

# *our firm* FOUNDATION

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3 ■ MARCH 2017

THE IMMUTABLE LAW OF GOD ■ CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS ■ THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH  
THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES ■ THE NON-IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL ■ THE SANCTUARY



*The Lord works in mysterious ways His wonderful works to perform.*

My wife, Mary, has had a cat rescue now for more than 15 years. Many times we will be met at the spay/neuter clinic by Mary's good friend, Carolyn, who brings her camera to take pictures of the new cats and kittens for the website, Marypaws.com. My wife will bring a sheet for a backdrop and the pictures will be taken in the very back of one of our cars in the rear cargo area.

In order to take the pictures the cats are let out of their carriers one at a time in the rear of the car, and usually very carefully watched because the rear door must be left open for Carolyn to take the pictures from outside of the car.

On one of our more recent trips, while Rita (the lady who brought the rescued kittens) was present, one of the kittens who was being photographed made a dash for the outside and was successful in getting past all four of us standing there and she ran down a nearby dry river bank that had lots of brush in which to hide. The river bank was too steep to be able to get down easily and we were not able to keep up with the kitten anyway. She was frightened and definitely not coming back on her own.

Mary informed the people at the clinic and they brought out some traps and set them along the top of the river bank. But our hopes were not too great that they would have success. I had already prayed quietly for this kitten's capture, but I suggested that my wife, along with Rita and myself have prayer together, so we held hands and prayed.

In the Ministry of Healing, by Ellen G.

White, at page 48, we have the following statement: "The providence of God had placed Jesus where He was, and He depended on His heavenly Father for means to relieve the necessity. When we are brought into strait places, we are to depend on God. In every emergency we are to seek help from Him who has infinite resources at His command."

And in the Bible we read: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. 1 John 5:14,15.

Even though I had earnestly prayed I could feel my mind filling with doubting thoughts. I had seen the kitty run. I had run after her, as did Mary and Carolyn and Rita. She had gone over the dry river bank and into the brush below in a flash. She had no desire to come back; she was a frightened kitten not yet anybody's pet – she was free again. I really didn't expect to see this kitten another time.

We took care of the other items that were on our list for town and headed home. Not long after reaching home my wife received a message from the people at the clinic. They had the kitten in their possession. She had entered one of their traps and the door had closed on her. We felt God had answered our prayers. What a lesson for me – trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. We called Rita, who had brought the kitten, and she was ecstatic. I am going to send her a Ministry of Healing that carries the quotes mentioned earlier in this editorial, and ask that you please pray for her. Praise the Lord!

Trust in the Lord with  
all your heart and  
lean not on your own  
understanding.

# CONTENTS

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3 ■ MARCH 2017

## FEATURES

### 04 Repentance

DAN OLSON

### 11 A Home in Heaven

SARAH F. SHARPE

### 12 In What Shall We Glory?

MRS. E. G. WHITE

### 14 A Ten-dollar Testimony

ANONYMOUS

### 16 Excerpts from Sketches of Jewish Social Life

ALFRED EDELSHEIM

### 18 Worship Him That Made Heaven, and Earth, and the Sea, and the Fountains of Waters!

JERRY O'DONNELL

## DEPARTMENTS

### 02 Editorial

### 24 Health Gem: The Appetites

DANIEL T. BOURDEAU

### 27 Words of the Pioneers: Rome Never Changes

### 28 News Watch

### 30 Christian Crossword

### 31 Something To Think About

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*A key to the abbreviations for Ellen White's material used  
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## *our firm* **FOUNDATION**

**Our Mission:** It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world. —Editor

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# Repentance

BY DAN OLSON

I find it is a blessing to review the basics of Christianity from time to time, much in the same way that you change the oil in your car. When you change your oil you are hoping to prolong the life of your engine and avoid mechanical difficulties that will be inconvenient and expensive. When we review the basics of Christianity, it is this same principle – we are hoping to avoid difficulties in our Christian walk that may result in destruction.

I would like for us to take a look at repentance. What does it mean, why is

it important, and finally, what does repentance lead to, or rather WHO does it lead to? To repent means to be sorry for what you have done and to vow not to do that thing again; to turn away from that thing that separates you from God.

Repentance involves reflection and taking stock of what you have done or not done.

In the case of the prodigal son when he found himself at the lowest point in his life, he realized even his father's servants had a better life. He made a decision, he changed



the course of where his life was headed, and repented; he returned to his father.

True repentance has been watered down in our world today, we will offer an “I’m sorry” for everything from eating the last cookie to cheating on a spouse. “I’m sorry” becomes meaningless after it is said again and again without any true change in the person’s actions. Repentance involves a conscious change or turning away from wrong actions and attitudes. It is putting away, getting rid of thoughts and actions that conflict with God.

It is intentionally turning towards God; often this may require a radical change – a complete 180-degree change, as if you were headed north and realized that would not take you where you wanted to go, so you turned and headed south. Ezekiel 14:6 says, “Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.” Sincere repentance means that when faced with the temptation to sin, we will resist this temptation. It means that you have put away the things in your life that keep you from God for good, the same sins will not be committed over and over every day, that our sins will lead us to sorrow, to a realization of what we are giving up by continuing to sin! In 2 Corinthians 7:9, Paul tells the Corinthians, “I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to



repentance.” Why do we need to repent? What sin has caused us to be separated from God?

What does it mean to violate God’s law? It means to break one of His Holy laws. What are God’s Holy Laws? They are the laws that God wrote on the

tablets of stone with His own finger – The Ten Commandments. And give this a thought for a moment: The commandments were written on stone, or granite, meaning that they are to be preserved forever. They are not to be changed in any way; that is why they were written on stone. The majority of the world has forgotten what it means to keep the law. Even some of our brothers and sisters in the Adventist church who proclaim that law keeping is important have gotten away from being commandment keepers. That’s what was happening in the days of John the Baptist. And that is exactly what is happening in our day, too.

So what was John saying when he was preaching in the wilderness? Matthew, chapter 3, verses 1, 2: “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent

ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” He was saying that Jesus is coming; the kingdom of heaven is near. John was preparing the people to meet the king of kings and the Lord of Lords. Jesus was soon to be preaching and walking among the people; he was beginning His ministry. John was telling them to turn from their wicked ways and sin no more. Isn’t that what we should be saying to the people we know and love? “When Christ went away, He gave to every man his work. This rests upon every one of us.” RH 1888. Repent and turn away from what the devil has been telling you is alright.

Worshipping any other God except Jesus is wrong, worshipping any kind of idol is wrong, taking the name of our Lord in vain is wrong, desecrating the Holy Sabbath is wrong, treating our parents with any disrespect is wrong, killing is wrong, adultery is wrong, stealing in any form is wrong, bearing false witness against your neighbor is wrong, coveting thy neighbor’s wife is wrong. These are the Ten Commandments that our God wrote with His own finger. He would never give us things that He thought were impossible to handle. It is the devil that tells us that it is impossible to keep God’s holy law.

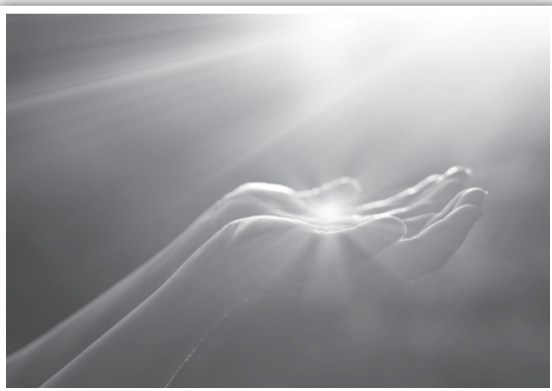
We cannot allow him to get in our way. Resist the devil and he will flee. That is a direct promise from our Lord. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will



flee from you.” James 4:7. Do you see how simple the Lord has made it for us? When temptation comes, whatever that temptation may be, our first response needs to be: resist; resist that temptation from the devil and he will flee.

I read a story about a man who just recently became a follower of our Lord. Before that wonderful transformation happened in his life he was an alcoholic. For years he had drunk himself into a drunken stupor almost every day of his life. When he gave his life to Christ, the Lord gave him the victory over this debilitating disease. As he was driving to work one day, the devil started putting thoughts in his head. The man said that he could literally smell the very brand of alcohol that he used to drink. The devil was actually tempting this man with the very smell of liquor. What he did next is what he needed to do at that time to resist the devil. He stopped the car on the side of the road. Went around on the other side of the car and knelt down and prayed, got up and returned to his car and drove on to his job that day. Never again did he have that same temptation.

The devil is never going to leave us alone, but when we use the tools that God gives us, the devil has no choice but to leave. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. We cannot save ourselves against the devil’s power; he has conquered humanity. But we serve a God who has beat the devil. When we rely on His





strength nothing can keep us from the victory.

Let's get back now to John the Baptist. Why was John sent before Jesus to tell the people to repent? They were violating God's Holy law. They were not keeping sacred the Ten Commandments. They were obviously having a problem with obedience. That has been the problem from day one. Adam and Eve had a problem with obedience. God set up the garden for them with all the things that they could possibly need. One tree out of their entire Eden home was forbidden. Only one tree out of perhaps thousands! They were not without food; they had plenty of delightful fruits to choose from. They failed this simple test of obedience; the Lord asked one thing and they could not obey. By eating that one piece of fruit out of thousands of others, they gave in to the devil's temptations.

We, too, have a problem with obedience. But why, why do we refuse to obey? Is it because we think that it is impossible? That there is no way we can overcome sin in our lives? If that is true, then what was the point of Jesus coming here and giving His life for us? Wasn't that the only reason for His sacrifice? Wasn't that the whole reason He came, to show us that it was possible to live here on this earth and live without sin?

Remember the story about the woman who was convicted of adultery? When the woman was brought to Jesus, what did He tell her to do? "When Jesus had lifted up himself, and

saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." John 8:10, 11. He (Jesus) said go and do the best you can and try and not do that it again. No, He said "go and sin no more". If it were not possible for her not to sin, then why did He say, "go and sin no more"? He knew that as long as we rely on His help, anything is possible.

Here is another place where Jesus said the very same thing – John 5:14: "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." Here's the same question: If it were not possible for this man not to sin, why would Jesus say "go and sin no more"? Jesus would not use these words if it were not possible. It is the reason Jesus came here and gave His life for you and me, otherwise His death would be in vain. He came as a man to show us it was possible to live without sin. He did it and He wants nothing more than to give us the power to do the same. His life testifies that it is possible for us to obey. He became one of us. He endured every trial that would come our way.

Paul says in Hebrews, chapter 4, verse 15: "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin." Jesus is able to supply every thing we need for perfecting our characters. Through faith we are able to cleanse all defilement, every fault can be corrected; every excellence developed!





What a promise! Through faith it says every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected. Jesus is telling us just like He told the woman that was convicted of adultery, “go and sin no more”.

*The Faith I Live By*, page 312, “All who willfully depart from God’s commandments are placing themselves under the control of Satan. Many a man tampers with evil, thinking that he can break away at pleasure; but he is lured on and on, until he finds himself controlled by a will stronger than his own.” It’s the devil who tells us that it is not possible to follow all of God’s law. Never would our creator tell us that it’s not possible. If it weren’t possible, then Jesus would not have come. What would have been the point? The reason for Jesus coming was to save us *from* our sins, not save us *in* our sins! There is a huge difference between the two.

This quote is from *Gospel Workers*, page 149, “The gospel is now opposed on every side. Never was the confederacy of evil stronger than at the present time. Spirits of evil are combining with human agencies to war against the commandments of God....” I know we all see what is happening all around us. God’s commandments are being trampled on everywhere we look. Most people don’t even think twice about jumping into bed with

someone who is not their spouse. It’s like the norm nowadays. Oh, it’s okay – every one is doing it.

God asks us to remember the Sabbath day, however, 99 percent of the world throws away that commandment without a thought! What do you mean go to church on Saturday, that’s ridiculous, every body knows that you’re supposed to go to church on Sunday! Forget about what God says; let’s do what everybody else is doing so we don’t look different. But it’s wrong in God’s eye! If we refuse to follow God’s law then we refuse Him. It is that simple.

Here is another part of that quote from *Gospel Workers*, “Tradition and falsehood are exalted above the Scriptures; reason and science above revelation; human talent above the teaching of the Spirit; forms and ceremonies above the vital power of godliness. Grievous sins have separated the people from God. Infidelity is fast becoming fashionable. We will not have this man to reign over us, is the language of thousands...” This isn’t rocket science – obey and live; disobey and die. It truly is that simple. Heaven can only accept perfect obedience.

I know that this sounds a little harsh, but truth is truth. That’s what the Lord is desperately trying to tell us. Repent; repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Come back; come back and turn from your evil ways.



Here is the rest of the quote from *Gospel Workers*, page 149, "God's ministers must lift up the voice like a trumpet, and show the people their transgressions. The smooth sermons so often preached make no lasting impression. Men are not cut to the heart, because the plain, sharp truths of the word of God are not spoken to them."

Jesus is the only way. He is the one to follow if we desire heaven. And how is that accomplished, how do we follow Him? My Bible says, if you love me, you will keep my commandments. John, chapter 14, verse 15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Well, how is that possible; how do we keep His commandments? Not too long ago we were at a prayer meeting and we were studying the book *The Desire of Ages*. Listen to this quote – this really struck me. "He endured every trial to which we are subject. And He exercised in His own behalf no power that is not freely offered to us. As man, He met temptation, and overcame in the strength given Him from God."

Did you hear that? He was a man tempted just like we are tempted. The only way He could have succeeded was to reach out to His father for the help He needed. And it said that we, too, can have the very same help, the very same power that Jesus used. Why is it that we do not grasp this? It is the devil that tells you that it is not possible. Resist the devil and he



will flee from you. What else could He do?

He gave us the directions. It's like when we get this new thing that we have to put together; we get it out of the box and throw the directions aside and attempt to put it together without reading the instructions. We've all been there. Oh, no problem; it's just a little piece of furniture or something, I don't want to spend an hour reading these instructions; I can handle this. Almost every time we get it mostly put together, and then what happens? We end up taking it all back apart, set the entire thing back on the floor, and pick up the instructions. We start reading the instructions and see where we went wrong.

We just spent twice as long as we should have, but finally we got it. If only we would have looked at the instructions first, it would have saved us a lot of time and frustrations. And, by the way, your wife was telling you the whole time, honey, you should read the instructions first. This is what the Lord is, and will always be, telling us: "Read my instruction book! Pray and study, get to know me and I will give you the instructions you need to know to finally get to where you want to be." If we choose not to, if we say we will not have this man to reign over us, what more can He do? What else do we expect?

From the beginning of time He has sent us men and women to warn us from the coming





doom. For hundreds and thousands of years He has been trying to reach us through His prophets and ministers. And what did we do to them? We killed them. Then finally when He saw that we still would not listen, He sent His only Son. This quote is from *Early Writings*, page 127, "Said the angel, "Think ye that the Father yielded up His dearly beloved Son without a struggle? No, no." It was even a struggle with the God of heaven, whether to let guilty man perish, or to give His darling Son to die for them." But He did, He gave to us His Son, His only Son, knowing that He would die on the cross for guilty man. What more could He do? He emptied heaven in a gift

to man that no pen can describe. In this gift, the only thing He asks in return is our hearts, our obedience. I pray you will understand what it cost to save you. He gave His Son, and Jesus willingly gave His life, to save you and me from eternal death. Jesus gave up a part of Himself that He will never get back. He will forever be partly human; He gave up His ability to be omnipresent. He will never get that ability back!

Choose today, reflect on your life, search your heart – do you have sins or one darling sin that you would like to give up? There is no time like the present! Repent now; don't be afraid to turn, to change your course, even if it means a complete 180! We do not repent in order that God may love us, but He reveals to us His love in order that we may repent.

One last quote before we close. This is from *Thoughts From The Mount Of Blessings*, page 24, "He who has given his life to God in ministry to His children is linked with Him who has all the resources of the universe at His command. His life is bound up by the golden chain of the immutable promises with the life of God. The Lord will not fail him in the hour of suffering and need." Make your path straight to the open loving arms of Jesus! Do it now. Ask Him to come into your heart today. There is no time to lose. Jesus is coming to take us home very soon.



# *A Home in Heaven*

A HOME in Heaven so pure and bright,  
That needs no sun to give it light,  
For God himself its light shall be,  
Before whose face all gloom shall flee.

A home in Heaven, passing fair,  
No sin nor death can enter there,  
Bright angels stand and sing glad lays,  
And tune their harps in endless praise.

That city fair, with joys untold,  
With gates of pearl and streets of gold,  
Its walls are built of precious stone,  
As lasting as Jehovah's throne.

That home above nought can surpass,  
its golden courts like unto glass;  
Its domes and turrets brightly shine  
In crystal splendors all divine.

Out from the throne a stream doth glide,  
Upon its banks on either side  
The lovely tree of life is seen,  
All dressed in robes of living green.

Twelve kinds of fruit, delicious, rare,  
Its waving branches freely bare;  
Its leaves will all the nations heal,  
Who have received the Father's seal.

Help us, O God, to keep thy law;  
Help us from error to withdraw;  
Thus be prepared when Christ, shall come,  
To share the joys of that glad home.

Sarah F. Sharpe

*The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald June 4, 1867*



# In What Shall We Glory?

BY MRS. E. G. WHITE

In all his dealings with his ancient people, the Lord sought to impress them with the idea that their strength was not in the wisdom of man, nor in his might, but in the God of their salvation. As Joshua, the leader of the children of Israel, went out alone before the taking of Jericho, to pray for God's special presence, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the form of a mighty warrior; and to Joshua's challenge he replied, "As captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. . . . Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy." The Lord marshaled his armies about the doomed city; no human hand was raised against it; the hosts of heaven overthrew its walls, that God's name alone might have the glory. It was that proud city whose mighty bulwarks had struck terror to the unbelieving spies. Now in the capture of Jericho, God declared to the Hebrews that their

fathers might have possessed the city forty years before, had they but trusted in him.

## **These things were written for our benefit**

As a people, we lack faith. God will do great things for those who trust in him. The reason why his professed people have so little strength, is that they trust so



much in their own wisdom, and do not give the Lord an opportunity to reveal his power in their behalf. He will help his believing children in every emergency if they will place their entire confidence in him, and implicitly obey him.

There are troublous times before us; the judgments of God are coming upon our world. The nations of the earth are to tremble. There will be trials and perplexities on every hand; men's hearts will fail them for fear. And what shall we do in that day? Though the earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and be removed like a cottage, if we have made God our trust, he will deliver us. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee. . . . For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

## **The rich man is not to glory in his riches**

If we fix our affections on worldly things, we fail to exalt Christ. Satan would keep our minds absorbed with the things of this life, that we may lose sight of the highest life; but we cannot afford to yield to his devices. Christ is the source of all temporal, as well as all spiritual blessings. If he has given us riches, it is not that we may claim them as our own. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and



where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Paul counted all things but loss that he might win Christ. But when the Saviour calls for our possessions and our service, there are many who see they cannot obey God and carry their earthly treasures with them, and they decide to stay by their treasures. Jesus left all his glory, and became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. But how few of his professed followers appreciate his great sacrifice! How few are willing to follow his example! How can those who expect to stand around Christ's throne, and to be clothed with his righteousness, distrust God, and fear that he will leave them to come to want? Where is their faith? Our Heavenly Father feeds the ravens, and will he not much more feed us? "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." If we had a right view of Christ, we would permit nothing to interpose between ourselves and him.

### **Who will stand for the truth?**

This is a time when the law of God is trodden under-foot; and the great question is, Who will stand for the truth? God is calling for volunteers. Who will respond? Those who study to see how near they can live to the



world and yet gain heaven, will come just near enough to be shut out from heaven. We must accept the suffering part of religion if we would sit down with the Suffering One upon his throne. When Christ has done so much for us, shall we refuse to serve him? Shall we not become co-laborers with him in the work he came from heaven to do? There is a great work to be done in the cities, and who is ready to engage in it? Christ says, "Ye are the light of the world." "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." If we will separate from the world, and renounce its sinful practices, God has pledged himself to receive us, and to work with our efforts.



### **Shall we not consecrate ourselves to God without reserve?**

Christ, the King of glory, gave himself a ransom for us. Can we withhold anything from him? Shall we think our poor, unworthy selves too precious, our time or property too valuable, to give to Jesus?--No, no; the deepest homage of our hearts, the most skillful service of our hands, our talents of ability and of means,--all are but too poor an offering to bring to Him who was slain and has "redeemed us to God by his blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Lift him up, my brethren, the Man of Calvary. Lift him up before the people, and by and by he will lift you up to his throne, and crown you with glory, honor, and immortality.

RH, March 15, 1887

# ***A Ten-dollar Testimony***

ANONYMOUS

Several years ago in the midst of a very brutal, snowy winter, I found myself without a husband, trying to provide for four young children and myself. He had abandoned us, cleaning out the checking account as he left town without warning. One Friday I realized I had just enough money for a few necessary groceries in addition to \$90 I had set aside in order to get our heating oil tank replenished as the gauge was dangerously hovering just above the empty line, and I knew it would not get us through the week-end to Monday which was my payday.

Since the oil company was on my way into town I stopped there first to place my order for oil as I had so many times before. "I'm sorry," said the clerk, "but our minimum order is \$100."

I hoped, since we had been regular trustworthy customers for several years, they could make an exception, but she stood firm. "But I could bring the other ten dollars on Monday." Still, the answer was no. My remaining few dollars had to be spent on food. Her answer remained the same and I finally left,

feeling very disheartened and desperate. How in the world could I keep my house and children warm through the week-end? I was very familiar with the limits of the heating oil tank and knew there was not much oil left in it.

As I pulled into a parking space in front of the grocery store, I broke down sobbing for a few minutes, feeling totally defeated and alone with my problem. Finally, I knew I had to pull myself together and buy the few necessities on my list and get back home. Crying was not fixing the situation. The thought crossed my mind just to go ahead and spend all of the money on groceries since I couldn't purchase heating oil that day anyway, but something held me back from doing that and I stuck to my short list, doing the math as I shopped.

Just as I was in line to check out, I glanced up to see someone waving to me a few registers over. An older Christian lady (who I had met maybe twice) a short distance away was trying to get my attention and I acknowledged her with a little smile and a wave, puzzled that she would even have recognized me. She kept motioning as if something was wrong so I kept my eyes on her as I paid. The expression on her face was troubled as she called over to me, "Don't leave until I get out to the parking lot. Don't leave!" "Alright," I answered, and she repeated the command again, more persistently as I was going out the door.

I barely made it to my car and opened the door to put my bags inside when she called to me across the parking lot, "Wait, don't leave!" I found this really puzzling



since I barely knew this lady, but I waited for her. She was approaching me hurriedly with a strange look on her face and was shaking her head as if something was seriously bothering her. I thought maybe she needed a ride.

As she got right next to me she took my gloved hand in hers and put something in my palm and wrapped my fingers around the object without my being able to see it and said, "Don't look – just take this and I don't want it back. I just have a strong feeling I am supposed to give this to you, and you can't give it back." With that she patted my closed hand and said, "Don't open your hand yet – not until I am gone", and off she hurried to her car with the same puzzled expression on her face, shaking her head.

I got in my car and carefully opened my hand, not knowing what to expect. A wadded up ten dollar bill!! My heart leaped!! "Oh, thank you, Jesus!!" The exact amount that I needed!

I looked at the time – it was a quarter to five, and the oil company closed promptly at five o'clock. I barely had time to make it if no traffic light stopped me, and I had to be careful because the roads were icy. I walked in the door at the oil company with four minutes to spare and the clerk shot me a disgusted look. She probably thought I was there to beg; instead I announced, "I have the whole \$100 and I need to order oil." "Oh, it's too late to order – the trucks are all on their way back in and won't have time to refill. You'll have to come back Monday." "No, I don't have enough fuel to last through the week-end. I really need the oil now." Just as she was about to speak again, a man on the other side of a glass partition who had been hearing my request stepped out and said, "There is a truck on her road right now heading back in with a partial load. The people who ordered it were not home and their tank is only accessible from inside the house, so he could not leave the oil; he has enough. Just radio him." I paid for my oil and headed carefully home and arrived at the same time the oil truck was pulling into my driveway.

"You are one lucky lady," said the driver.



"I was considering my day done and was just going to stop at my house for the night but remembered I needed something from the office. If I had stopped at home I would have turned off my radio."

I smiled and said, "Luck had nothing to do with it."

This event took place long before I ever even heard of Seventh-day Adventism, though I was a study-at-home Christian. This episode of many in my life strengthened my belief and trust in God and I knew He was watching over me and my precious children. I have not always maintained strong faith, but when it waivers and I recall this incident in my life I am strengthened all over again.

*Your grace and mercy brought me through,  
I'm living this moment because of You,  
So I want to thank You, and praise You, too,  
For Your grace and mercy brought me through.*



**Do you have a testimony to share for the encouragement of others? If you do, we would love to hear from you and print it in an upcoming issue. Please send submissions to [assistanteditor@hopeint.org](mailto:assistanteditor@hopeint.org)**



# EXCERPTS FROM **SKETCHES OF JEWISH SOCIAL LIFE TRAVELING IN PALESTINE - HOSPITALITY**

**ALFRED EDERSHEIM**

Alfred Edersheim, 7 March 1825 – 16 March 1889,  
was a Jewish convert to Christianity and a Biblical scholar.

The command, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers," had a special meaning. Israel was always distinguished for hospitality; and not only the Bible, but the Rabbis, enjoin this in the strongest terms. In Jerusalem no man was to account a house as only his own; and it was said, that during the pilgrim-feasts none ever wanted ready reception. The tractate *Aboth* (1.5), mentions these as two out of the three sayings of Jose, the son of Jochanan, of Jerusalem: "Let thy house be wide open, and let the poor be the children of thy house." Readers of the New Testament will be specially interested to know, that, according to the Talmud, Bethphage and Bethany, to which in this respect such loving memories cling, were specially celebrated for their hospitality towards the festive pilgrims. In Jerusalem it seems to have been the custom to hang a curtain in front of the door, to indicate that there was still room for guests. Some went so far as to suggest, there should be four doors to every house, to bid welcome to travellers from all directions. The host would go to meet an

expected guest, and again accompany him part of the way (Acts 21:5). The Rabbis declared that hospitality involved as great, and greater merit than early morning attendance in an academy of learning. They could scarcely have gone farther, considering the value they attached to study. Of course, here also the Rabbinical order had the preference; and hospitably to entertain a sage, and to send him away with presents, was declared as meritorious as to have offered the daily sacrifices.

But let there be no misunderstanding. So



far as the duty of hospitality is concerned, or the loving care for poor and sick, it were impossible to take a higher tone than that of Rabbinism. Thus it was declared, that “the entertainment of travellers was as great a matter as the reception of the *Shechinah*.” This gives a fresh meaning to the admonition of the Epistle addressed specially to the Hebrews (13:2): “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Bearing on this subject, one of the oldest Rabbinical commentaries has a very beautiful gloss on Psalm 109:31: “He shall stand at the right hand of the poor.” “Whenever,” we read, “a poor man stands at thy door, the Holy One, blessed be His Name, stands at his right hand. If thou givest him alms, know that thou shalt receive a reward from Him who standeth at his right hand.” In another commentary God Himself and His angels are said to visit the sick. The Talmud itself counts hospitality among the things of which the reward is received alike in this life and in that which is to come, while in another passage we are bidden imitate God in these

four respects: He clothed the naked (Gen 3:21); He visited the sick (Gen 18:1); He comforted the mourners (Gen 25:11); and He buried the dead (Deu 34:6).

In treating of hospitality, the Rabbis display, as in so many relations of life, the utmost tenderness and delicacy, mixed with a delightful amount of shrewd knowledge of the world and quaint humour. As a rule, they enter here also into full details. Thus the very manner in which a host is to bear himself towards his guests is prescribed. He is to look pleased when entertaining his guests, to wait upon them himself, to promise little and to give much, etc. At the same time it was also caustically added: “Consider all men as if they were robbers, but treat them as if each were Rabbi Gamaliel himself!” On the other hand, rules of politeness and gratitude are equally laid down for the guests. “Do not throw a stone,” it was said, “into the spring at which you have drunk”; or this, “A proper guest acknowledges all, and saith, ‘At what trouble my host has been, and all for my sake!’— an evil visitor remarks: ‘Bah! what trouble has he taken?’

Then, after enumerating how little he has had in the house, he concludes; ‘And, after all, it was not done for me, but only for his wife and children!’”. Indeed, some of the sayings in this connection are remarkably parallel to the directions which our Lord gave to His disciples on going forth upon their mission (Luke 10:5-11, and parallels). Thus, one was to inquire for the welfare of the family; not to go from house to house; to eat of such things as were set before one; and, finally, to part with a blessing.



# Worship Him That Made Heaven, and Earth, and the Sea, and the Fountains of Waters!

BY JERRY O'DONNELL



## Get out there with the full armor of God!

Sure, we love to quote Ephesians 6:10-18, but do we use it properly? We probably hear much about the warfare being the Lord's battle in the context of us Christians just letting God do all the fighting. Nonsense! He didn't fight for Israel without the human element. People still marched around Jericho. David still went up against Goliath. So it is today. If we think we can sit back and wait for the second coming or even wait for the organized church to be ready to go to battle, it will never happen. And that is what Satan wants us to be doing – waiting. Keep in mind, David went up against Goliath alone. If Moses would have let Joshua and Caleb go up into the promised land when Caleb said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Numbers 13:30), I believe those two alone would have been able to conquer the whole land. Gideon went to battle with a mere three hundred men and won!

So put on the whole armor of God and go forth to battle. Is that aggressively? Yes. And defensively. This is what is meant by people not knowing how to use the armor – the armor is not just for defending. When error comes our way, put up the shield while slashing with the sword, or Word of God! At the same time, we ought

to go forth "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16) seeking souls in deception and slash with the sword, or Word of God, once again revealing truth to them.

Therefore, proper use of the armor is for both defending and going forward proclaiming the truth. We were not given the Three Angels' Messages for our own benefit. These messages are to go forth into the world for it is "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

And one topic that we need to be more aggressive on instead of apologizing for is revealed in proper worship.

## What does it mean to worship Him?

The exact phrase is, "Worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Revelation 14:7). Did you know that the phrase, "Made heaven, and earth, and the sea" appears exactly five times in the Bible? You read one of them. Three others simply state that we ought to worship Him (Psalms 146:6, Acts 4:24, and Acts 14:15). But one gives us guidance on how to properly worship Him. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy



son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11) [emphasis added].

It is the fourth commandment, which tells us which day, the seventh; how, by resting and having others rest in our household, including non-Sabbath-keeping visitors; and it tells us to be active the other six days. We are to keep it holy with thoughts upon holy things, instead of secular, for the whole day. Thinking of going to the store after the Sabbath is secular, while remembering the contents of a sermon is holy. We ought to participate in holy activity and not secular. So, going to a sporting event is secular, while visiting someone in a nursing home is holy. Also, sleeping away the Sabbath hours counts towards secular, for the hours are for a holy purpose. Normal amount of sleep is one thing, but getting extra sleep because of late nights the other six nights is wrong.

So, first things first. Seventh-day Adventists need to be keeping the Sabbath properly before teaching others. Unfortunately, there is a counterfeit Sabbath service which is laboring for neighbors on the Sabbath – like painting a house, helping people move, and other kind deeds. But they are no kinder than that of "Uzzah" who "put forth [his hand] to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook [it]. And the anger of the LORD was



kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for [his] error; and there he died by the ark of God" (2 Samuel 6:6-7). While avoiding creating a list of Pharisaical laws, certainly there are a lot of activities happening during Sabbath hours that are wrong, all in the name of kindness.

How many, after church, watch regular TV? How many allow their children to play with non-Adventist children? How many make no distinction between regular and Sabbath activities? How many read and watch news causing unnecessary stress? How many listen to political talk, etc.? All this is done on the Sabbath and should not be. There are six days in which to conduct these things. The Sabbath is not a recreational day; it is a holy day!

"Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I [am] the LORD that sanctify them" (Ezekiel 20:12). What did Ezekiel really say? Sabbath acknowledges that the Lord sanctifies. Every day we ought to become holier people, but on the Sabbath there should be no excuse why we cannot double, triple, quadruple that experience. By keeping the Sabbath truly holy allows His people to experience more of the sanctifying power.

The last moments are upon us. We are in a great warfare as we speak. We need to "[be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope" (1 Peter 3:15), yet so many say, "I never will be able to give a Bible lesson to anyone for I don't know





where in the scriptures to go to.” Well, during the Sabbath, learn how. Practice, practice, practice. Study, study, study. Get study guides; set up a pretend audience; and practice the presentation. Become familiar with the verses unbelievers use. There is no excuse to be uneducated.

### **Can't give the holy message without being holy**

When we encourage others to keep the Sabbath, it is a holy message. We cannot teach a holy message if we are not keeping it holy ourselves. That would be hypocritical, remembering that God, angels, and other worlds observe our private Sabbath keeping.

Let us start off with an easy statement that “We should jealously guard the edges of the Sabbath” {6T 356.1}. So, do we do our thing right up to the minute Sabbath begins, and the minute the Sabbath is over run for the world? Just how much time ought to be allotted on either side of the Sabbath? There is no specific requirement, but know, “Before the setting of the sun let the members of the family assemble to read God’s word, to sing and pray” {CCh 264.1}. “As the sun goes down [at the close of the Sabbath], let the voice of prayer and the hymn of praise mark the close of the sacred hours and invite God’s presence through the cares of the week of labor” {CCh 264.3}. That is more than five minutes, even more than fifteen. Is it a half hour or an hour? What would the Sabbath experience be like if we spent one hour at the start with the process of pushing out

of our minds all of the cares of the world that bombard us all week long? To allow our minds to carry the worldly cares into the Sabbath hours is breaking the Sabbath. If you need to remember things, write it down, and then put it out of the mind.

Now for a controversial Sabbath guideline. “On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule you can do it. The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun let all secular work be laid aside and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment.” {6T 355.3}

The excuse of Sabbath bathing today because it is much easier to jump in a shower and out as compared to the old tub misses the point. Look at the quote again. Is it not true that we ought to avoid mending on the Sabbath? Should we not avoid polishing shoes on the Sabbath? Should not our Sabbath clothing already be picked out so there is no running around in the morning trying to match socks or stockings, having shoes without marks? And should not all the cooking that can be done prior be completed on the preparation day? So are you saying that because of modern



convenience, the only item left in the list is now permissible on the Sabbath? Something is wrong somewhere in the logic. First, if a family is prone to showering in the morning, do you even sense the chaos involved in everyone, especially where parents and a few kids are included, all trying to get their showers before going out the door? Do you sense the arguing if someone takes a little extra time, like a teenager? Even if a family takes their showers at night, is Sabbath welcomed with a quick prayer and then the rest of the night is having one after another spending time apart in the bathroom doing who knows what in addition to a shower or bath? The Sabbath was meant for togetherness and not to be treated like any other night of the week where there is bickering about who is next in the bathroom. And for those who still compare the work involved as an allowance today because there is not as much work, try cleaning up a bathroom after young kids are done bathing. There is a lot to clean up with wet towels, water on the floor, ring around the tub, possibly drippy toys to put away, etc.

Are we not the temple of the Lord? “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God” (1 Corinthians 3:16). So the answer is “Yes”. Could you imagine in temple times the priest announcing, “The Sabbath is here; time now to prepare the temple for Sabbath service for the morning. Let me get the soap and bucket of water.” Of course not. That is what the day of preparation was for and is all about. And there is the symbolic relationship of bathing.



Our temples, bodies, ought to be clean and presentable for Sabbath. Basically what it comes down to is when one loves the Sabbath, one will practice things to make it special, and the more one treats the Sabbath special, the greater the blessing.

Much more on Sabbath keeping could be revealed but it would take up every page of this magazine for quite a few months, especially if the spiritual reason for everything were provided. And this would not even be a list of rules like the Pharisees developed, but informative guidelines to get one started.

As Adventists, we present the Sabbath to new converts in such a way that we want to be careful to not give them a list of do's and don'ts because we do not want to be like the Pharisees. But what is the result? Speaking from personal experience, our evangelist stressed how much we are to rest from our labors and to faithfully work six days a week. That translated to long afternoon naps because we were not allowed to go shopping, pay to enter any place, be active in sports, etc. Only through some of the Bible texts, as well as a lot of what Ellen White wrote, did that concept turn around. Now studying and reading of religious material on the Sabbath has increased, nature walks are almost a must (weather permitting), visiting the sick and others, getting video sermons and presentations, and so on, now create a new situation. There are not enough hours in the Sabbath to experience it all. Praise the Lord!



### Give the cry!

Now that one realizes that before one can go preaching the Sabbath message, one must be a true Sabbath keeper, let us talk about presenting the Sabbath message.

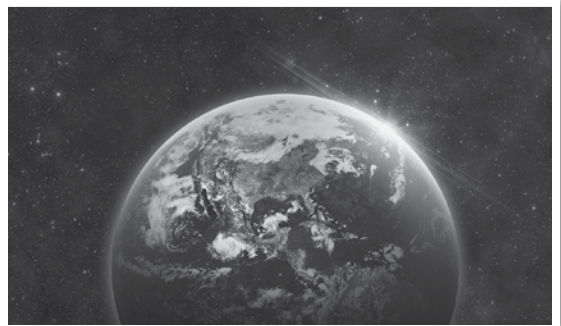
The devil has been quite active in the area of confusion and one needs to know who they are addressing and then how to help them out of the deception. There are a number of categories that people fall into and just saying, "The seventh day is the Sabbath and we are to keep it" is not good enough. If it were, we would have so many more people keeping the seventh day Sabbath.

One obvious Sabbath breaking group is the Catholics. Many of them may know that the Sabbath is Saturday but they observe Saturday night as well as Sunday because they go along with the traditions of the church. A revelation of antichrist directly, even playing the guessing game, may not work beyond being labeled a hate monger. Further, when "antichrist" is brought up to many Catholics, an "I'm not into that stuff" wall goes up. A softer approach would be to provide a history lesson of the transition. Using the term "antichrist" as defined in John's epistles as a truth-versus-error, or truth-versus-lies doctrine instead of a Christ-versus- doctrines-of-man-issue just may go a lot further. This defuses the wall when the "big bad future antichrist" image is in their minds. This requires a bit of knowledge in ancient Roman actions when they were trying

to preserve the empire, acts of Constantine, and the hatred for the Jews at the time. Nothing need be extensive, but it does need to be made interesting. For a quick guide, try watching Amazing Facts, "The Bride, The Beast & Babylon".

Another obvious group of Sabbath breakers is the staunch, church-attending, commandments-nailed-to-the-cross, "saved-by-grace-alone" crowd. Again, stating the fact about the seventh day Sabbath will have little to no effect but will come across as being works oriented, or the product of Judaizers, and legalists. Undermining "once saved, always saved" along with establishing that nowhere does the Bible state that grace alone saves unless it incorporates justification, forgiveness of sin, along with sanctification, which is holy living, is something they do not want to hear. Once holy living is expected and required of a true Christian, then the commandments can be taken down from being "nailed to the cross", which they never really were, and then we can work our way to the fourth commandment. Here, the establishment of a day and not just a church service time needs to be covered. Additionally, keeping the day holy is different from a day of recreation.

Now here is the not-so-obvious group and which is the "anti-church-organization" Christians. These Christians think they are fine as they are being a separate atom. Some have discovered the Sabbath, but many simply work all seven days. They claim to have their own





personal relationship. Do not approach them in any manner to win them to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. First, the present apostasy in the church will definitely scare them away if they even dare to step foot into a church. Second, it will look to them like we are no different than any other denomination, which are after people for their money – at least that is what they are thinking. So a better approach is to come off strongly and clearly that you have no intention of getting them to join your church. Social events should not even be mentioned. Besides, even if our church contained nothing but perfect souls, who is it that actually gets people to join the church? “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47). It is God. So stop trying to do the Lord’s job. Our job is to sow the seed, and water (1 Corinthians 3:6). So a good way to approach them is in a manner of comparing notes. Start off with the fact that all of God’s children are to believe the same thing. Make it clear that such are part of God’s church and not a denominational tag. Remind them that “in the multitude of counselors [there is] safety” (Proverbs 11:14). Then do topic by topic studies starting with a few that you are in agreement with to gain their confidence. It does not hurt to ask feeler-type questions so that you know ahead of time if you agree or not, but be careful not to open things up in which you lose control. The space alien believers, lost tribe of Israel believers, and other fringe type believers are tough to bring

back on topic once control is lost to them. Keep in mind, as you feel out the person, do not try to correct any beliefs at this time. You are simply searching for topics to start with.

One last group to mention, of course, is the non-believer. They can be atheist or of another religion. Prophecy may be the only option if they are open to it. Many atheists are anti-papacy, even former Catholics. Show them how the Bible predicted all of this mess with antichrist, but go beyond. Show how worldliness would come into Christianity so much so that Christians would come off as “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5). Tell the non-believer that atheism was predicted to grow because when such people see these hypocrites, it is enough to turn anyone away. Eventually, working to undermine evolution will be necessary through the seven day weekly cycle and eventually culminate with the Sabbath subject.

There are many other groups that fall in between and more detail could be given to present the Sabbath, but the limits of written pages forbid such details. Besides, you do not want to be a lazy Adventist now, do you? You are to “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). I am not to do all the work in writing it out in these articles for you to regurgitate to others. So, blessings upon your personal preparation.



## The Appetites

DANIEL T. BOURDEAU

The all-wise Creator has implanted in our natures certain appetites, and it is evident that they were designed to help in perpetuating our existence, in promoting our well-being, and in carrying out the great object for which we were made.

As the appetites are peculiar to the body, it is clear that they were made to be governed by reason. Their very nature forbids the idea of their leading the man, and shows that they should be in subjection to the higher faculties of our beings. But in consequence of the fall and the inroads that sin has made in the children of men, the appetites are naturally inclined to go beyond the limits assigned unto them, and usurp the authority of the higher faculties. Sanctification brings the appetites within



their proper limits – under the direction and control of enlightened reason.

Whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we should do all to the glory of God. Now to do this we must, as far as possible, eat and drink that which is sanitary, and avoid intemperance. We should consult the stomach and the state of the health more than the appetites; for it is not always what suits the appetites the best, that is most conducive to the health of the body. We should select for the appetites, and cultivate and cherish a taste for healthy food.

We should eat and drink more for need than for pleasure. If pleasure is the great end we have in view, then we do not eat and drink to the glory of God, but to the glory of our appetites. Then eating and drinking becomes an inordinate action, because it is not in the way to the end for which it was designed.

In view of these principles what shall we conclude concerning those parents who are almost constantly humoring their children in satisfying their appetites with so many niceties which injure the health and undermine the constitution? Are they not guilty of creating in them unsanctified appetites? Would it not be better for those parents to select good, plain, wholesome food for their children, and feed them only when they really need food, though it may not suit the taste so well at first? And





what shall we say of the appetite for spirituous liquors which dethrones reason, degrades the body and the mind, and has brought so many to an untimely grave? Are those who possess this appetite sanctified?

And shall we overlook the appetites for tea and tobacco? Were these articles made to be used as they are now used? No candid person who has given this subject a careful perusal will say that they were. These herbs, like all other stimulants, nerve up the system and leave a depression behind. Besides, tobacco is a rank poison, as it has often been proved; and the poisonous ingredients with which tea is often prepared, add to the impropriety of using it as a beverage. But we are to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh, as we have seen, and if the common use of tobacco does not produce filthiness of the flesh, what does? But if the appetites for tea, tobacco and spirituous liquors should be overcome because they injure the health, should not the appetites for unhealthy meats or other hurtful articles be overcome for the same reason?

The Saviour, while giving a description of the last days, says, "As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage until the day that

Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all." Luke xvii, 26, 27. It was not wrong for the Antediluvians to eat and drink to maintain their existence; and marriage was as sacred and honorable in the days of Noah as it was when God instituted it in Eden. The great sin of the Antediluvians consisted in going to excess in these things. And is it not so with the masses at the present times? Look at the excess in eating and drinking. Look at those persons of good health whose exquisite taste accepts only the nicest of food, and often causes much perplexity to those who are called upon to satisfy it. Look at the pains taken, and the means expended, and worse than thrown away, to suit the taste and palate, as though the great object of life was to eat and drink and enjoy the pleasures of the appetites.

The Scriptures are very clear on the importance of governing the appetites. Our first parents fell, in lusting after and eating the forbidden fruit. The Israelites were not satisfied with the plain, wholesome manna: they loathed this bread from Heaven, longed for flesh, and murmured against God, and awful consequences followed. And we are told that "these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted." 1 Cor. x, 6.



The sons of Eli were not satisfied with sodden or boiled flesh: they wanted raw flesh, that they might roast it with fire. It was not unlawful to desire meat roasted, but when it was appointed to be boiled, they refused it, thus evincing intemperance and a nice palate. "Wherefore," says the record, "the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord; for men abhorred the offering of the Lord." 1 Sam. ii, 12-17.

Prov. xxiii, 1, 2. "When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee; and put a knife to thy throat if thou be a man given to appetite;" or as the French translation reads, "else thou shalt put a knife to thy throat, if thy appetite rules thee." And what can be the meaning of this wonderful proverb, unless it is this, that he who sits to eat with a ruler (before "dainties" or "deceitful meat," verse 3), and suffers an unsanctified appetite to control him, is guilty of the same crime that he would be if he literally cut his throat with his knife? That is, he is self-murdered. He must feel the effects of his excess sooner or later.

Some followed Christ for the loaves and fishes; but he said unto them, "Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life." Jno. vi, 26. We are



admonished to not be like Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. Heb. xii, 16. We should take heed lest we lose eternal life and the rich blessings connected with it, for the gratification of unsanctified appetites. Christ is a pattern of self-

denial. "When he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered." And the tempter came to him and said, "If thou be the Son of man, command that these stones be made bread." How trying this must have been to the Son of God. How refreshing a morsel of bread would have been to him in his exhausted condition. But did he yield? No: It was forbidden fruit. He answered, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. vi.

When famine comes on the earth according to the word of the Lord, Joel i, 14-20, many articles that are now used will have to be dispensed with, and is it not consistent to deny ourselves now and overcome those

appetites that injure the body and the mind, and prevent many from desiring and appreciating the lasting pleasures enjoyed in the service of God? Shall we be prepared to meet the Lord if we are slaves to lust?



1864 DTB, SLH 43-47

# WORDS OF THE PIONEERS



## Rome Never Changes

ONE of the most significant of our "Significant Paragraphs," this week, is that in which it is related that a Methodist preaching, in Ohio, exclaimed at a recent camp meeting: "God bless the Roman Catholic Church of to-day."

"Rome never changes." The Roman Catholic Church of to-day is, *according to her own boast*, the Roman Catholic Church of the Middle Ages. Cardinal Gibbons says, in "The Faith of Our Fathers," page 71:—"Perpetuity, or duration till the end of time, is one of the most striking marks of the Church. By perpetuity is not meant merely that Christianity in one form or another was always to exist, but that the Church was to remain forever in its integrity, clothed with all the attributes which God gave it in the beginning. For, if the Church lost any of her essential characteristics. . . she could not be said to be perpetual, because she would not be the same institution."

Again, on page 83 of the same book, we find these words:—"Amid the continual changes in human institutions, she [the Roman Catholic Church] is the one institution that never changes. . . She has seen monarchies changed into republics, and republics consolidated into empires— all this has she witnessed, while her own divine constitution has remained unaltered."

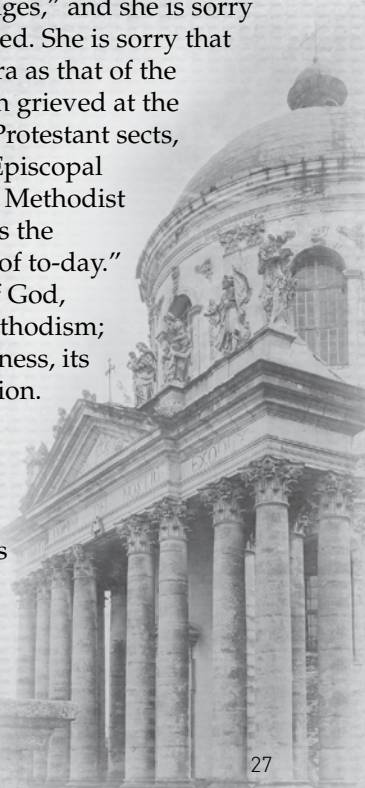
That Rome adapts herself in some measure to different ages is true; but that she changes in character is not true. Her doctrines, her purposes are the same now as the Middle Ages, and if she could she would push back

the car of human progress to the position it occupied when she dominated the civilized world, and the Inquisition tortured its victims and hunted its enemies where it would. Says Brownson, a Roman Catholic writer, whose work is on sale in all Catholic book stores: "Always will the period from the sixth to the end of the fifteenth century stand out as most glorious in the annals of the race."—*Liberalism and the Church*, page 182.

No, "Rome never changes," and she is sorry that the world has changed. She is sorry that there was ever such an era as that of the Reformation. She is much grieved at the existence of the various Protestant sects, of which the Methodist Episcopal Church is one. And yet a Methodist preacher says, "God bless the Roman Catholic Church of to-day."

If Rome is the Church of God, there is no excuse for Methodism; its inception was wickedness, its continuance is presumption. But if Rome is, as the Scriptures characterize her, "the mystery of iniquity," "the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth," how dare any man bearing the name of Protestant, bid her God speed?

September 27, 1894 ATJ, AMS 304



## Facebook job ads suggest ‘mind reading’ social networks could soon be a reality

Facebook wants to read your mind and is developing the capability to do so at a hardware division in California focused on brain computer interface technology.

Recruitment ads at the facility for a number of neuroscience based positions have sparked speculation that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg’s dream of telepathic communication through technology could be on its way.

So if you thought Facebook already knows too much about you be prepared for things to be taken to the next level.

Several open job postings seeking “slightly impatient” individuals are currently listed for a two year technical project.

A brain-computer interface engineer is sought to work in the area of “neuroimaging”

and “electrophysiological data” while another position of neural imaging engineer is seeking professionals to develop non-invasive neural imaging methods.

The project is also seeking a haptics specialist to help the company use touch interactions to build “realistic and immersive” experiences.

In a Q&A last year Zuckerberg described how people would be able to “capture a thought... in its ideal and perfect form in your head and share

that with the world.”

*“One day, I believe we’ll be able to send full rich thoughts to each other directly using technology. You’ll just be able to think of something and your friends will immediately be able to experience it too if you’d like,” he said.*



**END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:** Who should be in charge of our thoughts? The Spirit of Prophecy tells us: “You should control your thoughts. This will not be an easy task; you cannot accomplish it without close and even severe effort. Yet God requires this of you; it is a duty resting upon every accountable being. You are responsible to God for your thoughts.” AH 335

“We should ever keep in mind that unseen agencies are at work, both evil and good, to take the control of the mind. They act with unseen yet effectual power. Good angels are ministering spirits, exerting a heavenly influence upon heart and mind; while the great adversary of souls, the devil, and his angels are continually laboring to accomplish our destruction. . . . While we should be keenly alive to our exposure to the assaults of unseen and invisible foes, we are to be sure that they cannot harm us without gaining our consent.” AH 405



## Trump's Inaugural Address

CNN Jan. 21, 2017 – “Today’s ceremony, however, has very special meaning. Because today we are not merely transferring power from one administration to another, or from one party to another -- but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the American People.”



**EDITOR’S COMMENT:** We are mimicking the time just prior to the French Revolution, and heading toward the same end as we can read from the Spirit of Prophecy below. Trump is promising to put the balance of power back into the hands of the American people. While it sounds good, we must study the result during the French Revolution. The same outcome will come to our country.

**END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:** “At the opening of the (French) Revolution, by a concession of the king, the people were granted a representation exceeding that of the nobles and the clergy combined. Thus the balance of power was in their hands; but they were not prepared to use it with wisdom and moderation.” GC 282.1

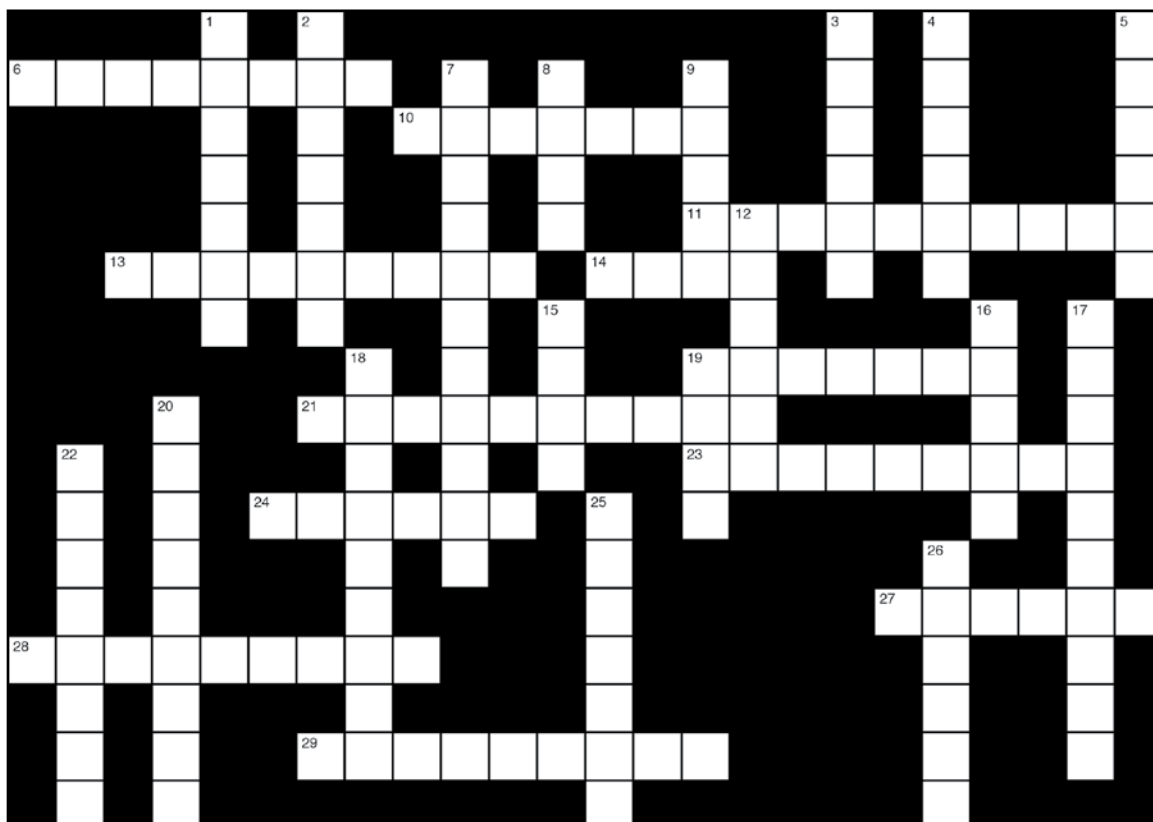
## Pope sends message to popular movements meeting in California



We must become good neighbours to any person in need. That was Pope Francis’ message to the leaders of popular movements that are working for structural changes in society to promote greater social, economic and racial justice.

**END-TIME PERSPECTIVE:** “Eager to redress the wrongs they had suffered, they determined to undertake the reconstruction of society. An outraged populace, whose minds were filled with bitter and long-treasured memories of wrong, resolved to revolutionize the state of misery that had grown unbearable and to avenge themselves upon those whom they regarded as the authors of their sufferings. The oppressed wrought out the lesson they had learned under tyranny and became the oppressors of those who had oppressed them.” GC 282.1

# CHRISTIAN CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

6. Rachel was the mother of Joseph and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The father of James and John.
11. The assembly-point in the apocalyptic scene of the great day of God Almighty.
13. A collection of 15 Jewish books not included in the Bible.
14. A slender plant which trails on the ground or climbs supports.
19. An Old Testament city which lay in the Carmel range SSE of Haifa.
21. A word occurring ten times in Genesis in such a way to divide it into eleven sections.
23. A process of bringing those who are estranged into unity.
24. A range of hills extending from Mediterranean to the plain of Dothan.
27. The daughter of Amram and Jochebed.
28. The father of John the baptist.
29. A list of names indicating the ancestors or descendants of an individual.

## DOWN

1. A city on the river Euphrates 80 km south of modern Baghdad.
2. A subterranean reservoir for storing water.
3. The subordinate official in charge of Daniel and his companions.
4. A language of the Old Testament.
5. The home of great dramatists and great philosophers.
7. The king of Salem and priest of 'God Most High'.
8. The third son of Adam and Eve.
9. A son of Abraham by Keturah.
12. To be sorry or change one's mind.
15. A wealthy landowner, hero of the book of Ruth.
16. The alleged author of the Pentateuch.
17. The blind beggar at Jericho healed by Jesus.
18. An unfit or disqualified person in the Bible.
19. An 18th century B.C. son of Lot by his incestuous relationship with his daughter.

20. An act of effrontery in which the honor of God is insulted.
22. The name of a Jerusalem pool near the Sheep Gate.
25. The third king of Israel (c. 971-931 BC).
26. The mother of Gad and Asher.

ANSWERS FROM CHRISTIAN  
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# Something to think about

BY REEN SWINDLE, ASSISTANT EDITOR



If you have ever eaten popcorn I'm sure you have done what everyone in my family does – you take the bowl or bag and shake it. Why do we do that? To get the biggest, fattest kernels to rise to the top. The best ones. That separation of the sizes is referred to in science as granular size separation or granular convection, or more commonly, the popcorn effect. Some scientists refer to it as the Brazil nut effect, since it is quite noticeable that Brazil nuts always rise to the top in a can of mixed nuts. The effect is not limited to popcorn and nuts – it applies to any assortment of particles, pebbles, screws, quarters in a can of change, etc.

Did you ever wonder how that happens? How can the biggest kernels of popcorn and the biggest, heaviest nuts rise to the top? Why aren't they graduated according to size or weight in the opposite direction – smallest on the top, medium sized in the middle, and the largest ones on the bottom? That would seem to make more sense, wouldn't it? Heavier particles on the bottom. However, weight has little to do with it. The larger and heavier pieces will always end up on top partly because the small particles, when the mix is shaken, come together and form a loose bond, actually sort of pushing the larger ones to the top by filling in all the little gaps caused by the shaking. There are actually several slightly different theories among scientists as to how this actually happens.

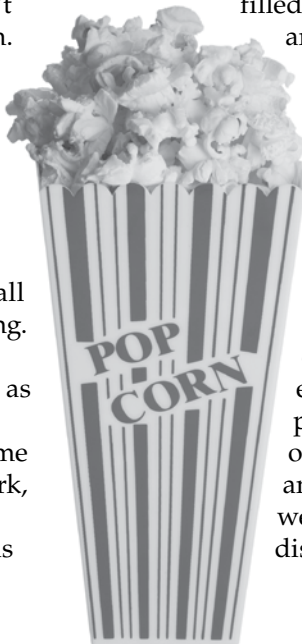
God's people are in a shaking time right now, but there is no guesswork, no theories about how it happens; we are told exactly what causes this

shaking and the result: "I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people." CET 176.1

Just because they "rise up against it" does not mean they rise to the top. We are also told who will rise to the top during this shaking and who will sink to the bottom: "Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks." CET 1922

"The mighty shaking has commenced, and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth, and to sacrifice for God and his cause." SpTA O2a, 1892

This is, in effect, what happens with the popcorn. We savor the fully developed kernels on top, and we end up discarding the undeveloped particles on the bottom. The choice is ours – we can develop our spirituality and rise to the top and be saved, or we can remain undeveloped and be discarded, or thrown out in the end.





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*“It is by His power  
that vegetation is  
caused to flourish, that  
every leaf appears and  
every flower blooms.”*

8T 260