

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD

"Watchman, What of the Night?"

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Evangelical Department

Purpose of the Word

It is beyond the resources of human language to describe, or the imagination to conceive, of the greatness and sublimity of some of the scenes and events of this present world. But how much more grand and sublime must be the purpose of the great Designer of the universe which includes all scenes and all events of both this world and of that which is to come. Yet this is the subject of God's revelation to man; and it is the exalted privilege of men to have a connection with it and to comprehend it through the agencies of God; and also to become intelligent participants in its developments and results. "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Cor. 2:9, 10.

Christ who is the wisdom and power of God; the one in whom is all power in heaven and earth; the one by whom God has manifested or made himself known to all intelligences in all ages; in the greatness, the infinite variety, and perfection of his works, is pre-eminently able to place the words of truth in their most appropriate setting, to reflect their glory and display their fitness. Christ hath displayed the purpose, the wisdom, the power and love of the Father, in creation, in revelation, through the prophets, in the wonderful lessons of his providences, and in his personal manifestation in the flesh. The knowledge of all these ways is made readily available to us by the wonderful yet simple agency of God's

wisdom through the printed word, the Bible.

Then let us say with others, "In God I will praise his word." Ps. 56:4. "Thy word is true from the beginning." Ps. 119:160. "Every word of God is pure." Prov. 30:5. "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord." Jer. 22:29.

A. G. HAUGHEY.

When and How the New Testament Was Written

(Concluded.)

THE writings of the apostle were first sent out as personal testimonies in the form of letters or epistles to churches or individuals, as the church of Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, and personal letters to Timothy, Titus, Philémon, and others. These the Jewish church rejected altogether as they do now, while the true believers received them as the word of God, which worked effectually in those that believed, while others wrested or perverted them, which shows there was a controversy in the church over them. Some believed that they were all inspired, and others questioned them; but the salvation of those in the church depended upon their receiving them, and those who rejected them met with a great loss. 2 Cor. 2:14-17.

The testimonies of these apostles being scripture, the instruction concerning the Scriptures, such as, "Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life," refers as much to those testimonies and any other testimonies of the Spirit of God as it does to the former prophets. 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

Epistles or personal letters or verbal testimonies from the one whom God chooses to speak through are the same. "Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand." Gal. 6:11. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Pet. 1:21. "Need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? Ye are our epistles, written in our hearts, known and read of all men." 2. Cor. 3:1, 2.

"For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present." 2 Cor. 10:10, 11. From the above we learn that letters, epistles, and personal testimony of the apostle, and the lives of those who receive them, are the same. Lives of the Christians are living epistles.

The expression, "hard to be understood," in 2 Pet. 3:16, refers to the difficulty of expressing in human language heavenly things so that they could be understood. "I was caught up into paradise and heard unspeakable words which it is not possible for me to utter." 2 Cor. 12:4, margin. Men reason from what they see and hear; beyond that, they must simply believe and reason from the belief of what is said. "Through faith we understand." Heb. 11:3. As the "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him," how can man of himself reason correctly? "For what man knoweth the things of man save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so, the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God." 1 Cor. 2:9-14.

The above scriptures and statements contain much food for thought, and they are the foundation of how the Spirit of God should be received in any age of the world.—S. N. Haskell, in *Bible Training School*.

HE who has a high standard of living and thinking will certainly do better than he who has none at all. Whoever tries for the highest results cannot fail to reach a point far in advance of that from which he started.—Smiles.

"THE youth who does not look up will look down; and the spirit that does not soar is destined to grovel."

"A STRAIGHT line is the shortest in morals as in mathematics."

Educational Department

Religion and State Schools

WE have great respect for public school teachers. Taken as a body it would be difficult to find a more intelligent, earnest and conscientious class of people. Many of them are Christians; but as servants of the state they cannot teach what they realize their pupils most need to know. In the class-room they are the voice of the secular power rather than the voice of God. Beyond the teaching of certain principles which pertain to good citizenship, they must be silent on the question of morals.

We also have a wholesome respect for the state school system. It was organized for the purpose of training students for worldly pursuits, in which work it has succeeded admirably. The great commercial enterprises of the day are carried on by men who have received their education under this system. The literary and scientific knowledge of the time is the result of the training received in the state schools. The civilization and comforts of this age are largely the result of the influence of these schools. Every American citizen has cause for feelings of admiration as he contemplates this record. There are, it is true, some serious faults in the system. But then that will always be the case with everything human. We feel free, with others, to criticize the faults; but with the system as a whole we have no fault to find, considered from a secular standpoint.

What we emphasize is that the secular school cannot, from its very nature, train our children in religious things. Therefore if we do not maintain a separate system which shall provide for their religious instruction, they will be left to come up without such instruction so far as their school life is concerned. It is impossible to estimate the consequences to a developing character of the absence of positive religious training. True the home and the church in a measure compensate the loss; perhaps they should wholly. But we are not called upon to deal with the situation as it ought to be; we must face the conditions that are. And it must be admitted that in many Christian homes, perhaps the majority, but little effort is made at systematic religious train-

ing of the children. As for the church, it has them under its care only one or two hours each week. Besides, both the home and the church are working against the child's natural inclination toward the world, while the twenty-five hours spent in the secular schoolroom each week are under conditions that are intended, and rightfully so, from the world's standpoint, to encourage the worldly spirit.

Under such conditions the church and the home are playing a losing game with the world for the souls of their children. This is no theory, although the logic of the situation proves the case. The statistics of the last census show that about fifty per cent of Protestant young men and women whose parents are members of the church in good standing are won away from the church by the world; and the history of our own young people is of the same sad character. On the other hand, the same statistics show that only a very small per cent of the children of Catholic parents leave the fold of that church. Catholic young people are educated wholly under Catholic influences. Side by side with the church building stands the school building.

If Seventh-day Adventists wish to save their children for the cause of God, they must provide them with a school system which will supplement the education of the home and the church.

S. M. BUTLER.

The Missionary Band

"TEACH your children that God has a claim upon all that they possess, a claim that nothing can cancel; whatever they have is theirs only in trust, as a test of their obedience. Inspire them with ambition to gain stars for their crown by winning many souls from sin to righteousness."

The Shelby Band

I saw the call in the HERALD for the children to do something for the missionary work this summer. I had planned to do something before seeing the article in the paper. I had set a hen, but the cold weather chilled the eggs so that they did not hatch. But I am not discouraged, for I remember that it says in Romans 8:28, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love

God," and so I am going to try again. I have set another hen on thirteen eggs, and I shall write again this fall and tell you how many chickens I raised. If I do not have good success with them, I shall try something else.

I am twelve years old; I love to go to Sabbath school; and I enjoy the children's meetings which are held the third Sabbath in each month.

READIE MONTGOMERY.

WE trust that we may hear in the fall that Readie has made a success in his chosen line.

Bedford Band

The secretary of the Bedford Sabbath school sends us the names of the children in that school who compose the Band, with a statement of what each will do. This is a fine Band. We expect they will have a large donation for missions this fall.

William Wrate, one brood of chickens; Albert Fickel, missionary garden; Roger W. Paul, one brood of ducks; Forest Schoonard, one brood of chickens; Glenn Schoonard, one brood of chickens; Aura Davis, missionary garden; Francis Hare, will raise potatoes; Ruth and May Cornwell, one brood of chickens; Mildred Mahoney, one brood of chickens; Dorsis Davis, will raise corn; Alice Hare, will raise potatoes; Mildred Davis, will raise corn; Clifford Holcomb, missionary garden.

South Monterey Band

I send you the names of four of my children who will join the missionary band this summer. I have given them a nice patch of ground, about one-fourth of an acre, which they will plant to potatoes. Their names are: Alonza T., aged 9; Arlie M., aged 8; Mina M., aged 7; and Zena A. Buck, aged 5.

J. B. BUCK.

"EDUCATION that one does not use in making himself and his fellow men better is like money locked up in a chest and stored away."

"THINK well over your important steps in life; and, having made up your mind, never look behind."

"POLITENESS promotes beauty in him who possesses it, and happiness in those about him."

Medical Department

The Bible on Diet

As truth cannot contradict truth, it is impossible to show by any true principle of interpretation that any portion of Holy Writ militates against biblical sanitary laws and instructions on eating and drinking. Yet it is a fact that there are texts of scripture which are sometimes misapplied in opposition to the present scriptural reform on diet, which we will now consider.

1. "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man, but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." Matt. 15:11 Our Saviour was speaking to those who did not eat impure food, and was refuting a tradition that was strictly enjoined by the scribes and Pharisees of his time, and which pronounced unclean and sinful those who ate their food with hands that had not been washed just before sitting down to eat. According to this tradition they had then to wash their hands whether they were soiled or not, and if they did not then perform that ceremony they were criminated, pronounced defiled. The Saviour showed the source and nature of real, sinful defilement. He stated that it is evil thoughts, etc., proceeding from the heart, from within, not from without through neglecting mechanical, needless forms, which defile a man, and that food taken with unwashed hands in the sense of their tradition defileth not a man. Verses 17-20 and Matt. 7.

Christ does not here remove the distinction between clean and unclean meats, nor does he lay aside the typical regulations on eating and drinking, which were in force until his death. If the words, "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man," were to be taken independently and in their broadest acceptance, any man could commit suicide by knowingly and intentionally taking the most deadly poison, without guilt, and without being debarred from the kingdom of heaven for having murdered himself.

2. "And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such

things as are placed before you." Luke 10:7,8.

These words were addressed by our Saviour to the seventy, and were not designed to deprive them of their God-given right to use their good sense and enlightened judgment in following the instructions which God had given on diet in his word. Lev. 11; Deut. 14, etc. It was Christ, the Angel in whom was God's name (Ex. 23:21), who spoke to Moses in the mount Sinai (Acts 7:37,38), and gave him good sanitary instructions on diet for his favored people; and most assuredly he would not, now that he has come to usher in a more glorious dispensation, contradict himself by counteracting sanitary laws which he had already given concerning diet, thereby demonstrating to his followers and to the world that in this respect at least the new dispensation would be inferior to the old.

But the diet which would be offered to the disciples in Palestine would be in harmony with the instructions already given by our Lord Jesus Christ to the Israelites; so there would be no trouble there on the point of diet. If the words under consideration were to be taken unqualifiedly and without limitation, should one entertaining a modern minister of the gospel maliciously put poison in the beverage of his host, the latter would have to take it gracefully for Christ's sake, and take the consequences. Away with such narrow, unreasonable and unscriptural interpretations of our Saviour's words! Christ gives his own interpretation by saying, "For the laborer is worthy of his hire;" not by saying, "You may eat what you please."

D. T. BOURDEAU.

Diet and Redemption

FROM the fulfillment of numerous Bible prophecies, it is evident that we have almost reached the close of human probation, the second coming of the Redeemer and the transition from the mortal to the immortal state, involving the banishment of death, and consequently of flesh eating (Rev. 21:14; 22:3), and the carrying out of the original design of God with regard to diet of man and beast; namely, that it should be taken from the vegetable kingdom. Gen. 1:29-31; Isa. 11:7; Luke 22:30; 14:15; Rev. 22:14.

And is it not natural and reason-

able to expect that just before the ushering in of this glorious state, those discerning the numerous signs of the nearness of the second coming of Christ as the great Restorer, and of the establishment of the glorious immortal kingdom, and seeing that disease is affecting more and more the animal kingdom, increasing the danger of using flesh as diet, and understanding from the prophecies that the second coming of Christ is to be preceded by the infliction of fearful plagues on beasts as well as on sinners (Rev. 16; Zech. 14:12, 15), making the use of flesh as diet a sure cause of death, will, as a measure of self-preservation, and in view of adapting themselves to the forthcoming plan of diet which is embraced in redemption, break off from the habit of using flesh as food? This is now taking place with those who really believe in the near coming of Christ, and who would show a due estimate of the life that God has given them.

It is generally admitted by Bible students that much of what happened to the Israelites in the wilderness was typical of what is to transpire in the last days, just before the transfer of God's people to the heavenly Canaan. 1 Cor. 10:11, etc. When the Lord was about to bring the Israelites into the land of Canaan, he told them that if they obeyed him he would remove disease from them (Ex. 15:26; Deut. 7:15); and he withheld from them flesh food and gave them manna from heaven.

Let us fully take to heart the meaning of the scripture which says, "Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning." Rom. 15:4. Let us discern the time we have reached in this world's history, prepare to escape the plagues of God's wrath, and adapt ourselves to the practices of the redeemed in the glorious coming kingdom.

DR. PATIENCE S. BOURDEAU.

"GOD has committed to us a special work, a work that no other people can do. He has promised us the aid of his Holy Spirit. The heavenly current is flowing earthward for the accomplishment of the very work appointed us. Let not this heavenly current be turned aside by the deviations from the straightforward path marked out by Christ."

Missionary Department

Laborers Together With God

THOSE who are united to the church should be living, working agents to impart the light to those who are in darkness. They should declare the truth of God, revealing his love and faithfulness. When men use their powers as God directs them to, their talents will increase, their ability will enlarge, and they will have heavenly wisdom in seeking to save those who are lost. But while the church members are listless, and neglectful of their God-given responsibility, how can they expect to receive the treasure of heaven to impart to others? When professed Christians feel no burden to enlighten the minds of those who are in darkness; when they fail to make use of the rich grace of Christ, and cease to impart the knowledge they have received, they become less discerning, lose their appreciation of the richness of the heavenly endowment, and, failing to value it themselves, they fail to present it to others. It is only as God sees his professed people eager to be laborers together with him, that he can impart to them light and grace; for then they will make every interest secondary to the interest of his work and cause. With such workers the heavenly intelligences will co-operate.

WINNING SOULS TO CHRIST OUR CHIEF AIM

God has given to every man a work to do in connection with his kingdom. Each one professing the name of Christ is to be an interested worker, ready to defend the principles of righteousness. The work of the gospel is not to depend solely upon the minister; every soul should take an active part in advancing the cause of God. But, instead of this, how many of our large churches come and go like a door on its hinges, feeling no responsibility for the progress of the work, no interest in the salvation of souls for whom Christ died. They do not dream of weaving their religion into their business. They say, Religion is religion, and business is business; they believe each has a proper sphere, but let them be separated.

But in whatever calling a Christian is found, he has his work to do for the Lord in representing Christ to the

world. Whatever may be our occupation, we are to be missionaries, having for our chief aim the winning of souls to Christ. If this is not our interest, we rob God of influence, of time, of money and effort. In withholding our heart's service from the Lord, we fail to benefit our fellow-man, and thus rob God of the glory that would flow to him through the conversion of others.

TRAINING THE CHILDREN

What excuse can the professed followers of Christ offer for neglecting to train their children in such a way that they will, for the sake of advancing the work of Christ, bind about their wants in dress, and avoid all extravagance and display? The children should be educated in such a way that they will have sympathy for the aged and afflicted, and lend all the help in their power to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and distressed. They should be taught to be diligent in the missionary work; and from their earliest years, principles of self-denial and sacrifice for the good of others should be inculcated, that they may be laborers together with God.

Oh, that parents would look carefully and prayerfully after their children's eternal welfare! Let them ask themselves: Have we been careless? Have we neglected this solemn work? Have we allowed our children to become the sport of Satan's temptations? Have we a solemn account to settle with God because we have permitted our children to use their talents, their time, and influence, in working against the truth? against Jesus Christ? Have we neglected our duty as parents, and increased the subjects of Satan's kingdom?

A TRANSFORMATION NEEDED

This home missionary work, this home field, has been shamefully neglected, and it is time that divine resources and remedies were presented, that this state of evil may be healed. If parents would see a different state of things in their family, let them consecrate themselves wholly to God, and the Lord will devise ways and means whereby a transformation may take place in their households. Let the church awake, let every member take up his individual work.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

News and Notes

—Elder A. G. Haughey went to Cedar Lake this week on business connected with the Academy.

—Four tent companies will enter the field in this conference the present summer. The ministers are now busy locating their tents and preparing for the work. We hope to have some good reports from them soon.

—We are informed that Dr. J. H. Kellogg's new book, "The Living Temple," will be ready for shipment in a few days. The proceeds of this book are to be donated by the author to the sanitarium work in all parts of the world. Order through the West Michigan conference. Price \$1.25 per copy.

—"Christ's Object Lessons: How That Book Should be Handled in the Future," is the title of an article by Sister White in the Review of June 2. This gives some very important instruction regarding the future use of that excellent book. If you have not read the article, it will pay you to do so at once.

—A letter from Elder E. R. Williams, the superintendent of the Superior Mission Field, informs us that the work there is in a prosperous condition. He reports that the tithes have increased about \$2.00 per member during the last six months. They will hold their first campmeeting in that field at Menominee, June 25 to July 5. We wish the brethren there success in their efforts to build up the work.

—Members of the Sabbath school should carefully study the secretary's report printed on this page. It appears that the total amount of contributions for the last quarter was \$333.48, as compared with \$643.40 for the previous quarter. This makes a decrease of almost fifty per cent for the last three months. Perhaps this showing is due to errors in reports from the local schools; but whatever the cause may be, it should receive the attention of those who are charged with the responsibility of the Sabbath school work in the churches. With the prosperity which we are now enjoying, there seems to be no good reason for this large falling off of receipts.