership for its youth that will untiringly urge this secret of spiritual attainment upon its young people.

#### Examine Yourselves

Soldiers for Christ, examine yourselves. "When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness, and your need of strength from God? and do you humbly, heartily make known your wants to your heavenly Father? If so, angels mark your prayers, and if these prayers have not gone forth out of feigned lips, when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong, and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 90.

In Daniel 12:3 we read these stimulating words: "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."

Look up into the heavens tonight. Behold the millions of celestial suns. Try to visualize the billions of other stars unseen by the naked eye, but which you know are there because the telescope reveals them. What a dazzling array of wonder! Now consider yourself within the promise. In personal loyalty to Christ, the Source of all life and light, you too may shine with eternal brightness throughout the ceaseless ages to come. Are you not overpowered by such a thought? What a reward!

With the example of Heaven's sacrifice before us—of how God gave all in order that we who were lost in sin might live forever—let us ask God that we may be motivated by this same spirit. Mission stations must be manned, hospitals need to be enlarged and adequately staffed with nurses and doctors, schools by the thousands must be established, churches must be erected in every place as a witness for God. Workers must be provided

in abundance from the ranks of youth, and in addition the laity of the entire church must arise in a program of witnessing for the Master. When the church in wholehearted consecration commits itself to such a program of witnessing, the Holy Spirit will be poured upon it in full power and the gospel work will be finished.

"The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God."—*Christian Service*, p. 253.

God expects us to witness untiringly for the Saviour with a Christlike sacrificial spirit. Committed to such a program, we shall someday soon stand before our Maker and meet full approval. God Himself will bestow upon us life eternal as our reward.

(Reading, Sabbath, November 12, 1966)

## Loyalty to the Church

By R. R. FIGUHR

THE Lord's confident declaration that His church would triumphantly come through every ordeal of trial, opposition, and persecution has been fully confirmed by nearly 2,000 years of test. Speaking to His little handful of despised followers, He boldly said that the gates of hell, the powers of death and darkness, would never prevail against His church. Twenty centuries have proved the accuracy of His prediction.

That original little group of followers, who constituted the nucleus of His church, has grown through the years into a multitude spread over the face of the earth. No human leader of any movement would have dared to make such a sweeping declaration, and then submit his prediction to the acid test of time. But that is what Jesus did, and time has proved Him right. Jesus was confident that His church would overcome all obstacles, survive all persecution, and outlive the mightiest of its foes, as it moved forward from victory to victory.

The powers of death and darkness have again and again put an end to the most ambitious dreams of men who launched movements in confidence, and seemingly in great strength. Not so with God's cause. The voice of His church has never been stilled nor the flame of its faith quenched. It has marched on past the graves of its proud enemies and past the ruins of hostile empires. John foresaw its triumphant course, and graphically depicted the church as going forth "conquering, and to conquer."

What is there about the church of Christ, composed as it is of weak, frail, human beings, often despised, persecuted, and even killed, that makes it invincible? Just what did the Lord foresee in His followers that led Him to speak so confidently of their steadfastness to Him and to His cause? Jesus Himself gave the answer: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; . . . and no one shall snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27, 28, R.S.V.). Here we have the secret of the invinci-



bility of God's followers; they hear and heed only the voice of their Lord, and they loyally follow Him. He in turn protects and keeps them securely through His divine power. He knew that bonds stronger than death would hold His beloved followers to Himself. This bond of love that holds them to their Lord also unites them in deep affection to one another. These, gathered out of the world and separated from it, constitute the united and invincible church of Christ.

When our Lord foretold the triumphant course of His church, He said that He Himself would build it. It was to be an organization according to His own planning. It was to be perfected under His supervision and direction. "I will build my church," He said.

### Why the Church Is Important

The church is important and precious to the Lord. It is important because it plays an essential part in His plan of redemption. It has been entrusted with the great responsibility of proclaiming His gospel to all the world. "Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it," Paul reminds us. The church is precious because it is composed of individuals, those who have turned from all that the world offers and have chosen Him. These, His followers, are loyal to Him and to one another. His church constitutes "His own fortress, which He holds in a sin-stricken, revolted world" (*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 16).

What a spectacle these loyal ones present to angels and to men! Everywhere men spurn God's commands and trample upon His law. They despise His offers of mercy and walk in their own evil ways. As in the days of Noah, every imagination of their hearts is evil continually. The world is in rebellion against God. As the population grows, the rebellion spreads over wider areas. With the increase of knowledge, it becomes more deep-seated and more skillful in evil. The army of criminals is augmented day by day at an alarming rate, and pursues its criminal activities with ever-increasing diabolical skill. The servant of the Lord depicts our time in the following words:

"A terrible picture of the condition of the world has been presented before me. Immorality abounds everywhere. Licentiousness is the special sin of this age. Never did vice lift its deformed head with such boldness as now."—*The Adventist Home*, p. 328.

In the midst of all this disloyalty, rebellion, and wickedness God has established a fortress, securely held and defended by His steadfast followers. This fortress is His church. How important therefore that those who have enlisted under the banner of Prince Emmanuel be true and dependable. They are the defenders of the cause of their Lord. With them there must be no trafficking with evil, no compromise, no liaison,

however slight, with the enemy. Such action would be treason. The inspired admonition to the faithful is, "At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 136.

The loyalty of God's followers in a world of rebellion is an incomprehensible mystery to Satan. He cannot understand how human beings, with whose frailties and propensities he is so well acquainted, can stand so immovably loyal to God and His cause. "Satan, with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and delusions. They are to him an incomprehensible mystery."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 18.

The Lord places great confidence in His followers, who hear His voice and who follow Him. The sacred pages that record the exploits of that "noble army, men and boys, the matron and the maid," testify that God's confidence was not misplaced. Though a few here and there failed their Lord, the faithful ones met and overcame through the promised heavenly help all persecution and all offers of compromise. Among this noble army was the youth Joseph, who stands out in his generation as a light shining in the darkness.

### The Experience of Joseph

The thirty-eighth chapter of Genesis depicts the age of low standards of the time in which Joseph lived. In the incident in Potiphar's house is sharply portrayed the contrast between Joseph's high standard of conduct and the moral laxness of his age. There was much in Joseph's former experience to discourage, to break down reserves, and undermine faithfulness. But how brightly his fidelity shines forth in that dark age! With what loyalty he held God's fortress. How different he was in thought and in action from the generation in which he lived. God had a purpose in selecting this youth and sending him down to Egypt.

Later, Joseph himself recognized the divine purpose. Not only was he to preserve physical life but, more important, he was to represent Jehovah, the true God, and the high level of living that Jehovah's religion called for. None of Joseph's brothers would do. Certainly not Judah, who gave way to temptation. Reuben, unstable as water, would soon have fallen. But Joseph was different.

It may be true, as some say, that Joseph was somewhat spoiled by his father and possibly not always too tactful, but he was always loyal to what he knew to be right, and with God this is supremely important. The Lord knew He could count on Joseph, anywhere and at all times. This is the reason God picked him out from among his brothers and sent him into heathen Egypt, into an area of

the world where darkness reigned. There he revealed the code by which God's true followers live. This code led him to declare in the hour of temptation, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" The record says, He "fled, and got him out." He would have nothing to do with evil.

In our age of easy morals God expects His followers to be loyal. Unless they live by Joseph's standard the enemy will succeed in his evil design to wreck lives and homes, as so often happens in our time. Our church has set up safeguards to protect the marriage relations, the family, and the home. Seventh-day Adventists in this lax age should stand out as did Joseph in his time, demonstrating before the world the superiority and the power of the truth they profess.

### Faithful Job

Faithful Job is another shining example of loyalty. Satan sneeringly told God that Job was finding it financially profitable to serve Him, and that this was Job's sole motive in being faithful. If material loss, he said, were to visit Job, he would immediately turn from God with cursing. The Lord, counting on the faithfulness of His servant, placed all Job's possessions in the power of this evil accuser. Satan's engineered disaster left Job a pauper and also bereft of his ten children. Yet when this man of faith opened his mouth and spoke out of his sorrow and loss, it was not to complain, not to revile, nor to curse God. He spoke to avow his steadfast loyalty to his God. Down through the centuries come his ringing words, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

Later, when Satan was permitted to smite Job with boils, and again Job spoke, though suffering intensely, it was once more to declare his undying fidelity to his God: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." As we consider the steadfastness of these and other great men of God, we can begin to understand how the Lord could declare that His church would stand securely, how His fortress would hold in a revolted world. The Christian, loyal to his God and sustained by divine grace, overcomes the world. Thank God for such examples of steadfastness.

With the ordination of the twelve the Lord took the first step in the organization of His church of the Christian Era. It had existed before, but in a somewhat different form. Successive steps were taken under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to further perfect the spiritual organization that we know as the Christian church. When it was time to launch the great Second Advent Movement, the Lord guided in perfecting the organization whose task it is to proclaim speedily His message to the whole world, and to finish His work in the earth. God has always respected and recognized His or-

ganization on earth. Having committed to it the responsibility of guiding and directing His cause on earth, He has worked through it. One is impressed with the loyalty and the spirit of cooperation on the part of the apostles in carrying forward the gospel, always under the direction of, and in close contact with the church. The Lord directed seekers for truth, such as Cornelius, to His church for instruction and guidance in the gospel.

### The Value of Organization

Many of our early pioneers, rugged individuals, saw little reason for forming a church organization. Some spoke against it. But through His servant the Lord sent the word that His body of believers should be organized and move together. Only thus could they efficiently and successfully do His work. So today we have the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a world organization, carrying forward a growing work the world around under the blessing of God. A little more than 60 years ago, when our world membership was scarcely 70,000, Sister White asked the question: "What is the secret of our prosperity?" This was less than 40 years after we had organized, with a membership of only 3,500. She answered her own question, giving the secret: "God has blessed our united efforts."—*Ibid.*, p. 27.

Our people early learned the value of loyally rallying round our common cause and unitedly supporting it. They came to recognize the church as God's organization in the earth and the obligation of loyally cooperating with it. This has made possible a worldwide work with 1.5 million baptized members today, and more than 2 million Sabbath school members. And every year the numbers grow. Our steadily growing yearly budget enables a consistent and solid building up of the cause in all lands. What a testimony this is to the value of dedicated loyalty on the part of church members, workers, and leaders! Experience has taught us that "those who have the unction from on high will in all their efforts encourage order, discipline, and union of action, and then the angels of God can co-operate with them."—*Ibid.*, p. 28.

What the enemy cannot accomplish against the church through open assault, he endeavors to bring about through subtlety and craftiness. He sets out to break down confidence in the church, in its teachings, in its members, and in its leadership. "The spirit of gossip and talebearing is one of Satan's special agencies to sow discord and strife. . . . The names of

God's chosen servants have been handled with disrespect, and in some cases with absolute contempt, by certain persons whose duty it is to uphold them. . . . Spiritual declension can but prevail where such evils exist."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 195.

How important it is, then, that even in the home we manifest a spirit of loyalty to God's cause. Children growing up in an atmosphere of loyalty carry on in the same noble tradition. Such was the priceless inheritance passed on to Timothy by both his grandmother and his mother. Paul wrote to Timothy, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (2 Tim. 1:5). There is no record of these noble women having passed on to Timothy earthly riches. The evidence is that their spirit of sincere devotion to God and His cause was transmitted to Timothy. What a great inheritance! Loyalty to God's cause is rewarding, even in this life. Because it is so important, the enemy is determined to do all he can to undermine and destroy it in the hearts of Christ's followers.

The enemy, in his efforts to weaken God's cause, also endeavors "to lead men to feel that it is God's order for them to strike out by themselves and choose their own course independent of their brethren."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 29. This, we are told, is Satan's special work.

### Drifting Toward the World

Another means of attacking the church is to promote a growing indifference to its teachings and to its standards, and to set in motion a drift toward the world, even though slight at first. Too often he is successful in this. When a crisis arises, these indifferent ones, with others who have become fainthearted, fail to stand for God and for His truth. The servant of the Lord tells us:

"The Lord abhors indifference and disloyalty in a time of crisis in His work. The whole universe is watching with inexpressible interest the closing scenes of the great controversy between good and evil. The people of God are nearing the borders of the eternal world; what can be of more importance to them than that they be loyal to the God of heaven?"—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 148.

The searching question comes to each one today, Am I fully on the Lord's side? Am I loyal to His church, to its teachings, to its standards? Am I one who will not be swerved from the straight line of duty?

As a denomination we face many perils.

The greatest of these is the spirit of indifference and compromise that is all about us. As we increase in numbers and our institutions grow in both numbers and size, there comes the tendency to drift, following the trend of Christian institutions that have preceded us and have drifted far from the purposes of their Christian founders. This must not happen to us. Not only must we be loyal personally to the principles of our faith, our institutions of every type and our work generally must remain so.

Speaking particularly of one type of institution, the messenger of the Lord said, "We receive into our institutions people of all denominations. But as for ourselves we are strictly denominational; we are sacredly denominated by God and are under His theocracy."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 109. This applies to us individually and to our work as a whole. We must not look upon ourselves as just another church added to the already long list of churches. We are to be a people dedicated to God's high purpose—that of proclaiming, by voice and by life, God's great message for this time—while we look for that city whose builder and maker is God. The experience of the New Testament believers must be ours.

"They expected much, and therefore they attempted much. Christ had revealed Himself to them, and to Him they looked for guidance. Their understanding of truth and their power to withstand opposition were proportionate to their conformity to God's will. Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, was the theme of every discourse. His name—the only name given under heaven whereby men can be saved—was by them exalted. As they proclaimed the completeness of Christ, the risen Saviour, their words moved hearts, and men and women were won to the gospel. Multitudes who had reviled the Saviour's name and despised His power, now confessed themselves disciples of the Crucified."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 594.

On this the last day of this Week of Prayer what better can we do than openly to avow our determination to be loyal to God, to His church, to its standards, and to be one with our believers everywhere? When the Lord comes in glory, it will be to gather to Himself a united people, a people that have not compromised, that have not drifted into indifference, that have in no way joined in the great rebellion against God. They have stood steadfastly for Him, waiting with eager anticipation the day of their deliverance. Shall we not here and now each one determine to be found in this faithful group?

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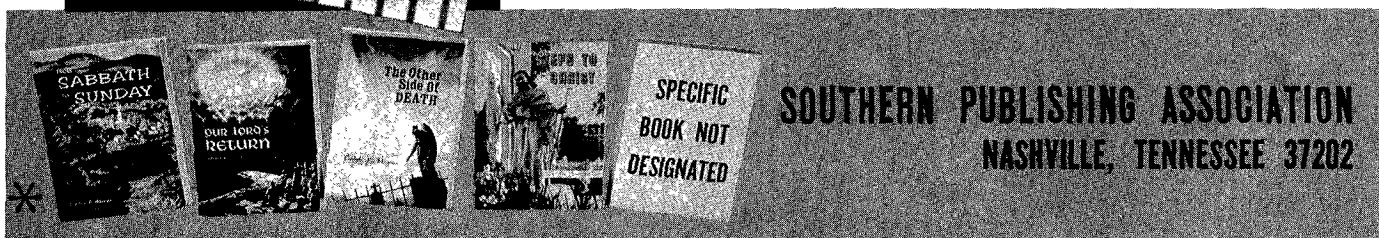
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*Ellen G. White*



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Ralph S. Watts

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shoulders, for my father spent much time away from home in administrative and evangelistic duties.

From the time that Mrs. Watts and I, 40 years ago, went to the Orient as missionaries, the REVIEW has been a constant weekly visitor in our home. It has kept us in touch with our expanding worldwide work, and provided spiritual food for our souls.

The fact that today all five of us children are firm believers in the Adventist faith, and our own son and daughter with their families are now serving the church as missionaries in the Far East, testifies not only to a wholesome, spiritual environment in the home but also to the guiding influence of the REVIEW AND HERALD. No Adventist family can dare face the crucial but glorious days ahead without the weekly pastoral visits of the "good old REVIEW."

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# Children's Lessons for the Week of Prayer, 1966

By LAWRENCE MAXWELL

## Introduction

We have come to the beginning of another Week of Prayer. To you, as leader, it may be just that—another Week of Prayer. And many of the children may treat it the same way. But to some, these eight days will be the turning point of their lives. During this week they will accept Christ and give themselves to Him.

If possible, go to the school (or the Sabbath school) during the week before the Week of Prayer. Take two drinking glasses, a pitcher, and a lid for one of the glasses. It is not necessary to have water in the pitcher; the children's imagination will provide it well enough.

Set both glasses on the teacher's desk, with one glass covered. Keep the pitcher in the paper bag for a moment. Say a few words about the coming week. Tell the children that God is prepared to bless everyone, but He can bless us only to the extent that we are willing to receive His blessing. Take out the pitcher, ask the children to use their imagination for the water, "to save the mess that might result if we used real water," and "pour" the water into both glasses. One glass can be filled; the other gets nothing. The glasses are the same, the pitcher is the same, the water is the same. Why does one get no water? Discuss this a minute—*something is in the way*. So during the Week of Prayer, God is the same for all, the Holy Spirit is offered to all. Some children at the end of the week will be "filled with the Spirit," others will be empty. Read Matthew 13:58 and Revelation 3:20. Keep this talk very brief—not more than five minutes!

It might be a help in some cases to secure from the teachers the names of the two or three leading students in each schoolroom in which you will be speaking, and visit them at home and pray with them and tell them you need them to help make the week a success.

It is customary to have prayer bands every day. This is a pious thing to do; it may not be the most effective. The children tend to say the same words over and over again. Have prayer bands the first day, perhaps, and on one other morning. On another morning ask two or three children to pray at the beginning of the meeting, on another morning have the teachers do it. Variety will add significance.

Some speakers have great success calling for personal testimonies. Many have difficulty getting much response. The writer observed one pastor who got an excellent response by announcing early in the week that testimonies would be called for only on Friday. He referred to this again from time to time during the week, when he also explained that everyone would be expected to take part. He would have everyone stand

up, and then go right down the line. On Friday morning he looked the group over, reminded them that today was testimony day, grinned at the girl at one end of the front row, and said, "When the time comes for testimonies, I guess you'll be first." The girl smiled right back. At the appropriate time he made some clear suggestions regarding the response he wanted and asked the whole front row to stand. Then he nodded to the girl on the end. No one felt picked on or peculiar. Though there were some parroted testimonies, and some students were ill at ease, the total effect was good.

A word about baptism. In the seventh and eighth grades you will of course call for the unbaptized children to join a baptismal class. (Plans for this class should be set up ahead of time, working with the pastor or school principal.) A call may also be made in the sixth grade. But below the sixth, it is better that the children wait. Some children worry that they won't be saved if they aren't baptized, but there is an appropriate age for baptism as there is for anything else. To show this, tie a baby's bib around the teacher. A bib is for people younger than teachers! Call a fifth grader up and put your overcoat on him. Adult overcoats are for people older than fifth graders. So baptism fits a certain age best, twelve and thirteen perhaps best of all.

Study the talks well ahead of time. Notice that one of them calls for a homemade cake! They have been written with children aged ten to fifteen (grades five to ten) in mind, and will need some adaption for younger ones.

By all means pray much in private. The talks may be interesting, and hold the children's attention, but they will convert no one without prayer and the working of the Holy Spirit.

With prayer and careful preparation of what you are going to say, God will be your Strength. He will make Himself responsible for the results.

Theme: No. 122; Song after the prayer: No. 138.

Mr. Higgins was sitting in his most comfortable chair when he happened to notice that two smartly dressed women were walking toward his front door. He sighed as the bell rang, and he got up wearily to see what the visitors wanted.

"We are representing the Heart Fund," they said, "and we would like you to give us a donation." Mr. Higgins gave them two dollar bills, and they thanked him and left.

He went back to his comfortable chair. Not many minutes later he glanced out the window again and saw two men coming. They were shabbily dressed, but like the women, they seemed to know what they wanted. Soon he saw them taking away the garbage.

After the men left, Mr. Higgins thought for a few minutes about these visitors. All came to his home; all knew what they wanted, and all got what they wanted. But how different were the things they took away! The women wanted money and they got money. The men wanted garbage and they got garbage.

We have come to the beginning of a new Week of Prayer. For a few minutes each day this room will be God's house. Here we may ask God for what we need, and He will give it to us. We can ask for precious blessings—forgiveness of sin, grace to resist temptation, wisdom to do our schoolwork—and He will give us these and many others. What a shame if we should come here every morning and get nothing.

For a moment let us write on the board some of the blessings we would like God to give us this week.

Bartimaeus was blind. He lived in the city of Jericho and spent his life begging. He heard that Jesus would be visiting the town on His way to Jerusalem, and he knew that He had healed other blind men. He determined to ask for healing too.

Bartimaeus might have trusted to luck. He might have hoped that Jesus would come looking for him. He might have made excuses. He could have said, "I am blind. I could not find Jesus even if I searched for Him." He might have said, "I don't think Jesus would heal me"; or he might have said, "Jesus is just another man. I don't believe those stories about His miracles." He might even have said, "I like being blind."

Instead, he planned to get a blessing.

There were many streets in the city. Jesus would be more likely to use the important ones. Still, even if Bartimaeus sat on the most important street of all, Jesus might miss him. However, after Jesus left the city, there would be only one narrow road He could possibly take. Bartimaeus decided to sit out there beside that road. Then Jesus would have to pass near him.

## LESSON 1

### You Can Have What You Want

PREPARATION: Read in the Bible the stories of Bartimaeus, the healing of the woman who had been ill twelve years, and the man who was let down through the roof (Mark 10:46-52; 5:21-34; 2:1-12).

MUSIC: *Gospel Melodies*, No. 85 ("Then Jesus Came"); *Singing Youth*, No. 99;

"Bartimaeus sat by the highway side begging." No doubt he hoped Jesus would come soon, but there was a delay. Jesus' trip through the city was interrupted by a man sitting in a tree—and Jesus went to Zacchaeus' home for lunch. Bartimaeus must have been disappointed, but he held on. Next morning he was out beside the road again.

The air was cold. He clutched his ragged blanket close to him. It was his only valuable possession.

Presently there was a noise from the city gate. Jesus! In his eagerness Bartimaeus shouted, "Thou son of David, have mercy on me." A crowd had gathered, and some of them told Bartimaeus to be quiet. If we were watching a parade—say, the President's inaugural procession—and someone in the crowd began to shout, "President Johnson, President Johnson, do something for me!" we'd likely tell him to be quiet too.

Bartimaeus was not to be silenced. This was his one chance to be healed. If he let Jesus get past him without restoring his sight, he would be blind forever.

He shouted again and again, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me."

Jesus was coming closer. Bartimaeus shouted louder. Jesus stopped and said, "Bring him to me."

The crowd now changed their tune. Instead of telling Bartimaeus to keep quiet, they said, "Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee."

But when Bartimaeus tried to stand, the blanket got in his way. It was tangled up in his arms and legs.

Bartimaeus ripped it off and threw it away, then kind hands guided him to Christ.

Jesus said a surprising thing. He asked Bartimaeus, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" Didn't Jesus know that Bartimaeus was blind? Of course He did. And Jesus knows what you and I need most. But He likes us to ask Him.

So Bartimaeus said, "Lord, that I might receive my sight." Immediately Jesus touched Bartimaeus' eyes and they were healed.

The Bible says that after this experience Bartimaeus followed Jesus in the way. It doesn't say a word about the blanket. Bartimaeus had received from Jesus something far better than his most treasured earthly possession. He had received sight. Much more than that, He had come into God's presence, and He didn't want to leave again ever, not even long enough to retrieve the only valuable thing he owned.

The boys and girls who get the most out of life will be those who come to God with definite blessings to ask for. What if Bartimaeus had stayed home that morning? What if he had let the criticism of the bystanders keep him silent? What if he had held onto his blanket? What if he had not known what to ask for? Bartimaeus would have been just as blind after Jesus left as he was before Jesus came.

#### Jairus' Daughter

One day when Jesus got off the boat at Capernaum he was met by some important men who urged him to go to the home of Jairus to heal his twelve-year-old daughter. Jesus set out at once, but such a crowd pressed in around him that He could hardly move. It was a rough crowd, and some no doubt went home bruised. Suddenly Jesus said, "Who touched me?" The disciples looked at one another in embarrassment.

What a foolish question their leader had asked! "Thou seest the multitude thronging thee," they said to Christ, "and sayest thou, Who touched me?"

But in all the pushing and bumping Jesus had endured that day He recognized one touch that was different. In all that crowd one person had reached out for a blessing.

As the disciples watched in embarrassment, a woman confessed that she was the one He was looking for. She had been sick for twelve years, she told everyone, and had been to many doctors, but they were unable to do anything for her. So she had come to Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace."

You will be coming to these meetings day by day. Some of you will come because your parents send you, and some will come hoping to hear interesting stories. But if even one of you comes for a special blessing, Christ will notice the difference. He will recognize the touch of faith, and He will give you the blessing you ask for.

One night a crowd gathered in a home in Capernaum to hear Jesus speak. The place was so packed that people even stood in the doorway.

One man who was absent desperately wished to be there. He was a cripple, and he had many good reasons for not attending a religious meeting. He was bedfast, he could not go anywhere without help, and the meeting place was full. But he refused to be stopped by the obstacles. He knew he had sinned, and he wanted to be sure that Christ forgave him.

He persuaded four of his friends to carry him on a stretcher. When he found the house full he said, "Make a hole in the roof." Imagine the danger of being hauled on a stretcher up onto a roof! And what would the owner say when he saw the hole?

No matter. The cripple was determined to reach Jesus and be forgiven. The four friends did as he asked, and soon Jesus' sermon was interrupted as a hole opened in the ceiling.

The people who had come to the meeting that night came for many different reasons. Some came out of curiosity. They had heard that Jesus was a great speaker, and they came to be entertained. They got what they came for, and much more. Think what a story you would have to tell your friends if someone came down through the ceiling in front of me today!

Others, particularly the church leaders, came to find fault. They hoped Jesus would say something they could criticize Him for. They, too, got what they came for, and more. For they heard Jesus actually forgive the cripple his sins, and that, they believed, was pure blasphemy, worthy of death.

The crippled man came to be forgiven. Just like the others, he got what he came for, and more besides. Jesus forgave him, and then He healed him, so that the man got up off the stretcher and walked out of the house. Remember, he could have stayed home.

One day when Jesus was talking to His disciples He told them, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13).

"Whatsoever ye shall ask." Money or garbage, bruises or healing, blindness or sight, sleep or forgiveness. You can have what you want. Why not get the best?

## LESSON 2

### You Can Be a Winner

PREPARATION: Read the stories of Achan and Gideon in Joshua 7 and 8 and Judges 6 and 7. OBJECT LESSON MATERIAL: Pitcher with water, glass, mud, bucket, towel.

ADDITIONAL STORIES OF CONFESSION: "Skeleton in Her Closet," *Guide*, April 14, 1965; "Sinsick Richard," *Guide*, June 23, 1965; "Apple Trouble," *Guide*, Oct. 6, 1965.

MUSIC: *Singing Youth*, No. 95; Theme: No. 122; Song after the prayer: No. 138.

You believe what we talked about yesterday—God will give you whatever you ask Him for. So you have asked Him to give you victory over every sin and bad habit. Even since then, perhaps, you have gained victories over some of your habits. This morning you may be certain that you will never again be overcome by temptation. Yet in a day or two you may find yourself repeating the same old sins. Perhaps that bad temper of yours will flare up, or you will find you have told a lie, or you have grumbled or cheated or been mean to your sister or brother, or to one of your friends.

If this sort of thing happens to you, the trouble may be that you have moths in your basement.

Hannah Smith moved into a new house. As she walked through it on the first day she noticed in the basement an old barrel. She knew it wasn't hers, and felt quite sure it belonged to the people she had bought the house from. No doubt in a few days they would come for it.

Years went by, and the owners did not return. Mrs. Smith was a tidy housekeeper, and every spring and fall she cleaned her house from cellar to attic. Always she left the barrel in the basement, because it seemed too awkward to move.

After she had lived there two or three years she noticed that the house was full of moths. They were in the closets and the drawers, even in the carpets and the upholstered chairs. She did everything she could to get rid of them. She washed the carpets and reupholstered the chairs. Still there were moths.

#### Remove the Barrel

One day she went to the basement to get something. There was that old barrel. Perhaps it had something to do with the moths. She called a servant to haul it outdoors. As soon as it was outside, the servant smashed one end—and thousands of moths flew out! The former owners had stuffed woolen clothes into the barrel before they left, and moths had been breeding there. Once the barrel was removed and burned, Mrs. Smith had no more trouble.

Life is like that. If we are struggling to conquer some bad habit and failing again and again, the real trouble may be that there is an unconfessed sin in our heart like the moths in that barrel. If we will let God clean out the sin, we will be much more successful in overcoming the bad habits.

It was that way when the children of Israel first entered Canaan. God told them how He wanted them to attack Jericho.

They did what He said, and won a tremendous victory. Joshua was sure that from now on they would have no trouble conquering Canaan. They would win every battle they fought.

A few days later he sent three thousand soldiers to take the small city of Ai—and the men came back bitterly defeated.

Suddenly Joshua was sure he would never win a battle again. He tore his clothes and put dust on his head and fell on his face and prayed, "Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, . . . to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!" He was so discouraged he wanted to go back and live in the desert the rest of his life.

God didn't have much time to listen to him weep. He knew why Israel had been defeated, and He knew what to do about it. He said to Joshua, "Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned." He told Joshua that someone in the camp was a thief. "Thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you."

Joshua called the people together and they cast lots. It was discovered that a man named Achan had taken a handsome suit and some money he had found in Jericho. Instead of turning them over to the priests at the tabernacle as he was supposed to, he had hidden them in a hole in the ground under his tent. His wife and children knew about them, and they were helping him cover up the sin and keep it secret.

Joshua sent men to Achan's tent, and they came back with the stolen goods. They also brought Achan's tent and all his possessions. The Israelites went to a valley nearby and stoned Achan and his family and his cattle till they were dead, then they burned them with fire. Finally they heaped a great pile of stones over the ashes to serve as a reminder of what happens when a person tries to hide sin.

The children of Israel called the place the Valley of Trouble. Later on God called it the Door of Hope (Hosea 2:15). You see, so long as we keep sin hidden, there is trouble. But when we confess it, there is always hope.

In a day or two Joshua conquered Ai without any difficulty at all.

Years later God taught Gideon a similar lesson. While Joshua lived, the Israelites fought and won many battles, but after he died they settled down and went back to sinning. God let the people of the surrounding countries invade the land.

Gideon was the youngest son in his family. He prayed God to send someone to lead the Israelites against the enemy. As he was threshing grain, a stranger appeared and said that God had appointed him to be that leader and that he was to organize an army and drive the enemy out.

Gideon recognized God's call, and agreed to go.

That very night God said to him, "Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: and build an altar unto the Lord thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down" (Judges 6:25, 26).

God was pleased that Gideon had re-

sponded to His call. But there was sin in Gideon's home, and there could be no victories until the sin was removed.

Gideon got up right away and wakened ten of his servants and "did as the Lord had said unto him." He cut down the trees, smashed Baal's altar, built a new altar to God, and offered his father's bullock on it.

After that, nothing could stop the young man. With 300 men he put to flight an army of 135,000. One hundred and twenty thousand of them died, and the rest ran for their lives.

If you wonder why it is so very important to get rid of every bit of sin, notice what happens when I pour water into this glass. Although the water is perfectly clear to begin with, it is immediately clouded. You see, there was mud in the bottom.

#### Unconfessed Sins in the Life

Well, let us pretend that you are this glass, and that the mud is an unconfessed sin in your life. You decide during this Week of Prayer that you want God's Spirit to come into your heart; you want to live a life of victory. You are convicted that there is sin that needs to be cleaned out. You are willing to give up everything for God—well, almost everything. (Pour out the water, being sure to pour out most of the mud with it, but retain some of the mud.) Surely this is good enough. The little habit you are holding onto isn't a big one, and when you compare it with the vast amount of sin you are giving up, it isn't very much at all. You ask for the Holy Spirit to live in your life. (Fill up the glass again.) But what is this? The water is almost as cloudy as before. Very well, you will give up all your sin. (Begin to pour.) Yet even so, you want to keep a tiny bit. Surely God won't object to that. Let's see. (Fill the glass again.) Apparently even a fraction of a sin is too much.

Well, all right then, this time you will give up everything. "Lord Jesus," you pray, "please clean out everything. Don't leave even my favorite habit." (Clean out the glass completely, wiping it with the cloth.) Now you pray for the Spirit. (Fill the glass with water.) At last! (Take a sip.) Your life will be pure and clean and victorious when every unconfessed sin is brought to the light and washed away.

It may be that God is talking to you about some of your unconfessed sins just as He did to Gideon that night. If that sin is something that only God knows about, confess it to Him. You won't have to tell anyone else. If it is something that happened at home, you should talk to your parents about it tonight. Perhaps you need to apologize to your brothers or sisters. They will think you are wonderful if you do. Perhaps it is something you stole from a store, and in that case you should go to the store manager and pay for it. I'll be glad to go with you if you'd like me to. Perhaps the sin God is speaking to you about is something that happened here at school. If so, let us take a few minutes right now and get it cleared up. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

A sin unconfessed will always be a source of trouble. Like a stumbling block that trips you when you are running, it will bring you down again and again. But if you confess it and get rid of it, your confession will be a door of hope. God will open the door and you will go through it, to be a winner forever.

## LESSON 3

### You Can Be Born Again

PREPARATION: Read about the new birth in John 3.

OBJECT LESSON MATERIAL: Orange, apple, egg, pictures of a chicken and of an eagle.

ADDITIONAL STORIES OF CONVERSION: "Drunken Julio," *Guide*, Nov. 24, 1965; "Ratu's Letter From Jail," *Guide*, Dec. 15, 1965; "Shadow on the Trail," *Guide*, Feb. 16, 1966.

MUSIC: *Singing Youth*, Nos. 184, 181; Theme: No. 122; Song after the prayer: No. 138.

You may be saying, I want to be good and I have tried to be good, but it doesn't work. Perhaps you have made resolutions in times past, and have broken them. During other Weeks of Prayer you have stood up when the minister made a call. You have sincerely determined to do what is right. But always it has been just a little while until you were back doing the same things you had been doing before.

Yesterday we discussed how important it is to confess every sin. There must be no moths in the basement. Perhaps you have confessed every sin you can think of, and yet you go on doing things you know you shouldn't.

Well, let's take a look at this orange. Where do you suppose it came from? From an orange tree. Suppose I were to cut it open and take out a seed and plant it, would I get an orange tree?

Now let's take a look at this apple. Where did it come from? An apple tree. And if I cut it open and planted the seeds, what kind of trees would I get? Apple trees, of course.

Now, the orange tree would produce oranges and the apple tree would produce apples. But suppose we wanted oranges and all we had was an apple tree. Is there any way we could get the apple tree to produce oranges for us?

Suppose we talked to the apple tree and asked it to produce oranges, would that do any good? Suppose we preached to it every Sabbath for a year, and suppose we held worship every morning and evening right beside it and begged it to produce oranges, suppose we punished it every time it failed. Would preaching to it and having worship with it and punishing it make it produce oranges? Of course not!

Well, then, let's get some oranges from the store. We'll stand over that apple tree constantly, and the very moment we see a little apple appear, we'll pull it off and in its place tie an orange on. Will the apple tree begin to produce oranges? Suppose we work on it for eight years—like the eight years a person spends in elementary school. If we conscientiously tear off every apple the moment it appears and tie an orange in its place, surely after eight years the apple tree will begin to produce oranges on its own!

No?

Well, suppose we go on for another four years—all through academy. And then another four, all through college. By the time we're ready to graduate from college, won't that apple tree begin to produce oranges then?



We all know the answer. Even if we were to keep tearing off the apples and tying on oranges for seventy years, the apple tree would still produce apples, and all the oranges we tied on would only shrivel and dry up, or become rotten and moldy.

But now, suppose we were to get a baby orange tree. Soon that orange tree would produce oranges on its own. We wouldn't have to preach it any sermons, we wouldn't have to punish it or plead with it. It would produce oranges naturally, all by itself. It would not complain, it would not try and struggle and strain. Never once would we find that an apple had grown on the tree by mistake.

Being good is like growing oranges. If you are trying and struggling and resolving to be good, stop! Trying and struggling and making good resolutions won't make you good. Going to church every Sabbath and listening to a sermon, having family worship morning and evening, reading the Bible year, studying the Sabbath school lesson daily—do all these good things, and you will still be bad. The Bible says, "There is none that doeth good, no, not one." "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." We were born bad, and we can never do good. We are apple trees, and we cannot possibly produce oranges.

But there is one very important difference between us and an apple tree. An apple tree must always be an apple tree. But we can be born again. Born bad the first time, we can be born good the second time. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." When we have been born again, it will be as natural for us to do good as it is natural for the orange tree to produce oranges.

Here is a chicken egg. (Show the egg.) If it were to hatch, what would come out of it? A chicken, of course. Are you sure there wouldn't be an eagle?

But suppose as this chicken grew up it watched an eagle soaring around in the sky above. It looked at the barnyard where it lived and yearned to live up there among the mountain peaks. Could that chicken make itself into an eagle?

Suppose it said, "It's my diet. That's what's wrong! I've been eating chicken food all my life. I will begin to eat the food that eagles eat. Then surely I will be an eagle!" Would changing the diet make that chicken an eagle? It would make it sick.

Suppose the chicken said, "The trouble is my language. From now on I will speak like an eagle. Every time I find myself beginning to cluck like a chicken, I'm going to stop and make the screech of an eagle!" Would that change it into an eagle? Can you imagine a chicken screeching like an eagle?

Well, then, suppose the chicken said, "It's my dress. That's what I've been doing wrong. I've been wearing things I shouldn't." So the chicken pulls out all her chicken feathers and ties eagle feathers around herself. What a sight she would be!

You say you wouldn't do anything so silly. But there are people who say that eating health-reform food will make them good. There are young people who try ever so hard to stop using bad words and to use good words instead, and they think that if they succeed in always using good words they will be good and God will take them to heaven. There are others who think that

if they stop wearing lipstick and eyebrow pencil, and that if they wear their dresses a certain length and never wear heels higher than a certain height, surely then they will be good.

They soon find that none of these things work, yet many of them go on all their lives trying and struggling and never succeeding. Others just give up. They leave the church and go out into the world and tell everyone it is impossible to be good.

The silly part about this is that they could have known in the first place that such methods wouldn't work.

A chicken cannot possibly become an eagle. But an eagle doesn't even have to try to be an eagle. An eagle just naturally enjoys eagle food, it just naturally speaks like an eagle and dresses like one. Because, of course, it is an eagle. It was born that way.

The only way a chicken could become an eagle would be to be born an eagle—which is impossible. Once a chicken, always a chicken.

You are a chicken if you haven't been born again. If you are selfish, you are a chicken. Go to a barnyard sometime and watch when the farmer scatters grain at feeding time. All the chickens crowd in to be sure they get all the food they can. If you pick on people because of some weakness they have, you're a chicken. If ever a chicken is wounded, the other chickens come around and peck on the wound until the poor chicken is dead. If you sneak off and smoke, you're a chicken for sure. "Smoking behind the barn"—that's where all the chickens are!

But you don't have to remain a chicken. You can become an eagle. You *can* become that righteous person you would like to be. You *can* be like Christ. You can fly among the angels, and all you have to do is ask.

I cannot explain how it is done, for Jesus has never explained it. Nicodemus asked Him, "How can these things be?" and Jesus didn't tell him. But Jesus did say that the Holy Spirit would come into a person's heart and change him. If you are a boy, he will come into your heart today. If you are a girl, He will come into your heart too, and He will work the miracle. You cannot do it, but He can, and He will. He is only waiting for you to let him in.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock," Jesus says. "If any man . . . open the door, I will come in to him."

You do have to open the door, you do have to let Him in. But these you can do. Once He is inside, He will do the rest. He will change your appetite so you enjoy food good people eat. He will change your tongue so you speak only good words. He will make you kind and patient and loving. He will give you courage to do right. He will make you a new person. Why not ask Him in?

## Scented Breezes

By JANICE SAHLIN

The fragrance of the morning dew,  
The beauty of the perfumed flower,  
The spiciness of growing mint,  
The mustiness of hidden bower;

The tangy smell of new-mown hay,  
The earthiness of new-turned sod,  
Thrills the being through and through  
And turns the soul upward to God.

## LESSON 4

### You Can Be Looked Up To

PREPARATION: Read about David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17:12-54; Samson, in Judges 13:25; 15:14-19; 16:5, 20, 21, 26; and Daniel and his friends, in Daniel 1, 2, 3, 6.

MUSIC: *Singing Youth*, No. 179; Theme: No. 122; Song after the prayer: No. 138.

John felt that everyone looked down on him. He determined to change all that and make people look up to him. He bought a set of weights and practiced an hour a day for several weeks. One day someone teased him. He turned on the boy and punched him in the nose and threw him to the ground. Now they'll respect me, he thought. He threatened to do the same to anyone else. Soon John had no friends at all; everyone despised him.

Richard felt the same way—that everyone belittled him. He bought a box of practical jokes and played several of the jokes on the students at school. He thought they would think he was clever to come up with such bright ideas. But soon he too lost all the friends he had. The day he pulled the chair out as one of the girls sat down, he was sent home and told not to come back for two weeks.

Eileen thought she could make people respect her more if she got better grades. She hated to study, so she began to cheat. The other students did respect her when they saw her grades improve. Then, on one of the most important examinations she was caught. The teacher failed her, and the next year she had to take the course over again.

Bullying and playing practical jokes and cheating are only three ways some people use to win respect. Some think that if only they can make a lot of money people will look up to them; but very often they find that when they have more money other people are not respectful, only jealous.

There is one sure way to get people to respect you. David tried it, and it worked wonders for him.

If ever a boy was looked down on by his brothers, that boy was David. He was the youngest of the family, and his brothers were sure he would never grow up.

The Philistines invaded the country, and the big brothers joined the army and went off to fight. They told little brother David to stay at home like a good boy and care for the sheep.

After a while David's father asked the boy to take some bread and cheese to his brothers and find out how they were getting on.

The brothers weren't very friendly when he found them. After a few minutes Goliath came out of the Philistine's camp, and the Israelites ran away. David said they ought to have had more courage and fought him.

Eliab, David's oldest brother, scoffed. "Why camest thou down hither?" he asked. "And with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle" (1 Sam. 17:28).

David could have become angry. Instead, he

turned quietly away from Eliab and went to King Saul. Soon he was walking across the open field to meet the giant. Goliath snorted, "Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field" (1 Sam. 17:44).

David called back, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied" (verse 45).

Soon Goliath lay dead, the entire Philistine army had run away, and everyone in Israel was praising little brother David—except that no one called him "little brother" any more. "Saul hath slain his thousands," the women sang, "and David [has slain] his ten thousands." Little brother David was ten times as important as the king!

Notice that David went out to meet Goliath "in the name of the Lord." Study your lessons "in the name of the Lord." Help mother and dad "in the name of the Lord." Treat your brothers and sisters "in the name of the Lord." Soon people will say of you, "There is a boy worthy of respect; there is a girl you can look up to. Something about them sets them head and shoulders above the other children."

This was certainly true for Samson. We all think of Samson as the strongest man who ever lived. But Samson wasn't strong all the time. The Bible says that "the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times." "At times." What a shame it wasn't *all* the time.

When Samson was not being moved by the Spirit of God he was just an ordinary man. When his hair was cut, the Holy Spirit left him, and his enemies were able to bind him and put out his eyes. They even dared to let a little boy lead him about by the hand (Judges 16:25, 26). But when Samson let the Spirit of God move him it was quite different. On one occasion thousands of Philistines went armed and trembling to capture him, and three thousand of his own countrymen climbed a hill to tie him with ropes. Samson broke the ropes, killed a thousand of the Philistines, and chased the rest home. At another time, each of the lords of the Philistines offered a reward of 1,100 pieces of silver to anyone who could get Samson, dead or alive.

The Spirit moved him. The Spirit will move you too, but you must be willing to do what He wants you to do. Surrender yourself fully to His control. If you are to be respected, you will have to be different from what you are now; so when you ask God to put His Spirit into you, be ready for Him to make changes.

Daniel and his three friends would have been just four more students in Nebuchadnezzar's school, except that they surrendered their lives to the Spirit of God and did everything in His name. Soon the king's kitchens were preparing special food for those four teen-agers. Within three years they were honored throughout the city for getting top grades in their classes. Not much later, the king himself was down on his face, worshipping Daniel. Talk about respect! And there were even more honors in store for these four young people who did everything in His name. Three of them, thrown into a furnace, walked among the flames talking with the Son of God. King Nebuchadnezzar ordered everyone in his huge empire to honor the God those three boys served. Later the leading men of the country thought they could

have Daniel eaten by lions. They had forgotten that Daniel did everything in His name. They succeeded in having him thrown into the lion's den, all right, but the lions wouldn't touch him.

Wonderful experiences come to young people who do everything in His name, who let the Spirit of God move them. A few years after Christ returned to heaven the governors of a Roman city complained that men who "turned the world upside down" had just come to their town, and they feared what would happen before they left.

There was really nothing very special about the men Jesus used to convert the world. Some of them had been fishermen. One of them had collected taxes, and everyone had despised him for that. Others did such ordinary things that nobody today knows what they were.

But one day Jesus said to them, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." For ten days they prayed in the upper room, till the Spirit of God came upon them. What a transformation the Spirit made! Those unknown men did indeed turn the world upside down, and it has never been the same since.

"In the name of the Lord," "moved by the Spirit," "endued with power from on high"—here is the secret for winning respect.

Allan found it so. He was just another basketball player on the high school team until one week a game was scheduled for Friday night. In God's name Allan went to the coach and told him that he could not disobey God's commandment—and for that one boy the coach changed the schedule. For the rest of the year all Friday games were played on Thursday instead.

Alice found it so. She went to high school. Her religion made her different, and she was ashamed. Then she decided to do everything in His name. She would let folks see that she was kinder and friendlier because the Spirit of God moved her. A year and a half after making that decision she graduated, and on graduation night the principal gave her an award for being the best student in the class. The highest award that could be given to any graduate went to the girl who did everything in His name.

Try it at home, and see how much more your little brothers and sisters love you. Try it when mother and dad ask you to do something, and see how much more they trust you. Try it at school, and see how much more popular you become.

God promised to make His people the head and not the tail, and He will put you out in front if you will let Him work His will in you. Bow your head now and surrender yourself completely to Him. Moved at all times by His Spirit, do everything in His name, and you'll be looked up to and loved and honored for sure.

## Love's Mission

By THAIS COLE

Love was a ladder down to earth;  
Love prompted Jesus' humble birth.  
Love was a cry in a garden still;  
Love was a cross upon a hill.  
Love stands beside that great white throne  
In the person of Christ, who claims His own.  
Love is a long and golden chain  
Lifting us up to God again.

## LESSON 5

### You Can Be Like God

**PREPARATION:** You may want to do a bit of reading in a physics book or *World Book Encyclopedia* about gravity and Archimedes' principles. This talk has several experiments that should be practiced ahead of time.

**OBJECT LESSON MATERIAL:** Small rubber ball or tennis ball, glass dish half full of water, small block of wood, nail, aluminum foil, package of yeast, physics book, cookbook (Betty Crocker if possible), *Messages to Young People*, Bible, two cakes in covered dishes, empty cake-mix box. (NOTE: One cake is made according to instructions. It should look delicious! The other is a random mixture of ingredients. It should look very unappetizing!)

**MUSIC:** *Gospel Melodies*, No. 140 ("Trust and Obey"); Theme: *Singing Youth*, No. 122; Song after the prayer: No. 138.

Jane looked into her pastor's face and snapped, "I don't want to have to keep God's laws. I want to go out and live my own life. I'm sick and tired of people who keep reading the Spirit of Prophecy to me and telling me I can't do this and I can't do that. I want to find out for myself how to live."

Maybe you've felt that way at times. Most people do, so don't be ashamed of it. You won't hurt God by breaking His laws; He's much too big and powerful for you to hurt Him! But before you deliberately go out on your own you'd be smart to think it through. Did God make His laws so as to make us unhappy—or to make us happy? Would you really get along better in life obeying God's laws, or disobeying them?

Moses had an answer. Just before the children of Israel were to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land, he called them together and talked to them. He reminded them of the day when God came down on Sinai. He said . . . (read Deut. 4:5-7).

Moses had no doubt about it. To him the smart thing to do was to obey God's laws. "If you do," he said, "the nations around will come to you and say, 'You lucky people. Why did God tell you these things, when He didn't tell us?'"

Every year thousands of people die from lung cancer as a result of smoking. But no Seventh-day Adventist needs to die that way—because many, many years ago God told us that smoking is dangerous. How lucky we are!

The same can be said of diet and dress and dancing and a host of other things. Men and women in the world try their best to find out what is the right thing to do, and they make many mistakes. But God has told us exactly what we ought to do, so we don't need to make mistakes and suffer from them.

To be happy in life, obey God's laws. These laws affect everything we do, and the successful people are those who obey God's laws the best.

Take a look at this ball. If I let go of it, what will it do? Drop? Are you sure? Let's see! (Let go.) Well, now, so it did!

Who made the law of gravity? It is often called Newton's law.

It is easy to prove that it is God's law, for

balls were falling long before Newton. Even the apple that struck Newton on the head and set him to thinking about gravity, fell from the tree *before* Newton worked out the law. The law of gravity is God's law.

The Bible says nothing about the law of gravity for the simple reason that God knew we could learn about it easily enough on our own. Even a baby learns that his toys will fall if he pushes them off his high chair. The Bible tells about things we can't work out on our own. If you read some statement in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy that you can't understand, thank God for it, and obey it.

The law of gravity is God's law, so are the laws of floating bodies. The law of gravity is easy to learn about; the laws of floating bodies take more study.

Here is a piece of wood. If I put it on the water in this glass dish, will it sink or float? Let's see. Ah, it floats. Now, I have a nail here. What will it do? Sink, of course.

For many thousands of years men have known that wood floats and iron sinks. So for many thousands of years men made all their boats out of wood. That seemed like the sensible thing to do. The idea that boats might be made out of iron or steel was so utterly stupid as not to be worth thinking about.

#### What Archimedes Discovered

Several hundred years before Christ, a man by the name of Archimedes was asked by the king to find out whether his crown was made of pure gold or whether some other metal might be mixed in with the gold. It was impossible to tell by looking at it.

Archimedes was thinking about the problem when he got into a bathtub. The tub was almost full, and as he got in, water splashed over the side, and he noticed that his arms and legs felt lighter. Suddenly he knew he had found the answer. He leaped out of the tub and ran all the way to the palace shouting, "*Eureka, eureka, I've found it, I've found it!*"

Later he made some more experiments, and this is what he learned. If you fill a glass full to the brim with water, then put a piece of wood on the water, water will spill over the side. The wood has *displaced* the water. Archimedes caught this displaced water, and every time he tried the experiment he found that the water the wood displaced always weighed exactly as much as the wood. So he wrote, "A floating body sinks in water until it has displaced its own weight of water." He tried similar experiments with stone and metal. Of course, these materials would sink, but each time, some water would be displaced. If he weighed a stone before putting it into the water, then weighed the stone while it was in the water, then weighed the water that spilled over, always the weight of the water that spilled equaled the difference between the weight of the stone outside the water and its weight when submerged. He wrote, "A submerged body loses the same amount of weight as the weight of the water it displaces."

These statements became known as Archimedes' principles, but they really are God's principles, just as the laws of Moses are the laws of God. They show the value of studying God's laws to see what they really mean.

About a hundred years ago men began to study Archimedes' principles seriously. Suddenly someone realized that the reason that

## Do I Love Him?

By NICHOLAS LLOYD INGRAHAM

**I say I love the Lord; my words confess it.**

**But do I really love as He loved me;  
In selfless deeds for Him do I express it;  
Do I love all the way to Calvary?**

**When He needs helping hands, do I supply Him,**

**Do I reflect His love in all I do;  
When He would use my feet do I deny Him;  
Am I at His command the whole day through?**

**I truly love Him when I love my neighbor,  
And follow where the Holy Spirit leads;  
But most of all, I love Him when my labor  
Supplies the healing balm the sinner needs—**

**When I, like Paul, consider all things loss,  
That men may sense the meaning of the cross.**

wood floated was not just that the wood was wood, but that the wood displaced its own weight of water before it sank. Aha! If somehow iron could be made to displace its own weight before it sank, it would float too. But how to do that? Would it work to roll it out into thin sheets and curve the sheets in the shape of a boat—as I'm doing with this metal foil? (Shape the aluminum foil in the rough shape of a boat and set it on the water.) It did work! Now that men understood God's laws about floating bodies they went on to build ships so large they could hold hundreds of the biggest wooden boats ever made.

The law of gravity and the laws of floating bodies are laws of physics. Such laws can be found in physics books. (Show yours.)

God's laws are also at work in the kitchen. This book may be Betty Crocker's cookbook, but it isn't Betty Crocker who made the laws. She discovered some of God's laws, just as Newton and Archimedes did.

In geometry a student is taught that the whole is equal to the sum of its parts. That is a law of God, and it applies in the kitchen. Consider making strawberry shortcake.

You start with a basket of the finest strawberries. You pick off the green stems, then place those huge strawberries in a bowl and pour sugar over them. You set them aside so the sugar can melt and mix with the strawberry juice to form a marvelously tasty syrup. A few hours later you place a piece of a bun or shortcake in the bottom of a bowl and pour the strawberries over it. You pile the finest whipped cream onto that, and on the very top you place a red maraschino cherry. M-m-m-m!

But suppose instead of the shortcake you used a moldy crust. Instead of the strawberries you used sauerkraut. Instead of the whipped cream you used vinegar. What if you did put a red maraschino cherry on top—you wouldn't have strawberry shortcake!

Life is this way. If you want a silk dress, you must use silk material. If you use cotton material, no matter how well you sew it, it will still be a cotton dress.

If you fill your brain with trashy stories, comic strips, immodest pictures, you will never be a scholar. Your mind will never be any better than the material you make it of. The whole is equal to the sum of its parts.

You may still be thinking that cooking is not based on the laws of God. Well, what

about yeast? Yeast works a certain way, and it must be mixed into the dough in exactly the right manner if a loaf of bread is to be any good. Does yeast raise dough because of some law made by the United States Congress in, say, 1866? Does yeast work only for Americans but not for Russians or Africans? It works the same for everybody, and it has worked ever since the beginning of time. The Israelites were using it when they came out of Egypt; the Bible says so. So it works according to God's laws.

If you obey the laws, you get good bread. If you disobey those laws, you get poor bread, and that's that!

Here I have two cakes. And here is a box of cake mix. The front of the box shows the kind of cake that could be made with these ingredients, and the back of the box lists the laws or directions that must be followed to make a cake like the picture. This container (point to the one with the good cake inside) contains a cake made exactly according to the directions.

Really, to hear the way some teen-agers talk, it shouldn't be a very good cake. The cook obeyed the laws—and everybody knows you can't get anywhere in life if you do that. Fie on teachers who make restrictions! Forget the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy! A young person must get out on his own, choose his own way, if he's ever going to live! So this cake, made strictly according to the rules, ought to be rather sad. Let's see. (Remove the cover.) Well now, how did that happen! It's a pretty nice cake after all! Wow! (*Be enthusiastic about it!*)

This other container (point) has a cake that wasn't made according to directions. I asked the person who made these cakes for me to make one exactly according to the rules, and that's the one you've just seen. Then I asked her to be like Jane, who told the pastor she wanted to go out and live her own life and disregard the rules.

So the cook chose her own ingredients and put them together in any way she thought might work. If the first cake was good, this one should be tremendous. The cook broke the laws. She did exactly as she pleased. What a cake it must be!

Now, before I lift the lid, I want to suggest to you that if you feel the way Jane did, if you want to disregard God's laws for your life, you ought to go home and ask your mother to let you make a cake. If you know nothing at all about making a cake, so much the better. See what kind of cake you can make when you don't follow any directions. Be sure to get your mother's permission.

If you can't even bake a cake without having someone tell you how to do it, how do you think you can make a success of your life if you don't have some directions to follow?

Now let's see what kind of cake my friend made when she didn't follow any directions. (Lift the lid.) Is that what you want your life to look like?

This Book (show it) contains God's laws of cooking. These books (show the Bible and *Messages to Young People*) contain God's rules on how to live.

Just as this cake box has a picture of the cake you can make, with instructions on the back telling you how to put it together, so this Book contains the picture of the Man you can be like. There are instructions in the Book, and if you follow them, you will become like the Man in the Book. You can be like God if you want to be.

## LESSON 6

### You Can Be Saved

**PREPARATION:** Read about the ark in Genesis 6, about the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32, and about the marriage feast in Matthew 22:1-10. This is the best morning for a testimony and commitment service. See suggestion in the Introduction.

**Music:** *Singing Youth*, Nos. 181, 162; **Theme:** No. 122; Song after the prayer: No. 138.

Many people go all through their lives wondering whether they will be saved. Maybe you have felt that way. You may even feel that you have to twist God's arm before He'll agree to take you to heaven.

Valerie lived on a farm, and her father gave her a little calf. She named it Brownie, and every day she took care of it, feeding it and watering it and brushing it down. She came to love that calf dearly.

Then one evening father told her that the time had come to sell the calves. Tomorrow, while she was at school, he would take them all to market.

Valerie was heartbroken. Not to have Brownie any more! Not to be able to feed her or water her! Not to be able to run into the barn when she came home from school and find Brownie waiting for her!

When she went to bed that night she prayed that somehow, someday, God would keep father from taking her Brownie to market. Brownie sold . . . butchered. She shuddered, and prayed harder.

She could not pay attention in school next day. Her mind was on Brownie, and again and again she prayed.

She dawdled on the road after school, too reluctant to go home and find Brownie not there. Mother greeted her in the usual way and said, "Well, I suppose Brownie is in the stockyards now. She'll probably bring a good price."

Valerie ran to her room and cried her heart out. She helped mother set the table, and after supper she helped with the dishes. There were chores she was supposed to do every night in the barn, but how could she go out there and see Brownie's empty stall?

She couldn't put the chores off forever, and finally she had to go. She stood in the barn doorway—and a movement in Brownie's stall caught her eye.

Brownie was still there! Daddy hadn't taken her to the stockyards after all! She threw her arms around Brownie's neck and hugged her.

Then she ran to find daddy. "How come you didn't take Brownie?" she asked.

Daddy pulled her onto his lap. "I went through the barn today deciding which calves I ought to take to market and which I should leave at home. When I came to Brownie I remembered that she belonged to my daughter—and, honey, I just couldn't take your calf to the stockyards, not yours."

That's how it will be in the judgment. When God goes down the list of the people who have lived in the world, deciding which He should save and which should be destroyed, whenever He comes to the name of a boy or girl who belongs to Jesus, He will

say, "I cannot destroy that one. He belongs to My Son. I will save him and give him a place in My kingdom."

God does not try to find fault with us. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17). He said to Zacchaeus, "The Son of man is come . . . to save" (Luke 19:10).

His great desire is to save us, and to do good things for us.

When the woman who had been sick twelve years touched Him in the crowd, Jesus said to her, "Thy faith hath saved thee," and she was healed. When a father brought his son to the disciples and complained that the devil threw him into the fire, Jesus cast out the devil and made the

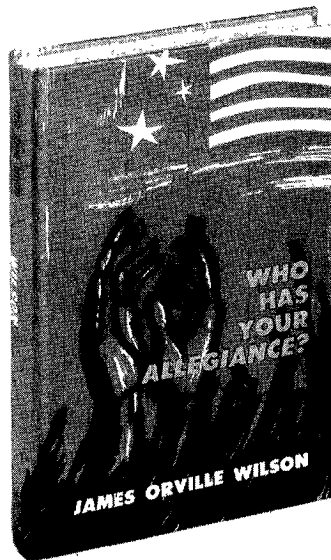
boy well. When a man came to church with a withered hand Jesus didn't wait till the Sabbath was over, as some people thought He should. Right there during the service He told the man to stand up, and while everyone watched, He made him strong again.

People came by the thousands asking for help, and He never turned any away. Even when they didn't come, He was so eager to help that He often went to them.

A man in Jerusalem had been so ill for thirty-eight years that he couldn't possibly go to Jesus, so Jesus went to where he was lying beside the pool of Bethesda and healed him there. When Jairus' twelve-year-old daughter died, Jesus went to her home and raised her to life. When the disciples were caught one night in a great storm on the Lake of Galilee, Jesus walked across the wa-

# CHALLENGING!

## Who has your allegiance?



BY JAMES  
ORVILLE WILSON

*Honestly now, who has your allegiance?*

As heirs to a precious heritage of freedom in America, we can appreciate the men who founded our country and sought the right to live and worship in peace according to their beliefs. The youth of our church also have a heritage, a heritage of love and faith which has grown out of a century of seeking after God.

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ter to rescue them. When the daughter of a woman living near to Tyre and Sidon took sick, Jesus walked some ninety miles there and back just to cure her. He didn't have to do these things. He did them because He wanted to, to help. Thinking about them, how can we doubt that He wants to save us?

God the Father is as eager to save us as Jesus is. The Bible says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). God *wants* us in heaven with Him. If you were ever sorry when a friend moved away and you wished he would come back, that's a little of the sorrow God will feel if you don't go to heaven.

Did your mother ever go to the hospital for a few days, and did the house feel empty without her? Heaven will feel as empty to God if you aren't there.

Remember that God *will not* shut you out of heaven if you want to be there.

Before God sent the Flood, He asked Noah to build the ark so that anyone who wanted to be saved could be. If He had wanted to destroy everyone, He would not have provided that boat. For 120 years Noah preached to the people, warning them of the coming disaster and inviting them in God's name to come on board.

But no one came. For 120 years he preached without a single convert. I can see him on the last day with a crowd of people gathered around the ship. He is standing in the doorway with his arms outstretched, pleading, "Won't even one of you believe me and come in before the door closes?" No one stepped forward. Tears streaming down his face, his shoulders bent in discouragement, Noah finally turned and shuffled inside. Then—and only then—did an angel shut the door.

Seven days later the rains began. Everyone outside died—not because God wanted to destroy them, not because God slammed the door in their face and told them He wouldn't let them in, but because they refused His invitation and chose to stay outside.

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus said, "The younger son . . . took his journey

into a far country." It was *his* journey. His father had not planned it. Father did not put him out.

Everybody loves weddings, and Jesus told several parables about them. In one He said that a king's son was getting married, and the king prepared a great reception in his honor.

He sent out the invitations long before the wedding so the guests would have ample time to prepare. Then, when it was time for the wedding to begin, "he sent his servants to summon the guests he had invited," but the guests refused to come!

When the king heard that, he was annoyed. Everything was ready, and the food was getting cold. Quickly he sent out more servants, "telling them to say to the guests, 'See now! I have prepared this feast for you. I have had my bullocks and fatted beasts slaughtered; everything is ready; come to the wedding at once.' But they took no notice; one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the others seized the servants, attacked them brutally, and killed them."

The servants who managed to get back to the palace alive told the king what the guests had done. This time the king was furious, and rightly so. "He sent troops to kill those murderers and set their town on fire."

Still, he wanted someone to come to his son's wedding, so he said to his servants, "'Go out to the main thoroughfares, and invite everyone you can find'" (Matt. 22:1-10, N.E.B.).\*

Imagine not wanting to attend the king's wedding, especially with so much good food provided! Everybody could have gone who wanted to. Anyone who did not go, stayed away because he *chose* to.

Everyone has been invited to heaven, including you. God will give you a royal welcome if you accept. He has gone to a lot of work and sacrifice to get heaven ready for you.

\* *The New English Bible*, New Testament. © The Delegates of the Oxford University Press and the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press 1961.

In order for Him to invite you to heaven, He had to let His Son suffer. Jesus was whipped and laughed at. Men stripped off His clothes and spat in His face. They threw Him to the ground and drove nails through His hands. Surely God *should* be angry with anyone who treats His invitation lightly.

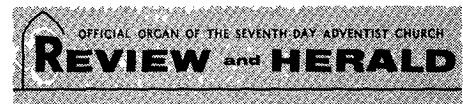
Jesus is in heaven now helping everyone who accepts God's invitation to get ready. Soon you will look into the east and see a small black cloud. It will grow larger and brighter as it comes closer, till it shines more brightly than the sun. The air will be filled with angels, and you will see Jesus sitting on His throne. You will hear Him say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you."

What a day that will be! Imagine rising up to the cloud to meet Jesus! Think of living through all eternity in heaven with God!

The invitations are going out already. Why not accept yours today? Give yourself to Jesus and let Him get you ready. You can be saved—why not be? Stand up now and tell God you accept.

## Church Calendar

Week of Prayer	November 5-12
Church Missionary Offering	November 5
Annual Sacrifice Offering	November 12
Ingathering Campaign Launching Day	November 19
(Campaign dates Nov. 19, 1966-Jan. 7, 1967)	
Ingathering Campaign Promotion	December 3
Church Missionary Offering	December 3
Thirtieth Sabbath Offering	December 24
(South America)	



In 1849 a company of Sabbathkeeping Adventists whose background was the Millerite movement began to publish a paper called *The Present Truth*. In 1850 they also published five issues of *The Advent Review*. In November, 1850, these two papers merged under the name, *Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, now titled simply *REVIEW and HERALD*. Its editorial objective remains unchanged—to preach "the everlasting gospel" in the context of the Sabbath, the Second Advent, and other truths distinctive of the Advent Movement.

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# Would I Be True?

By  
**MARGARET LOCKE**

Would I hold fast my faith when strong ones weakened  
 Beneath the pressure of the powers of sin?  
 Would I be true if ominous darkness thickened  
 And demons strove to quench all hope within?

Would I be firm if threatening clouds were riven  
 And poured their contents on a startled world,  
 And in the place of truth divinely given,  
 The ensign of false concepts was unfurled?

Would I be strong? Would I remain unshaken?  
 Should torture await dissenters, would I quail?  
 Or would my timid spirit quick awaken  
 And lay hold of the strength that never fails?

'Twould only be by daily fortifying  
 My inmost soul with strength from strength divine  
 That I be kept from weakening, and complying  
 With tyrant's aim to crush this faith of mine.

But He, my mighty Shield and my Defender  
 Would give me strength in that dark crisis hour  
 To stand for right, nor weaken, nor surrender,  
 But come off conqueror through His mighty power.

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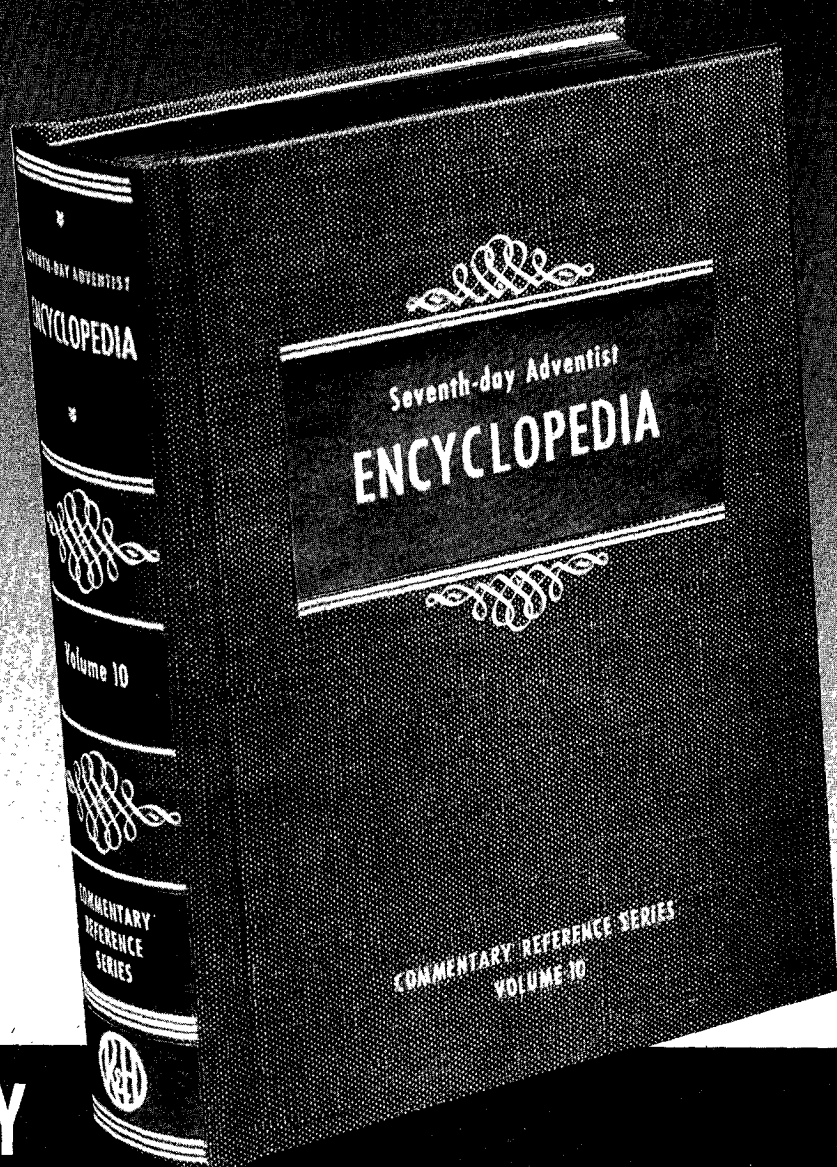
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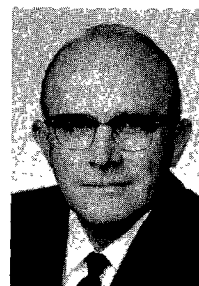
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# *A Special Message From the President of the General Conference*



"Never stop praying," the apostle Paul admonished the believers in Thessalonica (1 Thess. 5:17, Phillips). This is good counsel for God's remnant people today. We dare not, in these decisive moments before our Lord's return to earth, meet the assaults of Satan without the surety and power available to us through prayer. We cannot yield even an inch to the enemy. We must not give him any advantage. If we would be victorious we must not neglect prayer; we must not neglect the study of God's Word.

The urgency of these times and our personal need underlie the importance of the Week of Prayer to God's people. But in no wise should the Week of Prayer, which is observed by Adventist groups and churches around the world, be thought of as a substitute for daily, hourly, personal prayers so essential for every child of God. Rather, the Week of Prayer should be considered as an extra privilege and a time of special spiritual refreshing. As the church unitedly seeks God during this appointed week, much strength and courage will come to us as wrongs are confessed and as we, as one body, plead for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

The Week of Prayer can be meaningful as a time for rededicating our lives to the Master's service and for pledging ourselves by example and word to share the third angel's message with our friends and neighbors. The Week of Prayer is a wonderful occasion for renewing our spiritual power. May this week be such an occasion for every Seventh-day Adventist in every land.

No doubt you have observed that the messages for this week come to us annually through the pages of the Review and Herald, our much-loved official church paper. The Review has, for many years, been a faithful minister to the Advent people. Not only does it come into our homes to speak to us on high spiritual occasions such as the Week of Prayer and General Conference sessions, but it is a weekly guest with its messages of instruction, encouragement, comfort, and admonition. It also keeps us up to date on church activities in the mission field at home and abroad.

We earnestly urge every Seventh-day Adventist to be a regular reader of the Review and to encourage others also to acquire the Review reading habit.

May this Week of Prayer bring your soul a rich blessing, and may the Review and Herald always be a much-loved member of your family circle.

Your brother in the faith,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Robert A. Hays".