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"Blessed are they
which do hunger and thirst after righteousness
for they shall be filled....
If any man thirst,
let him come unto Me, and drink.
He that believeth on Me,
as the Scripture hath said,
out of his belly shall flow
rivers of living water."

Matthew 5:6; John 7:37,38
Dear Wendy & stuff,

Congratulations for your wonderful web site. It looks professional and very informative. Hope you can reach a lot of people. Thank you for your newest magazine. Take care and may God be with you all.

T.W. & M.W.
Westbank, BC

Dear Amazing Discoveries staff,

We really enjoy the newsletter. It is very interesting, spiritual and informative, and well done.

God bless you all.

Love and prayers from
V.R. & L.R.
Kelowna, BC

Hi there,

I find your site very informative and am a keen reader of Dr. Veith's work. Kind regards,

Dr. L.de K.
Capetown, R.S.A.

Hello,

I live on Salt Spring Island here in BC. Recently had the privilege of listening to all of Walter Veith's tapes on creation and the sines on antichrist. They truly changed my life and I would very much like to be put on your mailing list. Living on this small island, we are more or less cut off from the rest of the world. Thank you very much. God bless.

A.P.
Salt Spring Island, BC

Saw your video and enjoyed it very much. You sure did expose the Sunday-day worship of the Catholic and Protestant churches! I will contact your web site when you get it updated.

R.S.
Email

Dear Wendy,

Thank you for putting me on your mailing list for your newsletters. I appreciate the issue on Bible versions and have shared it with a few people. It's given them food for thought.

R.R.
Lomporn, CA

As the world prepares for the new millennium coming in 18 months, against the backdrop of the rapid changes the world is experiencing with respect to the environment, globalization in trade, the European union, and the increasing influence and power of the Vatican, it is crucial to ask ourselves as Christians where we are in the prophetic time and whether we are prepared to meet our Creator and King. While the Bible clearly tells us that the day and hour of Christ's return is known only to God (Matt 24:36; Mark 13:32), it also tells us that when we see the end time events Christ outlined, we can rightly conclude that His coming is "even at the door" (Matt 24:33; Mark 13:29).

The Spirit of Prophecy also fills in many details of what will be happening, and warns us that the last events will be rapid ones (179 p. 11), and will come in an overwhelming surprise. (Micah 3:12). Not surprisingly, the Spirit of Prophecy places something totally about the temporal millennium.

The line of distinction between professional Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join them. And Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church will be readily deceived by this wonderful show of power, and Propositions, having cast away the shield of truth will also be deceived.

"Papists, and Protestants, and worldly men will alike accept the form of godliness without the power and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium." (GC 588; emphasis supplied)

"I saw our people in great distress, weeping and praying, pleading the sure promises of God, while the wicked were all around us, mocking us and threatening to destroy us. They ridiculed our feebleness, they mocked the smallness of our numbers, and boasted with words calculated to cut deep." (Matt 8:20; emphasis added)

"They charged us with taking an independent position from all the rest of the world. They had cut off our resources so that we could not buy nor sell, and referred to our object poverty and sickness condition. They could not see how we could stand out in the world, we were dependent upon the world, and we must conclude to the customs, prejudices and laws of the world, or go out of it. If we were only the people in the world whom the Lord blessed, the appearances were awfully against us.

"They declared that they had the truth, that miracles were among them, that angels from heaven talked with them, and walked with them, that great power, and signs and wonders were performed among them, and this was the temporal millennium, which they had been expecting so long. The whole world was converted and in harmony with the Sunday law, and this little feeble people stood out in defiance of the laws of the land, and the laws of God, and claimed to be the only ones right on the earth." (Mi 2:10; emphasis supplied)

From the choice of words, in the last quoted passage and from the tense of the verbs, it appears that the temporal millennium has only recently come when the wicked are saying all these things to the inhabitants. The wicked say of the millennium that they have been expecting it for a long time. People do not use words like that to talk about something that has been around for any length of time. It takes only a few weeks into a new year before we stop wishing people a happy new year in March or perhaps even February. Similarly, people would not be talking about the new millennium long after it is started. Its newness would wear off quickly. That's human nature.

What is most significant in all this is that it very close to the start of the temporal millennium, the mark of the beast has already been imposed. The Maimonides quote above makes this clear. When he says that the remnant have been cut off from buying and selling, we cannot set a date for Jesus return, but the Spirit of Prophecy clearly links the Sunday law and the newly-arrived temporal millennium. Do we dare to ignore the significance of this link? We know that the ten virgins in the parable were all asleep when the bridegroom came. Could it be that we are asleep even now, and that we will soon be jarred from this sleep by the loud cry?

Before continuing to read further please look at the language in the second quote above which talks about the wicked claiming to walk and talk with angels. The wicked use this experience with angels as proof that they are God's people and that they have the truth. Then notice the following advertisement (with the details edited out as to where and when the meetings would be held) which appeared in a recent community newspaper.

The Healing Power of Angels

Come and learn to talk with angels. They are your friends and they can make a profound difference in your life.

They bring you comfort, inspiration, guidance, healing, and protection - if you only ASK THEM! IT'S TIME YOU INVITED THE ANGELS INTO YOUR LIFE!

Surely, we are seeing prophecy fulfilled before our eyes. Surely, we must be in the bosom of the image in Daniel, chapter 2. Marvin Moore, editor of Signs of the Times...Continued on Page 16
THE STOREHOUSE OF HEAVEN
By Walter J. Veith

Financing the work costs money and it is the privilege of all who believe to contribute to this end in accordance to the measure in which God has prospered them. Paradoxically, some of the richest blessings and promises in the Scriptures are applicable to those who willingly contribute of their means to finance the ministry. Everything we possess, we possess by the grace of God. It is He that grants us abilities and capabilities including the capacity to make money.

*And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." Deuteronomy 8:18.

Everything belongs to God, but He has granted us the privilege of managing the earth.

*The God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28.

This privilege does not jeopardize God's ownership.

*"The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." Psalm 24:1

*"The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine; Says the Lord of hosts." Haggai 2:8

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. Psalm 50:10

The methods of financing the gospel have been spelt out by God. They are divided into two categories, namely tithes and offerings.

*"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings." Malachi 3:8

A tithe is a tenth and the tithe system was introduced by God for the financing of the ministry. The tithe was to be used to pay the priests. The first instruction written in regard to tithing is recorded in the book of Leviticus.

*And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord." Leviticus 27:30

Ken Anderson

IN THE NEWS

Eastern Orthodox Church Leader Visits Vancouver - The leader of the 300-million member Eastern Orthodox Church, Bartholomew I, visited Vancouver May 27th as part of an eight-day visit to Canada. According to the Vancouver Sun, the visit is his first to Canada since his elevation to the patriarchate by his predecessor, as similar to what the Pope is to Catholics. He is high. He is the head of the Orthodox Church, his brother's church, Greek Orthodox priest Peter Filopulos.

Although Bartholomew is the leader of the largest ethnic Orthodox churches, he does not represent the entire Greek orthodox community in Canada. He is the ruling of the Greek Orthodox Church, which is growing rapidly, since the collapse of the USSR. He is known for his piety, his dedication, his transparency, and mystical traditions, according to the Sun.

Evangelist Takes Struggle to End Homosexuality Will Bring Disasters - Evangelist Pat Robertson, in his religious talk show, "The 700 Club," has warned Orlando, Florida that it will be subjected to terrorist bombings, earthquakes, hurricanes, and possibly a meteor that will hit it in a catastrophe, causing what is more effectively, in deaths, often. From the Jesuits five times I received forty stripes, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have been in the deep, in journeys, often, in prisons, in fastings and labors, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in bonds often, in cold and nakedness - besides the other things, what comes upon me daily, my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. The seed of death, Christ, who is the very life of man, he is the life of all men. Faith on the Line

The use to which the tithe was to be put is recorded in the book of Numbers.

*Blessed be the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tent of meeting." Numbers 18:21

Some might argue that the system of tithing was not only applicable in the Old Testament times and that it was meant for the Jews. However, the system of tithing was in operation before the nation of Israel was called by God, and Paul in his letter to the Corinthians applies the system of tithing to the ministers of the gospel.

*"Do you not know that those who minster the holy things eat the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel." I Corinthians 9:13,14

Indeed it is a command of God that the minister be paid "in the same way" as those who ministered in the temple, and that was through the system of tithing. In no way does the New Testament negate the system of tithing. On the contrary, it places it on a higher plane. We should not pay the tithe out of a forced feeling of duty. It should come from the heart. *"[F]or God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Pharisees did everything according to the law, but they neglected the matters of the heart. Jesus rebuked them.

*"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith. These ought you to have done, without leaving the others undone." Matthew 23:23

They should have practised the former without neglecting the latter. It is a change of heart that God requires.

God knows our natures and so He has promised rich blessings to those who will heed His command. God does not need our money, but He wants us to be co-workers together with Him, that we may be able to come co-sharers of the blessings of the gospel.

*"Bring all the tithes into the house of the Lord, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts. "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10

God challenges us to put Him to the text. *"...shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Genesis 18:25

*"And I will rebuke the devourer, Satan, on our behalf so that it will not devour the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the Lord of hosts." Malachi 3:11

The promise to rebuke the devourer, Satan, on our behalf will restore much more than we presumably to lose by paying our tithes. God will not let His children suffer want, poverty, pain and emotional hurt for the snares of the devil. We should indeed not be living in the deep, in poverty, in want, in lack, because we were paying tithe. We should never allow ourselves to confuse the two issues. Paul describes his trials in his letter to the Corinthians particularly with regard to the Jews who relentlessly persecuted him.

Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? - I speak as a fool - I am more in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in deaths oft. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have been in the deep, in journeys, often, in prisons, in perils of robbers in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings oft, in cold and nakedness - besides the other things, what comes upon me daily, my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. The seed of death, Christ, who is the very life of man, he is the life of all men.

Everything belongs to God, but He has granted us the privilege of managing the earth.
city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. 2 Corinthians 11:22-33

The trials were part of the cross he bore for the sake of the gospel. God, however, promises to meet our temporal needs and we must learn to take God at His word.

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:31-33

"I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread." Psalm 37:25 (NIV)

The tenth of our increase goes to finance the ministry. We cannot choose the purpose for which our tithe is to be used. The choice is already been made by God. Once the tithe is paid, the responsibility for its correct application lies with the church administration. Offerings, on the other hand, are free will offerings, and the choice as to their application lies with each individual. We should not neglect offerings because we feel that we pay tithe. The blessings promised by God cover tithes and offerings. We are told in the letter to the Corinthians:

"But this I say, He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7

The blessings of God carry with them eternal consequences and should be sought diligently.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be." Matthew 6:19-21

God promises reward for our diligence.

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38 (NIV)

Our blessings come from God and we should acknowledge this. We should also make sure that we do not fail into the same trap as the rich farmer in Luke chapter 12 who had a great crop but then decided:

"...I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years, take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you, and then whose will these things be which you have provided?'" So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:18-21

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Brian Neumann presents A New and Exciting Series at Vancouver Central SDA Church 5350 Bailee Street Vancouver, BC

Starts Sabbath, September 26, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. with A Personal Testimony Continues Monday to Friday 7:00 pm featuring:

The Language of Music History of the Modern Music Industry The Music Industry Today The Christian Music Industry The Bible and Music

Sabbath, October 3, 1998 at 7:00 pm with The True Christian and Music

Get ready for a captivating series of meetings as Brian takes you on an intimate journey through his life to encounter the sometimes dark influences that steer young people in the wrong direction. Share in the experience of the devestating results of passionate young love. Encounter the dangerous adventure of climbing the ladder of fame in the world of Rock 'n Roll. Experience the exciting journey as Brian finds himself back in the arms of God.

You will learn the importance of never giving up on our children, no matter how bad we think they have become, and of praying for your children as you see a mother's prayers for her child answered. You will have a new appreciation for our wonderful God as you witness the experience of someone being born again.

Join Brian as he shares his deep personal experience in the realm of Rock music as he travelled to its inner recesses, captivated by its charm. It took more than mere human effort to break the chains that bound him. Millions of young people throughout the world are similarly bound. Learn to find the pitfalls before they find you!

Video Tapes and Brian's new book will be available to order from Amazing Discoveries during & after the series!!
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THE STOREHOUSE OF HEAVEN
...Continued From Page 6

God promises to meet our temporal needs and we must learn to take God at His Word.

For..."...If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:24-26

True repentance brings faithfulness in all things, including the paying of tithes and offerings.

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:7-12

Money is not so much the problem. We all need money. It is the love of money that is the problem. When the heart overflows with gratitude towards God, then tithing paying will be deemed a privilege not a duty. When Abraham rescued Lot from the Amorites, he could have gained great temporal riches (Genesis 14:21-24), but he refused them. His faithfulness in tithing paying is also recorded in this chapter and stands as a lesson to all subsequent generations who belong to the seed of Abraham, those who are in Christ. In the same manner, when Jacob was given the promise that "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring." Genesis 28:14

He knew that he was accepted by God in spite of his sin. His encounter with the Lord filled him with gratitude. The rich promises of God encouraged him.

...Continued on Page 16
THE FAITH OF JESUS
by Brian Neumann
Freelance Evangelist

"Here is the patience of the saints. Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12

This well-known verse is a wonderful description of those who are waiting for our Lord's return - God's last day faithful people. There are, however, some conflicting opinions as to the exact meaning of this verse, in particular in regards to "the faith of Jesus". Some say it means faith in and some say it means faith of Jesus.

The original Greek of this portion of Scripture can be read both ways - faith in or faith of. For you and I as Christians, both aspects of faith in and faith of are of vital importance. I, myself, prefer to read this as "the faith of Jesus". This ties in with other portions of Scripture that literally read the faith of God or faith of Jesus. For example, in Mark 11:22, Jesus says in the KJV, "If you have faith in God." But the footnote states that the original meaning is "Have the faith of God." But what does it mean to exercise or have the faith of God or Jesus? Many feel it's the same, both of these verses such as Revelation 14:12 where we read "keeping the commandments of God" and having "the faith of Jesus" or when we read quotes such as the following:

"God requires this at me just as he required of the holy pair in Eden. - perfect obedience to his requirements." (Faith and Works p. 52)

When we read such quotes, we often wonder if perhaps we are even interpreting these verses and quotations aright. After all, it's not asking too much! How can it be any different ever as holy as the pair in Eden were, perfectly created in all purity fresh from the hand of God?

Actually, the faith of Jesus and the faith in Jesus are inseparable. In fact, I believe, that when we exercise faith in Jesus, we will then live out in our lives the faith of Jesus. We need not have any fear when we read verses that speak of being without spot or blemish before the throne of God, as long as we have a constant working experience with Christ. This is the faith of Christ.

How do we put all this into real life?

To understand this whole question of the faith in and the faith of Jesus, we need to realize what it really means.

While on the boat tossed on the sea of Galilee, Jesus rested in perfect peace and undisturbed tranquility. "When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He was in perfect peace. There was no trace of fear in word or look, for there was no fear in His heart. But He rested not in the possession of almighty power. And it was not as the "Master of earth and sea and sky" that He reposed in quiet. That power He had laid down, and He says, "I can of mine own self do nothing." (John 5:30) He trusted in the Father's might. It was in faith - faith in God's love and care - that Jesus rested, and the power of the Word which stilled the storm was the power of God, and not Jesus. Jesus was exercising faith. Not the power of the Master of the universe, but faith in the Spirit and what God could do.

As we study the life of Christ and the communion He has with us, we see a wonderful understanding to what the faith of Jesus is and the kind of faith we need. Jesus is our ultimate example. And in everything that we endeavour from day to day, it behooves us to follow the example of Christ. The power that was available to Jesus in His humanity is exactly the same power that is available to you and me today. This is the power that enables us to fulfill the commission of the saints in Revelation 14:12. This is the power that enables us to overcome obstacles and obey God's requirements. And this is the power that will enable us to continue growing in grace.

Consider this example. If you wanted to cleanse your body of impurities, you would go on a cleansing diet, eating only certain cleansing foods and drinking plenty of water. You are not instantly cleansed of all impurities the very day you go on the diet. It is a slow process of self-purification. The same is true of cleansing the spirit. Slowly the impurities will be eliminated out of your system. In a spiritual sense, we are also to be on a cleansing diet - a diet of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In John 14:14 we read about the woman at the well and how He tells her, "the water of life, the water that I will give you. As we daily partake of the water of life, we are purifying a cleansing diet, and that water of life cleanses the blood, as were, of all impurities.

In Romans 5:9, we are justified by the blood of Jesus Christ - by the pure blood of Jesus. The day that I truly accept Jesus into my life, I become justified by His blood. I am covered by the righteousness of Christ, and while I am being cleansed through the water of life in that process of sanctification, I need to be continuously covered by the blood of Jesus. This is His righteous cleansing, continual submission to Jesus every moment of your life. In this condition, when the Father looks at you, He doesn't see your imperfect human constitution that is in that process, but instead He sees Christ, His Son, ministering and working in your life - in the body temple. The Father sees the perfect life of His Son, and the sacrifice which His Son made, and the Father cannot reject the Son. You are covered by the righteousness of Christ.

And this is why those who claim to have the Holy Spirit, will not continue in sin. When on a cleansing diet you realize that something you are partaking of is bad for you, what do you do? You stop partaking of it, because you know that it is an impurity to your body. The problem is some of us who are on the cleansing diet keep going back to the things that are bad for us. If we continue to cheat while on our cleansing diet, slowly but surely we will become unhealthy once again.

In light of this, I will not willfully continue in known sin, when I have Christ living in me. If I am on the cleansing diet, I will be involved in the process of sanctification. The definition of sanctification, in short means "purifying; purifying your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit..." The result of the process of purification is obedience to the truth, and purification or sanctification is a process which is facilitated by obedience to the word of God. The source of power to continue in this process of sanctification is the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God reveals to me that which needs to be changed in my life. The Spirit speaks to me through what I learn in the Word of God. When the Spirit is living in me, I have the power to stay in the sanctification process and the power to obey the truth. The key verse of the text, is that purification is obtained through obedience to the truth.

In Faith and Works we read, "Obedience to the law of God is sanctification" (p. 85) What does this mean to us?

The meaning of this statement lies at the root of our Christian experience and it deals with love, a true kind of love that the Bible speaks of - a spiritual love.

Christ spoke about that love in Matthew 22:37-40: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind..." The result of this love is the demonstration of spiritual power in our life by our works towards our fellow man and our obedience to God. (2 John 6)

This is what the whole struggle between Christ and Satan has been about since it began. Satan accused God saying that God's laws were unjust and could not be obeyed. And there are many today who agree, saying that's impossible to obey the law of God. It's expecting too much to ask us to meet that perfect standard. We can't be perfect! Of course, no one is saying we are perfect. They are just repudiating what God promised. What Satan said from the very beginning. But we make the whole life of Christ null and void if we hold to this opinion. Christ came to this world as a man to prove that the requirements of God were indeed just and that by exercising faith as a
Is a 'little wine' good?

by Dr. Rick Westermeyer, M.D.

Many of you have heard or read that moderate alcohol may be beneficial to your health. Here is an example of a New York Times press release printed on December 11, 1997. "STUDY FINDS DRINKING CAN KEEP THE GRIM REAPER AWAY." It stated that "researchers report that modest drinking is, on balance, healthful and alcoholic effects are offset by alcohol's benefit to the heart."

After reading this report, you might begin to wonder if we didn't need to reconsider the long held Aristotelian position on alcohol to be more consistent with the scientific facts or perhaps even start sailing wine in the health food section of the conference store. As a physician it was important to me to go to the scientific literature myself to examine the evidence before I would start advising patients, as some doctors have, that alcohol be used for medicinal purposes.

First, I obtained the original research paper printed in the New England Journal of Medicine, December 1997 and then I did a literature search of all the articles that have been published on alcohol in the last three years. What I found was quite surprising considering all the popular press coverage of the beneficial and medicinal properties of alcohol. The largest and longest study to date was published in the New England Journal of Medicine in December 1997 and was entitled "Alcohol Consumption and Mortality Among Middle-aged and Elderly US Adults." [Thun et al., NEJM 1997, 337: 1705-14]

It followed nearly 500,000 individuals for nine years and reported a 20% decrease in mortality for those aged 35 to 70 during the study period for those who consumed at least one alcoholic beverage per day as compared to non-drinkers. They attributed nearly all of the lower death rates to medicinal effects of alcohol in protections against cardiovascular disease. From a purely medical point of view should physicians start recommending alcohol consumption to protect against heart disease and to promote good health? Many people have interpreted these findings to suggest moderate drinking of alcohol is a healthy lifestyle. [Lancet 1997, 350: 1569-70]

After carefully studying the original research paper from the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), plus reviewing over fifty other alcohol related articles published in the medical literature in the last three years the following seven points should be considered before using alcohol for medicinal purposes.

1) Alcohol is a well established risk factor for numerous cancers. The NEJM study showed a 30% increase in breast cancer occurrence in women consuming as little as one drink per day. This added to the already known increased incidence of mouth, throat, esophagus, stomach, pancreatic and liver cancer associated with alcohol consumption.

The Power of Extravagant Love

Mary was born into a respectable home in a good suburb of Jerusalem—Bethany. Her sister was Martha—the capable hostess. Her brother was the highly esteemed Lazarus. But something dreadful happened.

Either she was seduced or she was raped by a church leader. With no support from a psychologist, no pastoral counselor to be heard by, she felt polluted, she felt disgraced, took a dive, and lost all sense of self-control and self-respect. She became possessed by seven devils and seemed to epitomize a hopska. Then Mary met a Man—no ordinary man. A Man with unconditional love, a Man they might have thought never could exist. Jesus prayed for Mary Magdalen, and when He prayed something happened. She felt delivered. Little flowers began to pop up and bloom in her soul. Could she again become a woman of purpose, principle, and power? Amazing!

Not in one setting, but seven times Mary heard Christ clean the devils out of her tormented heart. You can almost see the disciples expressing their impatience. "She's had it Lord, she's finished. You can't save everybody!" A six time she blew it, finally a seventh time Christ prayed for Mary Magdalen—Freedom At Last!

Now what was that seventh devil? Knowing my own heart, I firmly believe that the last devil that Christ cast out of Mary's bitter resentment and hated against the man who had ruined her life. Mary finally grabbed the fact that if it were not for God's alluring love capturing her heart she would do the same if not worse. She put herself in the place of the man she had learned to hate. At last she was free!

Happiness flooded her heart. Christ had saved her soul. Love liberated her. Now she wanted to respond, she wanted to show her appreciation. But how? She was a woman, she couldn't speak in public. She had a nasty, sly reputation. How could she say "thank you?" Mary Magdalen caught what the dense disciples couldn’t understand. Christ had been speaking of His approaching death. The disciples wouldn't hear of such a death, only kingly glory and military might over Rome. But Mary listened...

She thought, "Well if He is going to die, at least I can anoint His dead body." She goes to the apothecary to get some Nabed. Doubtless, the shopkeeper directed her to his ordinary variety. "No, I want something better." "Well, I have something here for rich people, princes, or governors. It will cost you a bunch of money." "Well, do you have anything better than this?" She thought. She had one alabaster flask of very precious ointment, it will cost you 300 denarii (one year of wages) "You don't want this Mary. I'm saving it for maybe the Caesar across the waters or maybe for my governor—Plate." "No," says Mary, "I want the best." Paying 300 silver coins she goes home, puts it on a shelf, and waits for the sad day to come.

Finding her golden opportunity, with alabaster flask in hand, Mary crashes a local party. There is Jesus reclining at the table. Not opening the flask properly, she breaks the flask and pours the liquid on His head and feet. The fragrance floods the room. The buzz of conversation ceases. Everyone halts to gawk.

Something Mary Magdalen had not dreamed of. In a full four days with a foul burn open and she began to cry. Her hot tears of gratitude drip off her cheeks on to Christ's feet! She hadn't thought to bring a towel. Mary dries the Creator's feet with her flowing hair. For a woman to let down her hair in public, was a disgrace. No matter—she didn't heed the disgrace. The extravagant love of Christ has set her free. Totally thankful. Mary anoints Christ for His bural. He understood her pure motive, her lavish expression. She helped confirm Christ's resolve to save you and me.

He went to the cross six days later knowing that at least one person loved Him. "Yes Judas betrayed Me," Peter denied with cursing and sweating; not one has given Me water, but there is one human soul that appreciates what I am doing." Once in heaven we can say, thank you to Mary for encouraging our Savior in His darkest hour."...Continued on Page 14
alcohol consumption. (Rosenberg, L. "Alcohol consumption and the risk of breast cancer." Epidemiology Research 1993: 13.133-44.)

The reason that an overall decreased mortality rate was shown in the alcohol drinking population was because many more people who had heart disease than cancer. How could any physician have a patient dying at a slow, painful death from a cancer risk linked to the alcohol that he had previously recommended as a way to decrease the chance of a heart attack by only 30% when other less protective measures are available without causing cancer as a side effect?

2) By analysing only those aged 35 to 70, the study did not accurately reflect the lifetime risk of alcohol consumption. Alcohol appears to prevent heart attack in two ways. First by raising the level of HDL cholesterol, which reduces the build up of atheroma. Second, it dilutes the blood thinner which reduced the clot formation in the already narrowed coronary arteries which is the main cause of heart attacks. (Kannel, WB, "Alcohol, cigarette smoking, and the risk of coronary heart disease." The Framingham study. Ann Int Med 1971: 1-124-32) Interfering with the delicate balance in the blood clotting mechanism may be a dangerous thing. A few years ago, it was noted that alpinists had blood thinner properties that prevented heart attacks. The initial reports were so surprising that thousands of physicians voluntarily started taking aspirin daily as part of a study to look at the long term benefits. The human heart does not work very well, when blood clots it slowly and sticks it in the wall. It is not a large problem for athletes because their heart attacks are rare and they often have an unexpected high incidence of hemorrhagic stroke. By trying to prevent a heart attack by thinning the blood of some patients, it was thought that heart attacks or heart attacks with the risk of abnormal incidences of heart attacks, which has been closely linked to heart attacks and cardiomyopathy leading to congestive heart failure. (Cove, M. R. "Alcohol and the heart." British journal of Hospital Medicine 1997. 57. 548-51)

4) The 30% decrease in the death rate from heart disease attributed to alcohol may be achieved and surpassed by other protective methods. Numerous studies have shown that simple lifestyle measures can reduce cardiac risk by 50 to 70% without any of the many harmful side effects documented with alcohol usage. (Miller, G.J. "Alcohol consumption: protection against coronary artery disease and risk to health." Int J Journal Epidemiology 1990; 19.923-30)

5) The study methodology and analysis bring into question the validity of the conclusions. It must be understood that alcohol has little or no effect on reading heart risk and alcohol consumption rely on voluntary questionnaires being accurately completed. No one actually follows the patients around to document their consumption or verify their claims. One of the editors of the NEJM who wrote an editorial response pointed out that the study group reported their yearly alcohol consumption to be only half of self-reported per capita estimates based on industrial production and sales. (Potter, J.D. "Drinks and benefits of alcohol." NEJM 1997: 337.1763-4 which was far lower than the average American drinking habits, or they did not accurately complete their questionnaires. A third possibility which he did not mention would be that one half the alcohol produces in this country gets poured down the drain or is used to kill all. Any one who has ever worked with alcohols knows they are often in denial regarding their drinking patterns and some may have inaccurately placed themselves in the nondrinking group. This would affect the validity of the conclusions. Additionally, the NEJM excluded from their statistical analysis 32,000 individuals who had cancer or cirrhosis at the start of the study. These diseases are known to be closely linked to alcohol consumption and their exclusion could markedly effect mortality rates.

6) Apart from the heart, alcohol has physiologic negatives on virtually every major body system. When reading in the lay press is one could easily conclude that most medical research in recent years has focused on the possible medical value of alcohol on the heart. In reality, a totally different picture emerges. A computer search of all English language research papers in the medical literature in the last three years revealed 355 published articles of which 48 were relevant review articles summarizing and condense research findings on a related topic. After carefully reading the abstracts of the 48 review articles, 44 were dealing with the toxic effects of alcohol and of the remaining 4 which deal with death from the cardiac benet the remaining 4 which deal with death from the cardiac benet each clearly included the negative effects of alcohol. Here is only a sampling of statements taken from these abstracts.

"Alcohol is a neurotoxin associated with significant morbidity and mortality. It may cause blood pressure, damage the myocardium, precipitate arrhythmias and damage the developing fetal heart. (Koepsell, T.D. "Alcohol and the brain." British Journal of Hospital Medicine 1997. 57. 543-51)

"It is well recognized that alcohol increases the risk of injury." (Koepsell, T.D. "Alcohol and injury severity." Journal of Trauma 1997. 5. 526-69)


"Alcohol related problems include liver disease, delirium, confusional, peripheral neuropathy, insomnia, seizure disorders, poor nutrition, incontinence, diaphoresis, myopathy, inadequate self care, malnutrition, depression, fractures, and adverse reactions to medications." (Fink, A. "Alcohol related problems in older persons." Archives of Internal Medicine 1997. 157.242-3)

"Alcohol has consistently been related to risks of squamous cell cancer." (Thomas, D. B. Alcohol as a cause of cancer." Environmental Health Perspectives 1995, 103:153-60)

"The influence of alcohol on sexual behavior is a part of popular knowledge." (Donovan, C. "A review of the literature examining the relationship between alcohol use and HIV related sexual risk taking in young people." Addiction 1997. 90.319-28)

Other studies showed the relationship between alcohol and osteoporosis, chronic gastritis, peptic ulcers, decreased immune response, aggressive behavior, fetal malformation, spontaneous abortion and this is only a sampling. It is difficult to see how anyone could review the data and conclude that the beneficial properties of alcohol outweigh the toxicology even when taken in moderate amounts.

7) One must consider the addictive potential of alcohol with its resultant social and economic implications. It is recognized that approximately 10% of the individuals who begin drinking will become sufficiently addicted to be considered problem drinkers or alcoholics. In a Gallup poll, I out of 4 Americans report their families being negatively impacted by alcohol abuse. The economic loss of worker productivity is requised in the billions of dollars. A Medical Pharmacology textbook states: Alcohol is discturber separating because its weak and Oil and alcohol binds to more chlorophyll and organic molecule than any other agent. The social and therapeutic problems this generated are an unavoidable concern of every parent. Ethyl alcohol is an addictive drug and it would be doubly impossible to be placed under juridiction of the 19th Amendment if it weren't undiscovered today." (Meyers, F.H. "Review of Medical Pharmacology." Lange 1980. 242-46)

In conclusion, lets suppose you want to your physician and were offered a medication with the following informed consent:

"This is a drug which can reduce your chance of heart attack by 30%, but I must warn you that this drug is a direct brain and liver toxicant, which will be harmful to your other organs. I am not sure of the adverse reactions to osteoporosis, ulcers and hypertension. There's also a 5 to 10% chance that you will become addicted to this drug which could easily lead to losing your job and destroy your marriage. I must warn you that there are some even more effective in preventing heart disease, but I think you really like the euphoric feeling get when you take this drug." First, the Federal Drug Administration would never allow a drug with this degree of risk to benefit profile to ever be marketed. Second, if they did, what patient in their right mind would accept such a prescription and ever trust the judgment of their physician again. It is probably safe to say that many people who claim to be using alcohol for medical purposes who are already recreationally drinking have no intention to stop since it supports their lifestyle. From a purely medical perspective, it's hard to justify it. The medical journal Cardiology Clinics summarizes the following: "Given the complex nature of alcohol related diseases, alcohol consumption should not be considered a primary preventive strategy. (Giacomello, J. "Oste and heart disease: the role of fat, alcohol and antioxidants." Cardiology Clinics 1996. 14. 69-83)

As Christians, our decision to drink alcoholic beverages should not be based solely on scientific data, but also on the moral and spiritual implications. With God's help, our life is not only for ourselves, but also for others and for those who are not yet convinced. The moral and spiritual consequences of alcohol use are not insignificant. The basic principle is to consider the impact alcohol has on your body and on those around you. The impact of alcohol use on the quality of life, mental and spiritual dimensions is a topic that is of great importance.
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE
...Continued From Page 13

It was Mary who sat at His feet and soaked it all up, who poured the precious anointing oil, who bathed His feet with her tears, who stood beside the cross, who followed His body to the tomb, who came to the tomb on resurrection morning after the Sabbath, who wept over His missing body. It was to Mary Christ first spoke, and it was Mary to first proclaim a risen Saviour to the fearful disciples.

Mary exemplifies the power of Christ’s amazing love to change you and me!

-Don Anderson

Don Anderson is thankful for God’s extravagant love and pastors the Maple Ridge and Mission Seventh-day Adventist Churches!

FROM THE EDITOR
...Continued From Page 3

in his book, The Coming Great Calamity, stresses that a paradigm shift—a change in values and thinking of an individual or society—can occur very rapidly in time of crisis. Using the Bible (Luke 21:25,26 for example) and the Spirit of Prophecy as authority, he strongly suggests that the crisis described in Revelation 13 could be precipitated by an asteroid or comet striking the earth, causing widespread death and destruction and threatening life on earth.

Should life on earth be threatened by forces beyond the ability of man to deal with, a dramatic and sudden change would occur as the world would finally acknowledge its need of God’s help. Revelation tells us that at the end religious forces will be in control using civil power to enforce their decisions. Our society is secular now, but an environmental catastrophe which put the whole world at risk could change that overnight. There would be no time to get ready for such a catastrophe when it happens. We have to start preparing now.

- Ken Anderson

STORE-HOUSE OF HEAVEN
...Continued From Page 9

will have to show me which of these two amounts I would have to pay! It was early in my religious experience and I reasoned that my money was safe because God would never be able to accede to such a challenge.

Surprise, surprise! Within ten minutes of issuing the challenge to God, a letter arrived by mail which contained a note from an attorney who had discovered an error pertaining to the finances of issues that had transpired a number of years previously. Enclosed in the letter was a refund cheque for precisely the higher amount that I had calculated.

Being an odd number I was stunned and concluded that God, knowing my stubborn heart, had decided to pay my first tithe Himself, and so I started paying tithe. Moreover I realized that God had a sense of humour - for He could have chosen the lesser amount.

Have I suffered because I have had to pay tithe? No, never. God has never let me down. There were times when we had no money, when we were taken to the brink, but God has always provided. I have learnt that if I want to survive I need to pay my tithe. Indeed, when the going gets tough, I pay my tithe quick, or else I know I will not make it.

God has taught us wonderful lessons of trust, not only in terms of tithes, but also in terms of offerings. Sometimes He has required of us to sell something which we felt we could afford to lose, or to take steps in faith and spend money that we did not have, on furthering His work, but every time, God poured out a blessing in accordance with His promises.

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" Numbers 23:19

- Walter J. Veith

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