

Editor's Corner



the last several weeks, I have been focusing my personal devotion time on the science of salvation. How am I saved? What is justification and sanctification and how do these processes work in my life? What is the true correlation between faith and works? It seems a fitting topic considering that 2017 is the 500th year anniversary of the reformation and it is this very issue that brought Martin Luther to the point where he nailed his 95 Theses to the Wittenberg church door.

As far as I can tell, the key ingredient to the plan of salvation can be summed up in 3 little words:

Look and Live

These words, of course, come from the story of the Israelites bitten by snakes in the desert. Moses erected the bronze serpent on a stake and anyone who looked at the symbol was instantly healed of the poison of the venom. Surprisingly enough, not everyone looked, despite the simple remedy.

I wonder how many of the Israelites really understood the lesson. Later the bronze serpent became something of an idol to them, so obviously they missed the point.

But we should not. Look and live is how we must live every moment of every day. Listen to what the Spirit of Prophecy says:

"The sense of sin has poisoned the springs of life. But Christ says, 'I will take your sins; I will give you peace. I have bought you with My blood. You are Mine. My grace shall strengthen your weakened will; your remorse for sin I will remove.'

When temptations assail you, when care and perplexity surround you, when, depressed and discouraged, you are ready to yield to despair, **look to Jesus**, and the darkness that encompasses you will be dispelled by the bright shining of His presence.

Our aim is to urge men and women to stand for truth and resist error. We pray that in times of serious compromise our ministry will equip you with solid information on current end-time issues and trends, and encourage you to live a life apart from worldly influences.

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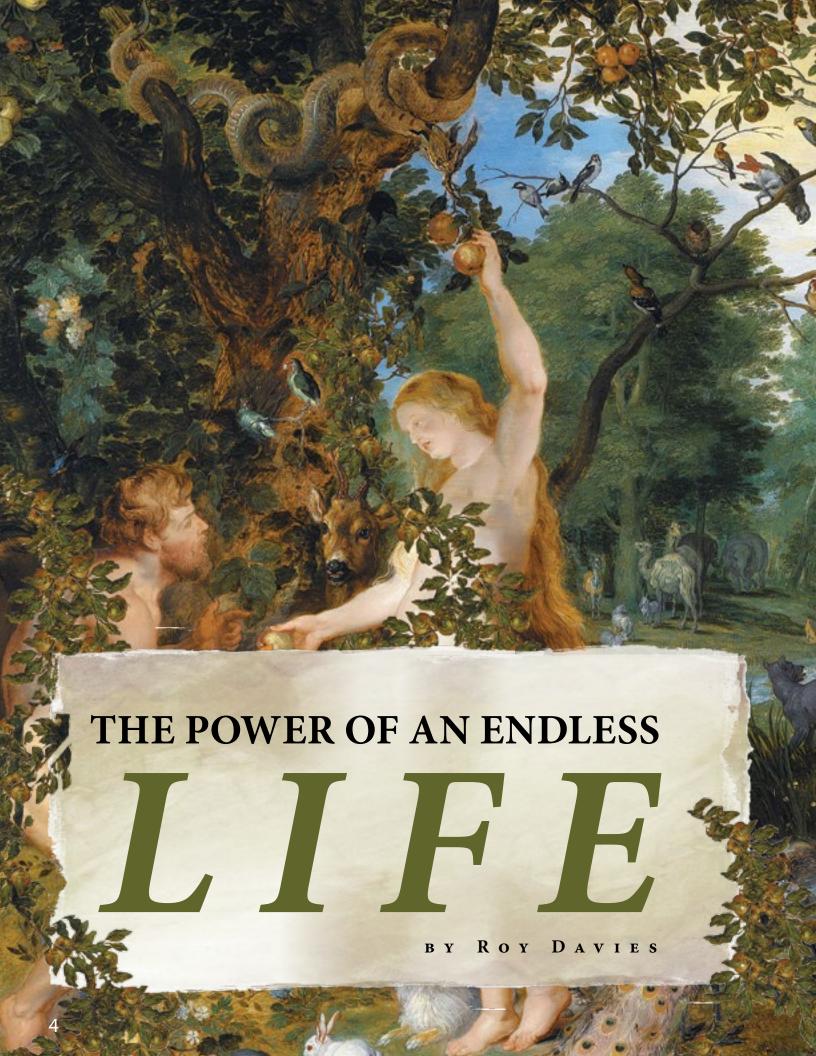




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return. Daily he is watching the roadway to see if the prodigal has remembered the love that the father had bestowed upon him since his childhood. Then one day, in the distance, 'a great way off' he sees his wayward son returning home. He rushes out to meet him and falls on his neck and kisses him. The son's response is "I am not worthy to be called thy son." In his joyfulness the father said to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet, and bring forth the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat and be merry: for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost; and is found. And they began to be merry."

This parable has a powerful message for His church in these last days. Both sons are lost, only the younger son came to himself and realized his desperate need to return home. The oldest son was jealous and angry and would not enter into the home for this joyous occasion. He thought he was more worthy than his brother because of his past service for his father. These are two classes of professed believers in the church. One class believes their just service gives them right to the father's love and affection. The other class represented by the younger son recognized his need of his father's love and returned home in his rags to receive a feast and total acceptance by his loving father. Soon after 1844 and 1888, we could, as a church, have been in the Promised Land because Jesus Christ could have come and taken us home. The time clock of heaven had almost struck its midnight hour. It was time for "the mystery of God to be finished as He hath declare to His servants the prophets." Rev 10:7. What is this mystery that should be finished? The apostle Paul tells us what this mystery is, "Christ in you the hope of glory." (Col 1:27).

In 1844 Christ, our High Priest, entered into the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary to do a work of judgment. In this work of judgment He was to blot out our sins and bestow upon His church the gift of the Holy Spirit in latter rain power, which would

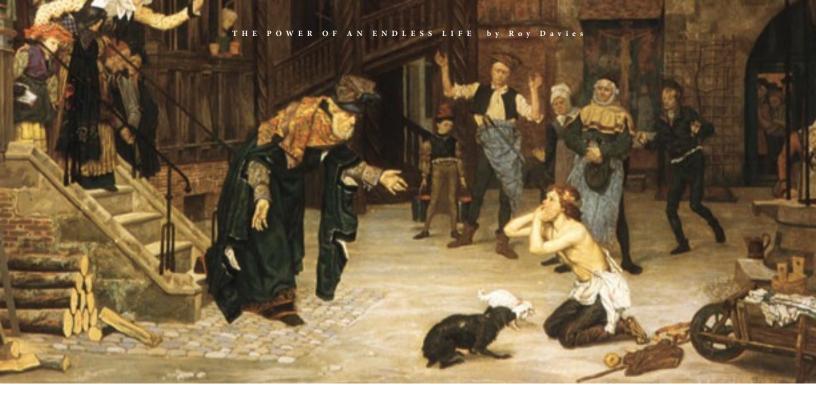


be like a second Pentecost. Before this can happen, there must be a putting away of sin in the camp of modern Israel—the SDA church. The words of the apostle Peter come home with force to our generation, "Repent ye therefore and be converted in order that your sins may be blotted out that times of refreshing (the latter rain) shall come from the presence of the Lord and He



shall send Jesus Christ, which was preached unto you: whom the heavens must receive until the time of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:19-21. The falling of the latter rain adds power to the preaching of the everlasting gospel which must be given with a loud cry to the world (EW 271). The sleeping saints in the fallen churches in Babylon must be called out of Babylon and join with those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (Rev 14:12).

In the beginning of time it was not God's plan that man should live only three score and ten years or nine hundred and thirty years, but to live eternally without tasting sin or its consequences (Rom 6:23). Those who receive the latter rain of the Holy Spirit will have to overcome every besetting sin and will be fitted for Translation (IT 187). If we fail to receive the latter rain



The Return-of-the-Prodigal-Son-1862, James Tissot

we will be lost. Those who pass through the time of trouble will live without a mediator and must be truly converted and living up to every ray of light shed upon their pathway (EW 71).

In the time of Abraham there appeared a mysterious person by the name of Melchisedec. After Abraham returned from the slaughter of the kings he paid tithes to him. This mysterious person who has no beginning of days nor end of life was made like unto the Son of God abideth as priest forever (Hebrews 7:3).

Unlike the Levitical priesthood which was subject to death, the Melchisedec priesthood is an everlasting priesthood. Like Jesus the son of God, "He is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8.

This priesthood is not made after a carnal commandment but after the power of an endless life (*Hebrews 7:16*). This blessing God wants to bestow upon His people in the

reception of the latter rain (*EW* 271). These showers of blessing bring the seed to perfection because it completes the work of grace in the soul (*TM* 506). The 144,000 share the full benefits of this high priestly ministry of Christ in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary (*GC* 430).

If you expect to be a saint in heaven you must first become, by God's grace, a patient saint on earth (Rev 14:12). By our cooperation with the power of the Holy Spirit and the work of Christ' mediational work in heaven, we will receive as a free gift "the power of an endless life." In closing, I would like to share one statement from the pen of inspiration on the glorious power of the Holy Spirit. "In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holv Spirit was the highest of all aifts that HE could solicit from His father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be

given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church." DA 671.2 AD

Roy Davies is a layman who has a strong passion for writing articles about Jesus Christ. He was born in Australia but has spent most of his life in California, where he worked as as a literature evangelist and a maintenance person.



Money and Power in the Vatican

by TAMMIE BURAK

Ithough many consider the Vatican to be the seat of a spiritual kingdom, the Roman Catholic Church, it is in actuality much more than that. The Vatican is unique in that it is the administrative center of a universal empire which is at once spiritual and secular, religious and political. Unlike any other church, the Vatican enjoys full and independent sovereignty which puts it in a unique position. As a secular kingdom, its land and real estate holdings, along with its subjects, are scattered around the globe. As a result, the Vatican's influence is felt worldwide. As a church, its material assets and income are tax free. Its ecclesiastical status combined with its position as an independent sovereign state makes it untouchable.

Until very recently, the Vatican's banking system has resisted every plea for transparency. Arguing that its church status made it exempt from external audits or investigations, the Vatican Bank has provided cover for corruption of every kind. It has acted as an international off-shore tax haven for wealthy business owners and has had the dubious honor of ranking among the top ten most attractive countries for money laundering. While many regard the Pope as the world's spiritual leader, we must ask: How can believers reconcile evidence of vast corruption with the image of a gentle shepherd over God's flock? How did the Vatican become the economically and politically powerful organization that it is today?

A Brief History of the Papal Economy

In the early years of the Christian church, bishops were appointed by fellow Christians to oversee affairs of the church in important centers where Christianity had established itself. No one bishop was elected to be their head. But as the Roman Empire crumbled, the bishop of Rome grew in power

and wealth, eventually taking not only ecclesiastical precedence but worldly prominence as well.

Over time, the Vatican took on the appearance of a grand worldly kingdom. As with any worldly kingdom, the Vatican had a court to support, the only difference being that this court consisted of clerics. In addition to collecting taxes from its land holdings, its priestly function privileged the Vatican with an additional source of revenue – offerings for its support from its congregants.

Pilgrimage

Over time, the church developed diverse strategies for persuading believers to contribute their means to Vatican coffers. As early as the 4th century, with the construction of St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican gained prominence as a pilgrimage site and commercial district. The church was quick to cash in on the money-making potential of pilgrimages. To this day, pilgrims pay to view or visit many relics, shrines, and museums.

Indulgences and Tax Revenues from Papal States

Indulgences, a creative invention for subsidizing the lavish lifestyles and building projects of the Pope and clergy, were introduced in the 6th century. The faithful paid for a piece of paper that promised them escape for the punishment of their sins. A practice found nowhere in the Bible, it was the sale of indulgences in particular that provoked the Protestant Reformation of the 17th century. Tax revenues from the papal states covered daily operational expenses, but it was the sale of indulgences that bankrolled the Vatican's building projects, wars and opulent lifestyle.

Peter's Pence

According to the Vatican, "By the end of the eighth century the Anglo-Saxons felt so closely linked to the Bishop of Rome that they decided to send a regular annual contribution to the Holy Father." In actuality, Peter's Pence amounted to an annual tax on every household. Peter's Pence took on various changes over the centuries, but generally "consisted not only of donations, but also of fees paid by loyal Catholics for services such as weddings, funerals, and confirmations." Contributions waxed and waned depending upon the people's perceptions of the current Pope and state of the church. Nevertheless, these contributions were the meat and potatoes of the Vatican's finances for a thousand years.

Loss of Papal States

Prophecy was fulfilled February 20, 1798 when the Napoleon's General Berthier took Pope Pius VI prisoner upon his refusal to renounce his temporal power. To observers, it appeared the Papacy had lost its supreme power and authority which it had enjoyed for more than a thousand

years. Napoleon, however, restored the

Papal States in 1800.

Then in 1870, the Italian nationalist army invaded Rome and the Pope surrendered but he declared himself to be a prisoner of the Vatican and refused to leave St. Peter's. The new Italian government took possession of the papal states leaving only a small parcel of land on Vatican Hill to the Pope. The loss of the papal states represented an economic set-back for the Vatican due to lost tax revenues.

It wasn't until the signing of the Lateran Pacts with Mussolini in 1929, that sovereignty was fully restored. In exchange for political support of Mussolini's fascist government, the church was granted enormous power, including full sovereignty, tax exemption and establishment as Italy's sole religion. Still, with the loss of almost all of its land, the Vatican lost a significant source of regular income. To cover its expenses and with direction from hand-picked bankers, the church began investing heavily in real estate and setting up banks throughout Italy. Money from the Lateran Pacts was also invested in insurance companies and industry, including arms and munitions manufacturing. Investments were later made in large American businesses, including IBM, General Electric, Shell, Procter & Gamble and others.⁴

World War II: A Unique Money-Making Opportunity

March 2, 1939, Eugenio Pacelli was elected Pope. He had been the papal nuncio to Germany and had a great fondness for everything German. His family was among the Black Nobles, Roman aristocratic families that remained loyal to the Pope when the Italian nationalist army took Rome and confiscated the Pope's kingdom in 1870. Early in

> his pontificate, Pope Pius XII sent Hitler a message assuring the Führer of the Vatican's desire for good working

relations with the Nazis. Shortly afterward, he directed his diplomatic representative, the

> Papal Nuncio to Germany, Archbishop Orsenigo, to fete Hitler on his fiftieth birthday.⁵

Pope Pius XII's policy was silence in response to the atrocities of the Holocaust and the slaughter of Serbs in Croatia. Priests and bishops were actively involved in the politics and killing machinery of

continued on next page

Walter Veith



Appeal to the Protestant Brethren (DVD)

(DVD)

In this presentation with Professor Walter Veith we will critique the joint declaration of Lutherans and Catholics, review some current events including what Trump's leadership may mean in the light of prophecy, and see how far we've come in the last 500 years. If we are to call ourselves Protestants, then we must protest what is happening on the world's stage. The King James Bible, based on the Textus Receptus, is the most reliable version of the Bible and sadly many Bible versions have been altered through time. This sermon encourages us to come back to the original Bible, back to original Protestantism. We must not be fooled by what we see and hear. Filmed live in Smoky Lake, Alberta.

\$9.00*usp

*All prices subject to change without notice.

Sin Righteousness and Judgement (DVD)

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Recently we've heard about burying the hatchet. Is it time to usher in a new era of unification? Join Walter Veith in this lecture filmed live in Smoky Lake, Alberta to discover the importance of going back to the doctrines of the Holy Bible. How can you find truth if you ignore the source of truth? Return to the Bible to learn the real meaning behind sin, righteousness, and judgement. Follow along with Professor Veith to learn more about the foundation of the Reformation - the Bible - and discover some troubling religious trends that will come to a head very soon.

\$9.00*usp

*All prices subject to change without notice.



NEW

Has the Trump campaign brought us any closer to the fulfilment of prophecy? With the election of Donald Trump as the next president of the United States, prophecy can finally reach the point of fulfilment, when Church and State comes together to enact laws which are contrary to the laws of God, but which favour the first beast of Revelation 13. Is it possible that we are seeing the fulfilment of prophecy and that Jesus will be coming soon on the clouds of heaven?

\$9.00*USD

*All prices subject to change without notice.

Croatia and Slovakia where hundreds of thousands, possibly more than a million, Jews and Orthodox Christian Serbs and others were killed. 6 Though repeatedly implored by eye witnesses to speak out against the brutality, the Pope remained silent. Even when the Nazis entered Italy, where 1 200 Jews living in Rome were rounded up and transported along streets that lay just 250 yards (approximately 230 m) from the Vatican - virtually right under the Pope's nose - to a military detention center, Pope Pius did nothing to stop the violence. A thousand of those Jews, mostly women and children, were put in rail cars two days later and sent to Auschwitz.

Germany's Ambassador reported, "The Curia is especially upset considering the action took place, in a manner of speaking, under the Pope's own windows." The Vatican's response at that time? An official thanks to Hitler's Foreign Minister for the German military's respectful wartime behaviour to the city-state,8 possibly a reference to a promise made by Ernst von Weizsacker, Germany's ambassador, that Germany would protect the Vatican from damage.

Unbelievably, in 1942, Pius was pre-occupied with the filming of a movie he was having made about himself, Pastor Angelicus.

Why did the Vatican refuse to act on

Word War II Vatican Money Facts

Following is a list of some of the ways the Vatican enriched itself during World War II.

Reichskonkordat - From 1933, the Third Reich had signed a pact, the Reichskondordat, with the Holy See agreeing to collect the 8 - 10% church tax through automatic payroll deductions of German Catholic workers,9 a substantial provision to the Vatican's budget. The Reichskonkordat validated the Nazi's rise to power and reigned in Catholic priests from voicing dissent against Hitler's regime and effectively tied the church to Nazi Germany.

Vatican Bank - The Vatican realized economic benefits from exercising complacency toward Nazism's anti-Semitic policies. In fact, the Vatican experienced such an economic boon during the war that it needed to create an efficient way of dealing with the inflow of profits. On June 27, 1942, the Vatican Bank, also known as Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR; Institute for Works of Religion) was formed. Because its only branch was inside the Vatican, it was "free of any wartime

regulations."10 It was free of independent audits. It had a policy of destroying all files after ten years.

Throughout the war, Vatican Bank executed "back-and-forth transfers of Swiss francs, lira, dollars, sterling, and even gold bullion, through a slew of holding companies in a dozen countries on several continents."11 In the midst of the unparalleled upheavals of WWII, opportunistic business titans, recognizing in the war an unequalled money-making opportunity also saw that the Vatican Bank was the world's best offshore bank.12

Theft of Victims' Insurance Policies -

In addition, as an investor in Italian insurance companies, the Vatican benefited from the wartime practice of escheating, or transferring Jewish life insurance policies. Investigators estimate that during the war more than \$200 billion in illegally retained premiums and unpaid benefits was stolen from Europe's Jews.13

Theft of Victims' Gold and Jewellery

- The Vatican played an important role in moving gold from German occupied countries during the war. For example, post-war investigators



concluded that Krunoslav Draganovic, a Croatian Roman Catholic priest, deposited Croatian victims' gold and jewellery in the Vatican Bank which accepted it as "a contribution from a religious organization." The loot disappeared without a trace through the Vatican Bank's money laundering process.

At the end of the war, victims' loot undoubtedly funded the Vatican's efforts to transport fleeing Nazi fugitives to safe havens.

Post-War Business Investments

The Vatican's investments are shrouded in secrecy but details sometimes reach the public in the form of scandals. In post-war years, financial scandals have implicated the Vatican's involvement in shady business deals with shady money-men. Most notable

examples are the cases of Michele Sindona and Roberto Calvi. Sindona, who had links to the Mafia and the secret society Masonic Lodge Propaganda Due (P2) was an advisor to the Vatican Bank for years. Together with Vatican Bank's director, Bishop Paul Marcinkus, and banker Roberto Calvi, Sindona developed a complex web of off-shore banks and shell companies that effectively hid the identity of account holders and their illegal profits. Sindona was sentenced to life in prison for the assassination of Giorgio Ambrosoli, the lawyer appointed to liquidate Sindona's failed Italian banks. He died in prison in 1986 after drinking cyanide-laced coffee. 15

Fellow-P2 member and financier Roberto Calvi also worked closely with the Vatican Bank's Marcinkus and Sindona. In 1981, Calvi, chairman of Banco Ambrosiano, was charged in

connection with \$1.3 billion in unaccounted for funds. Vatican Bank was Ambrosiano's principal share-holder. Released on appeal, Calvi fled Italy, but was later found murdered in London. Speculation still abounds over who may have benefitted from silencing him. Calvi's family believed that clues for his murder were in Vatican Bank files which were never disclosed.

Following the Calvi affair, Marcinkus retired in the Phoenix Archdiocese where he continued to enjoy a comfortable life. Few of his parishioners knew of his role as the director of the Vatican Bank and his controversial alliances. He died in 2006. 16

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Walt Cross

Kitchen Remedies (DVD)

In this lecture with Walt Cross we will head into the kitchen. What impact does a kitchen have on our health? It turns out that what's in our fridges and what's in our cabinets actually do matter. In fact, what we put into our kitchens - and in turn what we put into our bodies - affects our health directly. Learn about the benefits of juicing, how garlic and kale are two wonderfully powerful foods, and how the essential oils from herbs can transform our diseases and restore health!

\$9.00*usp

Old Mountain Remedies (DVD)

In this helpful and informative lecture with Walt Cross we will explore the outcomes of natural remedies. By following the 8 laws of health (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in God) we will see how different natural foods can improve and even fix certain illnesses!

\$9.00*usp

How to Avoid Stress and Anxiety **Naturally** (DVD)

Evervone on this planet experiences stress and anxiety to a certain degree. But what are the effects of stress and anxiety on the body? In this informative presentation with Walt Cross we will look into how stress physically affects our bodies and cover natural treatments for stress and anxiety. There are 8 laws of health that fall in the controllables category, so let's explore the different lifestyle changes we can make and the herbs and natural foods that can help alleviate the symptoms of stress and anxiety.

 $^{\$}9.00^{*}_{USD}$

How to Develop an **Effective Lifestyle**

Plan (DVD)

Join Walt Cross as we create a lifestyle plan that works for every individual as lifestyle plans can be modified for each person. We will settle on a mission or goal for our health, assess our health and lifestyle history, potential causes for sickness, and dietary issues using a health diary. If you want to get healthy, start by creating an effective lifestyle plan. Walt Cross gives us great ideas on how to start.

\$9.00*usp

Old Mountain Remedies by Treatment (DVD)

In another information-packed presentation with Walt Cross we will continue looking at health remedies using completely natural treatments. In combination with the 8 Laws of Health, these treatments can ensure a better and healthier lifestyle! We just need to get back to the basics of God's aarden. Simple non-GMO fruits and vegetables, clean and raw eating, and the right preparation can make a huge difference in our health!

\$9.00*usp

How to Effectively Address Weight Loss Naturally (DVD)

Healthcare costs are insanely high. Thankfully, obesity and weight gain is preventable, and can be reversed. However, diet plans aren't a permanent solution. Diets are just a short-term bandage over a root problem. Learn about creating a helpful meal plan, realistic goals and a plan of action for your overall health.

\$9.00*usp

OLD MOUNTAIN REMEDIES

Bishop Marcinkus was in charge of investing for the Vatican Bank. Sindona and Calvi were his business partners. How is it that Sindona and Calvi ended up dead while Marcinkus simply ended up in retirement? Investigations into the Vatican Bank time and again come to a dead end because of the Vatican's undisputed autonomy.

Hiding the Money: Sex Abuse Pay-outs

In the mid-1980's, the news of wide-spread sexual abuse by priests became public. The scandal grew as information surfaced about how the church covered up the abuse by quietly paying victims to keep quiet and by relocating offending clergy. An article published February 8, 2012 estimated that at least \$2.2 billion had been paid out in victims' settlements in the United States alone affecting some 100 000 victims of clerical sexual abuse. The estimate of costs for dealing with the sex abuse scandal in the United States is thought to be low considering that "some dioceses and religious orders have made confidential settlements whose dollar amounts may never be known."

Pope Francis apologized to sex abuse victims before leaving the United States in September of 2015. But for victims and their lawyers the apology fell far short of expectations. One lawyer called the Pope's statement "damage control." A disappointed victim wanted to see actions to back up the Pontiff's words. "The Pope needs to say, 'We made a lot of mistakes. We should have never directed these parishes, these dioceses to go into bankruptcy. Yes, we were hiding the money.' He has to say those words." 19

Shunting offending priests from one diocese to another, quietly paying off victims to keep silent, paying lawyers to defend against litigation and to lobby state legislatures against extending the statute of limitations to prevent new accusations from surfacing, taking legal action to insulate the Vatican's property and financial assets from loss due to abuse



case legal settlements – this is how the church has dealt with the child sex abuse scandal. Its policy, once again, has consistently been: Protect the bottom

line.

those that claimed poverty.

A Disqualified Shepherd

Francis's Church That is Poor and for the Poor

Pope Francis made big news when he picked a modest Ford Focus for his ride and chose to stay in a Vatican guest house rather than the Papal Palace. But other high-ranking clerics don't have the same taste for poverty that Francis appears to have. For instance, news of overspending by Germany's Bishop of Bling, Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst, brought cries of outrage from the public and concerned clergy. The bishop had spent 31 million euros (approximately \$43 million) of church funds building his new ultra-modern residence outfitted with high-end extras most often associated with the lifestyles of the rich and famous.²⁰

Francis could have disciplined the extravagant bishop in such a way that would have clearly demonstrated his disapproval. Instead, he fell back on a tradition that countless Popes have resorted to – he simply moved Tebartz-van Elst from his diocese and relocated him to the Vatican and a new posting. The Pope's response to the uproar over Tebartz-van Elst's excessive lifestyle communicates his indifference to a widespread prodigal attitude among clergy.²¹ The curia has a reputation for resisting efforts to reform as evidenced in the maxim, "Popes come and go, but we go on forever."²²

This complaint against the Roman church's excesses is not new but has existed as far back as the 1400's when England complained that the church was training the coffers of that country. Many Reformers, including Wycliffe and Luther, wrote against the excessive lifestyles of the priests - even The Vatican's clandestine business practices are not congruent with the image it would like to project of itself as being the world's spiritual leader. Where is the humility and self-sacrificing love of the Saviour apparent in the Vatican's commercial enterprises? Or for that matter, in the impressive edifices of the Vatican that display their love of palatial excess and resplendence? Some argue that the problems within the Vatican are limited to a few aberrant priests or incidents. But that simply is not the case. The problem is systemic. The Bible makes that clear. The misdeeds of the Catholic Church are rooted in the foundational principles of the organization. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). The Vatican, on the other hand, appears to be firmly rooted and grounded in this world and in its philosophies and values.

Revelation 18 tells of a bright angel crying out:

Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury (Revelation 18: 2, 3).

Babylon is the Roman Catholic church, as identified in Revelation 17, where in addition the angel says, "The woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth" (Revelation 17:18).

At the end of time, the times we're now living in, God doesn't tell Babylon to repent. The system won't change, though He's given her ample time to amend her ways. Instead God calls to individuals, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:4, 5).

Although justice has been neglected time and again by the church, God warns unjust pastors of what is coming.

Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them...

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them" (Ezekiel 34:1-4, 10).

Time is running out for Satan and the stakes are high. By putting smooth words in the mouths of his lying prophets he is working to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect. (See Matthew 24:24.) It's important for believers everywhere during these times of compromise and mixed messages to put our trust in Christ alone and distinguish the true from the false by evaluating all messages against Bible truth. Jesus's word of warning is for each of us: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:15, 16).

Tammie Burak is a freelance writer who enjoys writing about topics of faith, health, nature, and education. She writes for both children and adults.

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- ¹⁷ John L. Allen Jr., "Vatican abuse summit: \$2.2 billion and 100 000 victims in U.S. alone," accessed November 18, 2016, https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/vatican-abuse-summit-22-billion-and-100000-victims-us-alone
- ¹⁸ Jonathon Starkey, "Pope Francis apologizes for sex abuse scandal," accessed November 21, 2016, http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2015/09/27/Pope-apologizes-sex-abuse-scandal/72946870/
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 "Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst: Germany's 'Bishop of Bling' in new scandal over penthouse flat in Rome," http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/franz-peter-tebartz-vanelst-germanys-bishop-of-bling-in-new-scandal-over-penthouse-flat-in-rome-10499076. html
- ²¹ For other examples: Lavish homes of US archbishops; Vatican-owned gay bath house; Priests' mistresses and wives speak out against church's position on "celibacy"
- 22 Posner, God's Bankers, 33.





The True Cause of Disease Part 1 (DVD)

In part 1 of The True Cause of Disease we will cover the inside workings of the cells. Our DNA is a plan, a blueprint. If there's something amiss in the blueprint, this can affect our cells, and in turn, we become ill with disease. Join naturopathic doctor Barbara O'Neill in this scientific and eyeopening presentation about disease, the causes, and what we can do to combat it from a root level.

\$9.00*USD



The True Cause of Disease Part 2 (DVD)

Everyone falls ill once in awhile. When we inevitably get sick, we need to ask WHY. Could it be fungus? Mould? Antibiotics? Naturopathic doctor Barbara O'Neill will help clarify some of the causes behind disease to help us understand WHY disease happens. Education is so important. We need to learn as much as we can about our own bodies, so watch now to inform yourself.

\$9.00*USD

From Sickness to HEALTH

What really causes disease? How does women's health differ from men's? How can we have a healthy heart and conquer high blood pressure? What are the 8 laws of health and how can we apply them? What is actually happening if you have osteoporosis and how can we strengthen our bones? How can we heal the gut and keep the colon regular? What is diabetes and is it actually incurable? What are the physical and spiritual effects of fasting? And most importantly, what are God's methods of healing based on the Bible?



Barbara O'Neill



Women's Health (DVD)

When we start investigating why someone might be ill, the missing link could involve hormones. Men, this lecture gives insight to the mysteries of the female sex. Have a fuller understanding of the inner workings of women's health in this in-depth presentation. In this lecture with Naturopathic Doctor Barbara O'Neill we will investigate the symptoms of a hormonal imbalance, learn what makes hormones run, what throws hormones out, and how we can bring hormones back into balance.

\$9.00*usp



Healing the Gut (DVD)

Everything we put into our mouths is broken down in the lengthy digestine tract and used for energy. We need to understand the house we live in and understand our bodies. This journey changes the foods we consume into substances that energizes the blood and is used by all our cells. In this easy to understand presentation, Naturopathic Doctor Barbara O'Neill will review the entire gastrointestinal system so we can learn what affects our gut.

\$9.00*usp



Heart Health (DVD)

Millions are diagnosed with heart diseases each year, and though it may seem unavoidable, there are actually healthy ways to prevent a sick heart. Did you know that there is a clear way to have a healthy heart? You start with more oxygen, which in turn strengthens the blood, and with healthy blood, you have a healthy heart! So how can we add more oxygen to our blood? Listen to Barbara and learn about the exercises you can do according to the 8 laws of health.

\$9.00*usp



Decoding Diabetes (DVD)

Follow along with Doctor Barbara O'Neill's educational and scientific lecture to learn all about diabetes, what it means, and why it isn't ever as hopeless as it might seem. What do carbs have to do with it? How does glucose factor in? How can food cause illness, but also heal us? If we follow God's prescriptions for health and make informed lifestyle choices we can create the perfect environment for our bodies to heal themselves!

\$9.00*usp



The Wonder of Law

(DVD)

If we are given a law that is meant to give us better health and therefore a better life, what happens if we break that law? There are three main parts of health: physical, mental, and moral. These three elements can drastically improve our situation when taken together.

Join Naturopathic Doctor Dr. Barbara O'Neill in this health lecture about the laws of health in physical, mental, and moral capacities.

\$9.00*usp



Physical & Spiritual Effects of Fasting

(DVD)

What actually happens to our bodies during a fast? See how fasting was historically used to benefit the body. Learn about how excess energy can then go to areas of greatest need to help the body heal itself. In this lecture with Doctor Barbara O'Neill we will learn all about fasting. Fasting provides more than just physical effects, but spiritual effects as

\$9.00*USD



Osteoporosis (DVD)

In this lecture with Barbara O'Neill we will look at what causes the deterioration of our bones and learn what we can do to strengthen them. Naturopathic Doctor Barbara O'Neill reviews the 12 different minerals and discusses the 64 trace minerals needed for good bone health. Learn about the types of protein, oils, vegetables, and exercise that can contribute to improved bone density! Come along in this informative health lecture to discover how we can overcome osteoporosis.

\$9.00*usp



God's Method of Healing from the Bible (DVD)

The Bible is the great prescription book for our health. In this spiritually informative health presentation we will look to the Holy Bible and the Ministry of Healing for the best prescriptions for health. We can start by eliminating nasty habits and getting back into natural treatments, which are God's methods for healing!

\$9.00*USD

WINDS OF DOCTRINE SERIES PART 4

In this series of articles, **Defining God**, we have been looking at the plain teachings of the Word of God to help us understand the issue of the 'Godhead' or what some call the 'Trinity'. This is essentially our understanding of who the Father is, who Jesus is and now who the Holy Spirit is as a person. I would like to pause for a moment as we begin a discussion about the Holy Spirit to clarify a very important point regarding this whole topic. One that I believe we cannot neglect to remember in our study of God. The point is simply this . . . we are mortal beings, without the conceptual capacity to understand all that there is to know about God. This is clearly stated in Job 11:7.

"Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?"

The answer implied by this question is "no". It is the correct answer. The words 'find out' are also accurately translated 'discover'. This does not mean that we cannot come to know God by looking for Him, for we are promised that if we seek Him we shall find Him, for in that sense the Bible is speaking of the revelation that God is, and that we can have a saving relationship with Him. What the passage in Job does indicate is that we do not have the capacity to define God nor understand His

ways, which is similarly expressed in Isaiah 55:8-9:

"For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

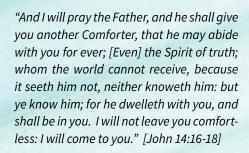
We shall never 'know' God, in terms of being able to define God. Those who claim that this 'knowing' God is to be able to define God, are leaping out into a place that we as created beings are incapable of going. We are to know God in terms of knowing His character, and in terms of having a personal relationship of trust and faithfulness to Him as our Creator and Savior. But for us to vainly assume that we can understand how God is made up is, well, just that, vain. It is a presumptuous endeavor. We have been given understanding only to the extent that the Scriptures leave with us.

With that in mind then let us examine what the Scriptures say regarding the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Ghost. What revelation of the Holy Ghost have we been given in the Word? Let us begin with Jesus' words to His disciples:





BY JOEL KRATZKE



Jesus states that He Himself will pray the Father and the Father will then give you 'another Comforter'. This is an important point in our discussion for a couple of reasons. First, Jesus calls the Holy Ghost 'another' Comforter. This word 'another' is the Greek word "állos" which is a primitive word meaning 'else, that is different' [def. from Strongs Concordance]. Clearly Jesus is indicating that the Holy Ghost is a distinct Person, or another Person. He does this clearly by using the pronoun 'He' or 'Him' in the discourse about the Holy Ghost. And it is not only here that Jesus refers to the Holy Ghost with a distinct personal pronoun, We see it again in John 14:26:

"But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

And again in John 16:7-15:

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on Me; Of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see Me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, [that] shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall show [it] unto you. All things that the Father hath are Mine: therefore said I. that He shall take of Mine, and shall show [it] unto you."







Notice the supplied highlighted personal pronouns Jesus used to indicate the Holy Ghost. If the Holy Ghost were not a person, and individual, why would Jesus speak of Him as such? Are we unsatisfied with the words of our Savior? Do we call Jesus mistaken? God forbid! We must be satisfied with Jesus' own very clear description of the Holy Ghost as an individual person of the Godhead. It is too clear to misinterpret!

We will now look at a few instances in Scripture that speak of all three Persons of the Godhead at the same time but distinctly separate:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" [Matthew 28:19]

"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." [Luke 3:21-22]

"He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show [it] unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall may show [it] unto you." [John 16:14-15]

Clearly there are three distinct Persons spoken of in these passages, the Holy Ghost being one of them. He must be a distinct Person or else He could not be 'another' nor could He do what the Scriptures speak of when it says:

"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what [is] the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God." [Romans 8:27]

Here the Holy Spirit is said to have a mind, His own mind. The word 'phrónēma' from the Greek means – "what one has in the mind, thoughts, purposes". This clearly indicates that the Holy Spirit has His own mind and is not just the

shared mind of the Father and the Son. It is in this way that the Holy Ghost intercedes for us, for how could He intercede if He were only the presence or mind of the one to whom He was interceding to? I know that last statement may seem somewhat confusing but it only goes to show how confusing the notion is that the Holy Ghost is not a person with individuality, but only the mind of God Himself. Then God would be having a conversation with Himself, trying to intercede for us to Himself by **Himself.** This is nonsensical. The Bible is clear on the things that pertain to life and Salvation. God has not given us a complete picture of who He is or how we must understand the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. He has given us what we know, that the there are three divine beings in Heaven striving for your salvation. It is in the simplest of passages that we may find our boundaries, our clearest lines of understanding. Jesus states clearly that the Holy Ghost is 'He' which will guide you into all truth, it is 'He' that will convict you of sin, righteousness and judgment, it is 'He' from whom you will receive power and gifts. To move away from a plain statement by Jesus is just not wise. In fact it would be considered error.

I wish to conclude by restating my concern from the beginning of this article. We have not the capacity as created, mortal beings to define God. This has never been asked, nor required of us. There are times when we feel as though we are attempting to tread down a path that is forbidden ground. The reality is that God has asked us to know Him and recognize Him by His character. We are to reveal God's character not His person to the world around us. It is God's character that wins hearts. It was the living example of God's character in the person of Jesus Christ that purchased our salvation and exampled God's true character to the angels and the worlds. Let us study deeper into the beautiful character of our Lord, our Savior, and our God.

Joel Kratzke, delivered from the life of a bartender and an alcoholic, brought through the confusion of modern day Pentecostalism, convicted to make a stand for the Truth of the Word of God, called into the ministry with a burden to reach others that need to hear the Truth, a graduate of AFCOE, Pastor Joel Kratzke brings a unique perspective as he presents the Three Angels Messages to people across the United States and Canada. Joel lives in MN with his wife Valerie and their two children Victoria and Jeremiah.



DEFINING GOD?

(DUAL-LAYER DVD WITH 3 PRESENTATIONS)

The Name

When you think of the name "God," what comes to mind? Different cultures and different religions associate different things with the name of "god." In this Bible study with pastor Joel Kratzke we will dive into the scriptures to see what the Bible says and reveals about God. Though many people may not be comfortable with dissecting the definition of God, God has revealed Himself to us through the Bible. He wants to be known and understood, even if it's difficult!

The Son

As we continue in this Defining God series we will investigate the meaning of the Son. Let us discuss the issue of the sonship of Jesus. Did Jesus have to receive power from God? Did Jesus have Godly power within Him or was he entirely separate from His father? In this Bible study with Pastor Joel Kratzke we will look at the relationship between God the Father and Jesus the Son.

Person or Presence

What does the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy say about the Holy Spirit? We will have a doctrinal comparison between the SDA teachings and the trinitarian faith. Do they match? In this final part of the Defining God series we will look into the final aspect of the Godhead - the Holy Ghost. What, or who is the Holy Ghost and what are some troubling controversies the Godhead is causing in the Seventh-day Adventist church?



by Joel Kratzke



PRAY

(DUAL-LAYER DVD WITH 2 PRESENTATIONS)

Foundations of Prayer

In this lecture with Pastor Joel Kratzke we will go over some of the fundamentals and foundations of prayer. We will see the power of prayer and how it actually scares our enemy, the devil. Prayer should be part of every Christian's walk with Christ. Learn about how we need to be patient for God's timing and not our own, and discover six foundations of earnest and supplicating prayer.

Making Satan Tremble

In this lecture with Pastor Joel Kratzke we will investigate the weapon of prayer. Prayer is a privilege and a means to get closer to Christ and to have a better relationship with Him. In that way, the closer we are to the God of the universe, the more afraid and small the devil becomes. Learn how prayer can be used to praise Him and protect us against evil.



Dear Customers

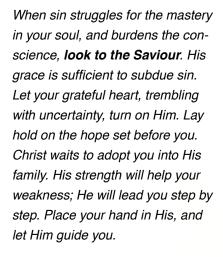
We believe time is short and it is time to get the gospel out as quickly as possible. As a result, we reviewed all our prices and have dropped most of them significantly. In view of the exciting expansions that we have on our horizon with the country mission school, one might think that it is not a good time to drop our prices. Now is the time when we need all the resources possible to accomplish the tasks that God has laid on our hearts. But we want to reach people with the 3 Angels' Messages and we do not want to hinder anyone from hearing the gospel in any way. This is why we have lowered our prices and stepped forward in faith knowing that God will provide.

If you feel so moved to support the ministry dear customer, then perhaps God will speak to your heart the next time you make a purchase and you will feel compelled to donate to support the work.

Thank you for your support

Your

Sales Department



Never feel that Christ is far away. He is always near. His loving presence surrounds you. Seek Him as One who desires to be found of you. He desires you not only to touch His garments, but to walk with Him in constant communion." (MH 85)

Did you catch the method? Look. Whenever you have a trouble of any kind, look to the Saviour. If you are about to sin, catch yourself as quickly as you can, and look to Jesus. Multiple times every single day, this look and live principle is to take place.

I have a very dear friend that prays out loud to God whenever she recognizes her need of a Saviour - before she drives anywhere, whenever a trouble arises, even when she's alone and needs to lift something or turn something that she can't do on her own. At first, it unnerved me to have her declare her need so vocally and pray about everything, but now I understand. She is practicing walking with Jesus as a Friend and keeping Him uttermost in her mind throughout

the day. You may not address Him vocally, but you may still speak to Him throughout the day.

But how do we remember to look and live? First I need to believe with all my heart that Jesus is an ever-present friend. Then I need to remember my need. If I ever forget that my efforts, my own works are insufficient to save me, then I forget to look.

"Every believing soul is to conform his will entirely to God's will and keep in a state of repentance and contrition, exercising faith in the atoning merits of the Redeemer and advancing from strength to strength, from glory to glory." (FW 103)

It's when I forget to "keep in a state of repentance and contrition" that I become stubborn, prideful, refusing to apologize for some failure because apologizing would mean admitting. If I stayed in a state of repentance and contrition, recognizing my need of a Saviour, I would be quick to apologize, taking rebuke and correction with a humble and meek spirit. It's when I forget to "keep in a state of repentance and contrition exercising faith in the atoning merits of the Redeemer" that I forget that every good thing that I do is only because of the grace of Christ, and I start to think that I can accomplish anything with my own finite mind, and that my works are worthy and sufficient to gain acceptance with God. Forgetting to "look and live" makes me write, speak, and act on

PROVEN PRINCIPLES FOR GOOD HEALTH

Diane Burnett

The Physiology of Addiction Part 1 (DVD)

Making the right choices is the challenge of every human. Understanding the function of the brain and why we easily fall prey to temptations will help us in finding control over every area of our life.

\$9.00*USD

The Physiology of Addiction Part 2 (DVD)

Making the right choices is the challenge of every human. Understanding the function of the brain and why we easily fall prey to temptations will help us in finding control over every area of our life.

\$9.00*usp

Physiology of Victory

(DVD)

Learn how habits are made and how to change them. The food industry is constantly competing for your dollars, and they are using proven techniques that allure and addict consumers to their products. Learn how to identify these traps and learn to avoid them.

\$9.00*usp

The Appetite War (DVD)

In this lecture we will look at the tension between the conscious and subconscious mind, and evaluate how the food industry has manipulated the media, music, medicine, and our munchies for their benefit. There is a huge contrast between artificial nutrients and the real nutrients from natural foods?

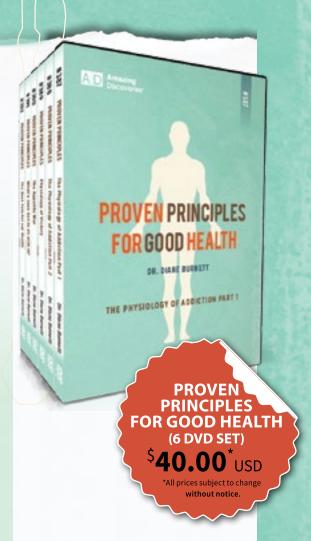
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What's Love Got to do with it? Sugars: The Good, Bad, and Hurtful

(DVD

At one point or another, you have probably craved some sugar. Soda, chocolate, candies, and all sort of sweet snacks are very tempting. However, scientific evidence shows that sugar is actually very harmful to our bodies. If we care about ourselves and our loved ones, we must learn about the harmful effects of sugar and learn how to get back to God's plan for healthy living.

\$9.00*usp



The Best Fats for our Health (DVD)

Fat is an essential nutrient to our health. We all require fat for energy and to keep us healthy. However, there are good fats and bad fats that can cause many health problems. This lecture will reveal the best ways to get the good fats that our bodies need and how the wrong fats are a leading cause of disease.

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Rye Bread

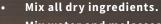


- 4 cups stone ground brown bread flour (unbleached, no preservatives)
- 3 cups stone ground rye flour (unbleached, no preservatives)
- 1 tablespoon salt (sea salt or fine Himalayan Rock Salt)
- 2 tablespoons caraway seed (optional)
- 1 packet instant yeast (10 grams) or regular yeast (mix it with a little water, 1 teaspoon sugar or honey and a little flour and allow it to stand until it bubbles)
- 1 tablespoon molasses or honey or sugar
- 900 ml to 1 litre lukewarm water
- juice of half a lemon (optional)

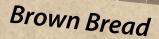




- Mix water and molasses.
- First add only 900 ml and if the mixture is too dry, add the rest of the water.
- Different flours react differently so the 900 ml is a rule of thumb.
- Mix thoroughly and then knead for 10 minutes until the mixture has a chewing gum consistency.
- Set aside to rise to double the size
- Knead down again and place in greased bread pans.
- Let rise again to double the size.
- Place in pre-heated oven at 220°C (420°F) for 5 min.
- Place a little bowl of water in the oven to create steam.
- Lower the temperature to 200°C (400°F) and bake for total baking time of 50 min.
- When baking is complete, allow to stand for a couple of minutes for easy release from the pan.



- Mix water and molasses.
- First add only 900 ml and if the mixture is too dry, add the rest of the water.
- The dough has to be quite firm if you want to bake a stand alone bread.
- Different flours react differently so the 900 ml is a rule of thumb.
- Mix thoroughly and then knead for 10 minutes until the mixture has a chewing gum consistency.
- Set aside to rise to double the size.
- Knead on a flat surface with a rolling, folding action adding dry flour.
- Knead until it is pliable, divide into two
 portions and place in basket or bowl
 depending on the shape you want. Make
 sure you put a cheese cloth liberally
 sprinkled with flour in the bowl or
 basket. Allow to rise again to double the
 size.
- Gently fold the risen dough out onto a lightly greased baking tray.
- Place immediately in pre-heated oven at 250°C (500°F) for 5 min.
- Place a little bowl of water in the oven to create steam.
- Lower the temperature to 220°C (420°F)
 and bake for total baking time of 50 min
 to 1 h depending on how brown it gets.



- 7 cups stone ground brown bread flour (unbleached, no preservatives)
- **1 tablespoon salt** (sea salt or fine Himalayan Rock Salt)
- 4 tablespoons finely ground linseed
 (optional)
- 1 packet instant yeast (10grams) or regular yeast (mix it with a little water, 1 teaspoon sugar or honey and a little flour and allow it to stand until it bubbles)
- 1 tablespoon molasses or honey or sugar
 900 ml to 1 litre lukewarm water

Brown Bread Baking with Dr. Walter Veith my own, without being imbued with the spirit of Christ.

Within me there dwelleth no good thing. That is a difficult concept for the proud heart to accept. We want to have something good to bring to God. This is what Cain wanted. He wanted to be acceptable to God without God's contribution - in his own goodness. He did not want to accept that he was not good without Christ. How often have I rejected the Lamb and instead brought my own fruits to the altar, wanting to be accepted with my own efforts--with something in me that I alone produced? But the message of "look and live" says otherwise.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling.

"The law demands righteousness, and this the sinner owes to the law: but he is incapable of rendering it. The only way in which he can attain to righteousness is through faith. By faith he can bring to God the merits of Christ, and the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner's account. Christ's righteousness is accepted in place of man's failure, and God receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as though he were righteous and loves him as He loves His Son. This is how faith is accounted righteousness; and the pardoned soul goes on from grace to grace, from light to a greater light." (FW 101)

"In order for man to be justified by faith, faith must reach a point where it will control the affections and impulses of the heart; and it is by obedience that faith itself is made perfect.

Without the grace of Christ, the sinner is in a hopeless condition; nothing can be done for him; but through divine grace supernatural power is imparted to the man and works in mind and heart and character. It is through the impartation of the grace of Christ that sin is discerned in its hateful nature and finally driven from the soul temple." (FW 100)

This is what needs to take place every day. Christ creates in us a hatred for the sin we commit and as we cry to the Lord for help to overcome and ask Him to rid us of our besetting sin, believing His word and exercising faith that He can and will cleanse us, He transforms us. This is the process of sanctification. We do not make ourselves perfect. Our job is to submit and depend on Christ hourly. We must learn to abhor sin. This is the only way the universe will be immune to its ever rising again. To be inoculated against sin is to learn to hate it. rather than to love it.

Dear reader, if you're like me, there are still areas in your life that need to be given to Jesus. If you have been trying to bring your own fruits to the altar, if you have resisted the idea that you need Jesus and that nothing you alone can do can ever make you worthy, if you long for a clean heart and a right spirit, then the recipe is simple, yet hard to do. Look and live. "Create in me a clean heart, O Lord,

Obedience
may mean Learning
to Talk to Tesus
as a Friend
throughout the Day

and renew a right spirit within me." (Ps 51) Only Jesus can do this for us, as we submit and obey.

Obedience may mean learning to talk to Jesus as a Friend throughout the day. Obedience may mean asking the Lord for strength to resist this or that temptation. Obedience may mean admitting your sin — whatever it is. Obedience means a continual repentant and submissive state — ready to look and live at all times, ready to admit and apologize immediately, ready to cry for help at a moment's notice.

Dear reader, this hour, this day, this week, this month:

Look. And live.

Wendy 27

The Manifestatic

Part 5 *of* 5



n of Jesus Christ

by Michael E. Fassbender

f there is a most important verse in the Book of Revelation, will it possibly be found right in the middle of the book?

In the paper copy of the King James Version Bible I have, Revelation comprises 16 pages. This places the middle of the book on the 8th and the 9th page. It is a surprising coincidence (or not?) that these two pages cut right through Chapter 12. Revelation 12 recounts the story of redemption and salvation -although from a slightly different angle than it is told in the gospels. Revelation 12 reveals Emmanuel, God With Us. Four entities appear in this chapter: the woman; the Child -His name is Michael, and He is also the Lamb-, the dragon and the remnant. It is easy to recognize that Michael, the Child and Lamb, is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ.

From the larger context, we can conclude that the woman cannot be Mary, Jesus's biological mother. Comparing the scenario of Revelation 12, verses 6 and 14, with Revelation 11:3, it becomes apparent that the woman, who was forced to flee into the wilderness after the Child was received in Heaven, must represent God's true church, which was persecuted by the "beast" power for 1260 years. If this is so, then verse 2 indicates that Jesus is a descendant of God's church. Indeed, God's church, the church of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David, carried the human lineage of

Jesus Christ, the son of David. God had always a small faithful group of people on earth that had the privilege of carrying the Promise of salvation for mankind, whether spiritually, or with respect to Jesus' biological lineage. The original promise was given to Eve immediately after man's fall:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

In this sense, Eve fulfills a dual role: she is the biological mother of all mankind and as such the biological mother of Jesus. But Adam and Eve also represent the first community of believers and thus constitute God's original church. Ever since the serpent knew about the Promise, he has been engaging in every effort to ruin and destroy the Promise through the constant attack of God's church. The dragon's last physical attempt to avert the advent of the Promise was Herods' heinous command to have all babies of two years and under executed (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16). Nevertheless, the Child was born, was sacrificed as the Lamb, and was caught up to God's throne as the future Ruler of the human race (Revelation 12:5).

The Rest of God's Children

This Ruler was not someone who had been exalting Himself only to come down from lofty places like an alien in a science fiction movie to "save" the world. No, this Ruler, Emmanuel, had been with His people for thousands of years even before He was born in the flesh. He has thousands of

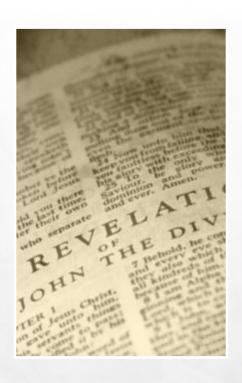
years of intimate experience with man's strengths and weaknesses, failures, desires and hopes; He is truly a compassionate Ruler and Shepherd. God's love is expressed in the sacrificial death of the Lamb, but it is also demonstrated in the mother-child relationship of God's church and the Son and in the very special way in which the final, residual small group of believers are called out:

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

"The remnant of her seed", meaning

"The rest of the children of God's church" are consequently spiritual brothers and sisters of Jesus; God's beloved family. Here is emphasized that Jesus is Lord and Brother of all those who belong to that final little flock that will resist the forces of the dragon. In his work *Truth Triumphant*, Adventist theologian Benjamin George Wilkinson portrays the fascinating history of God's true church; beginning from the apostolic time down to the times of the church in the wilderness down to the remnant church:

"Even as a remnant of cloth will identify the bolt from which it is taken, so the last church is a continuation of the Church in the Wilderness, and identifies it. [..] In his



vision John turns immediately from the scenes of the Church in the Wilderness to the outstanding work of the remnant church in the following words: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." These scriptures plainly present inspiration's insistent call upon the children of men to know and recognize God's true church in all ages." Mankind should ponder the fact that the history of the Church in the Wilderness is linked with a definite period of 1260 years."1

"Inspiration's insistent call upon the children of men" has to be viewed

in the context of another interesting detail we learn from Revelation 12. In God's eyes, the woman has always been the same woman, the same entity – in the continuous progression of revealed truth - beginning from Adam and Eve leading to Abraham, Jacob and Moses, then to the apostolic church and the church in the wilderness; finally down to the remnant church. There was no "change in dispensation" in the transition from the Hebrew church to the Christian church. God's church has always been recognized through the ages by the keeping of God's law and through the testimony of and faith in the Redeemer.

30 continued on next page



Have you heard any of these statements before? What is the truth? Watch this series with Walter Veith to look at the issues of healthy-living God's way. You'll discover insights on: plant protein vs. animal protein, the truth about soy proteins, how health affects your spirituality, how to have a healthy brain, and much more.

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The Big Five (DVD)

What are the real big five questions of life? Everyone on earth has considered these big 5 questions at least once. Where do I come from? Why am I here? Why are we in such a mess? Is there a solution? Where am I going?



The Commandments and the Faith of Jesus (DVD)

In this lecture with Walter Veith we will investigate the huge difference between faith IN Jesus, and the faith OF Jesus. The Sabbath day has again become a contentious issue. The day that Rome hates the most is actually the day of our salvation! Let us get back to the basics and preach what we have always been preaching.

All Together Now, 1, 2, 3 (DVD)

Learn how habits are made and how to change them. The food industry is constantly competing for your dollars, and they are using proven techniques that allure and addict consumers to their products. Learn how to identify these traps and learn to avoid them.

God's Love for Man

Why does Satan hate man and God's children in particular? The irony is that the dragon's wrath and hatred can only be understood in the light of God's love towards man. **Satan hates, because God loves.** God loves man so much that He Himself became a man and died as a man:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:6).

Despite Satan's hate, God's plan of salvation has been accomplished:

Notwithstanding Satan's persistent opposition, the plan of redemption was being carried out. Man was esteemed of sufficient value for Christ to sacrifice His life for him. Satan, knowing that the empire he had usurped would in the end be wrested from him, determined to spare no pains to destroy as many as possible of the creatures whom God had created in His image. He hated man because Christ had manifested for him such forgiving love and pity, and he now prepared to practice upon him every species of deception by which he might be lost; he pursued his course with more energy because of his own hopeless condition (The Spirit of Prophecy 3:194, 195). 7BC 973.10

In Revelation 12:10, Satan is depicted as "the accuser of the brethren", which borrows from the scene of Joshua the high priest, found in Zechariah 3:1-4:

And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

God's love towards the sinner is expressed as the righteousness (change of raiment) that is bestowed on everyone who responds to His love; in this manner, Satan's accusations are rendered void and irrelevant. Christ's love is reciprocated in those faithful followers who overcome Satan in that they "love not their lives unto death":

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Revelation 12:11

We discovered in Part 2 of this series that "overcoming" means more than passively accepting the change of raiment; overcoming is keeping God's commandments and having faith in Jesus. In fact, as we read on in Zechariah 3:6-7, And the angel of the LORD protested unto Joshua, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by, salvation only starts with the replacement of raiment (justification): it continues to be a process where we walk in the ways of the Lord (sanctification).

As readers might have noticed already in the "Truth" article (Part 4 of this series), the Book of Revelation shows some parallels to the Book of Ezekiel. It even seems that Ezekiel constitutes a *type* of the *antitype* Revelation: while Ezekiel's message targeted the Hebrew nation in the Babylonian captivity, Revelation targets the entire human race in Satan's captivity. Revelation 12 makes it clear where the great controversy originated, how Christ excluded Satan from the Heavenly courts by means of the Lamb's sacrifice on the cross, and how He finally takes man's case to victory as the righteous Ruler of the universe. Likewise, the Book of Ezekiel traces Satan's fall and exclusion from heaven in Ezekiel 28, a chapter that appears to narrate a story in partial parallelism to Revelation 12.

Satan will launch his final military campaign against the remnant, in which he will muster his confederate forces; the last conspiracy against Jesus and His followers. An alliance of the sun worshipping elite, the merchants, the Babyloni-

Study the Word of God. Commit its precious promises to memory so that, when we shall be deprived of our Bibles, we may still be in possession of the Word of God.

an religious leaders and the political leaders of a doomed geopolitical system controlled by the great whore (Revelation 17:2.5.; 18:3) will attempt to war against the remnant. But the Lord will deliver His beloved. The Spirit of Prophecy promises:

"When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof. [...]

The people of God — some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains — still

plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen....

Great hailstones, every one "about the weight of a talent," are doing their work of destruction. [..]. The proudest cities of the earth are laid low. The lordly palaces, upon which the world's great men have lavished their wealth in order to glorify themselves, are crumbling to ruin before their eyes. Prison walls are rent asunder, and God's people, who have been held in bondage for their faith, are set free. (Mar 269.2; 278.3; 280.4)

Christ's Character Manifested

This series started out with the assumption that the Book of Revelation is arranged in a chiastic structure with four chiastic ring segments and a fifth segment that is imaged onto itself; in fact, that will provide the imaging plane for the entire chiasm: A, B, C, D, E, D', C', B', A', with "E" providing the imaging plane. We finally closed in on this imaging plane of Revelation's chiasm, the plane where the mirror is placed. What is so important about Revelation 12?

In a unique way - as we won't find it in the remainder of Scripture - this chapter contrasts God's love and affection for man before Satan's selfish, psychopathic hate. Ellen White states that

"in his enmity to Christ until He hung upon the cross of Calvary, with wounded, bruised body and broken heart, Satan completely uprooted himself from the affections of the universe" 7BC 974.1

Revelation 12 also testifies of the remnant's ultimate response to God's love, again from a unique perspective that is absent in the rest of Bible: while the gospels emphasize salvation of the *individual believer*, Revelation 12 clearly conveys Christ's relationship to and the testimony of the final congregation of believers, the true *church*.

With its chiastic structure unveiled and with all themes identified, what then is the overall message of the Book

of Revelation? If we take our themes together: Trustworthiness, Faithfulness, Justice, Truth and Love, we have all the attributes of the perfect character of Jesus Christ! This is the character God wants everyone of us to grow into. These are the traits all Christian parents want to pass to their children. In Revelation 12, God explains where sin and sorrow started (with Satan's rebellion), where the world's history ultimately will lead up to (to Jesus ruling with an iron rod), and how we can become a citizen of the new earth: by overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and by having the testimony of Jesus.

If one were to ask for the single most important chapter of the

Book of Revelation, this chapter would be Revelation 12; if one were to read the most important verse of the book, this verse must be verse 11; it summarizes how redemption is obtained: by believing in Jesus, by witnessing and by living a life prepared for sacrifice.

Ellen White implies that the Bible will eventually be taken away from us:

Study the Word of God. Commit its precious promises to memory so that, when we shall be deprived of our Bibles, we may still be in possession of the Word of God.—Manuscript Releases 10:298 (1909). {LDE 67.6}

Is it far-fetched that the possession of God's written word will eventually be prohibited? Rome and its subordinate agencies certainly don't like that people study God's word, especially the prophetic books Daniel and Revelation. Civil rights lawyer John W. Whitehead warns that everyone who "subscribes to religious views concerning the book of Revelations" or who "believes in a New World Order conspiracy" and "expounds about constitutional rights and civil liberties" might be suspicious of domestic terrorism². Let us wake up and think about what this means! Winning the spiritual warfare finally means to be counted among God's spiritual elite,

The Outer Chiastic Ring of Revelation Rev 1:1-1:3 **A** Trustworthiness Rev 1:4-3:22 **B** Faithfulness Rev 4:1-9:21 **C** Justice Rev 10+11 D Truth **E** Love Rev 13+14 D' Truth Rev 15:1-20:15 C' Justice B' Faithfulness Rev 21:1-22:17 A' Trustworthiness Rev 22:18-22:21

FIGURE: In order to understand the message of the Book of Revelation better, we need to recognize that this book is arranged in a chiasm of five segments.

"the little company who keep the commandments of God and are resisting the supremacy of Satan who numbers the world as his subjects" (Mar 272.3).

Since Revelation provides us with the vital information, (God's intelligence) to win this war for eternal salvation, this last book of the Holy Writ is worth gold. It may be a hard endeavor to memorize Revelation word by word. but it is easy to remember that in it Christ's character is unveiled; something every child is able to understand. The book that is the "hardest one in the Bible to understand" for accomplished theologians, may thus become the most fascinating

book to read and absorb for every Bible student. Every child of God is to become more trustworthy, faithful, just, true and loving; so that God will find them worthy of receiving the seal of God on their foreheads.

In this sense, the Book of Revelation truly becomes the scroll of *The Manifestation of Jesus Christ*. Will you join Ezekiel and John and incorporate it into your heart and mind? Then it is yours to keep!

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¹ Benjamin G. Wilkinson, "Truth Triumphant", http://www.sabbathtruth.com/portals/20/documents/Truth_Triumphant.pdf

² https://www.rutherford.org/publications_resources/john_whiteheads_commentary/ americas_gestapo_the_fbis_reign_of_terror



God Reveals Satan's Masquerade (DVD)

In this compelling presentation with Pastor Andreas Mellas we will look into how Satan is trying ever harder to deceive us. If we understand the devil's transformations, we can see right through his masquerade. Watch and learn how God is all powerful and can reveal the truth in all circumstances, and can shed light on Satan's masquerade.

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*All prices subject to change without notice.

Divine Prepositions (DVD)

In this lecture with Pastor Andreas Mellas we will have an in-depth Bible study about the three prepositions within Romans 11:36. This passage has three divine prepositions that are vital. What does OF God, THROUGH God, and TO God really mean?

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John the Baptist and the Remnant Church (DVD)

People today seek truth. Within this holy book there's one man that perfectly represents God's last day Remnant people. In this Bible study with pastor Andreas Mellas we will learn about the life of John the Baptist. What characteristics of John the Baptist should we adopt?

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Last Days Disguises (DVD)

If you ask men of the world, things may seem to be going well. There's more religious unity and tolerance, there's progression and advancement in the fields of science and medicine, and things appear to be wonderful! For a Christ-follower, it is sober times. We know the truth of the Bible - the end is near.

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*All prices subject to change without notice.