

Faith on the line

A Journal for Those Who Dare

Spring &
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"To have the religion of Christ means that you have absolutely surrendered your all to God, and consented to the guidance of the Holy Spirit."
Messages to Young People, p. 30



From the Mailbox...



We welcome your comments and opinions. If something in our newsletter or material has impacted you, we'd like to hear from you. We can be contacted by fax, mail or email. Please see the last page for this information.

Email: Your site is excellent. The layout is good, the material is presented effectively and graphically. I am particularly grateful for the section on evolution and the article on wine - what an eye-opener! The entire website is helpful.

However, I would like more information on the historical Jesus - that is, more evidence on Jesus' existence in non-Biblical sources. Thanks for your help and keep up the good works. Yours in Christ,

Pastor H.C.
Quebec Conference, Canada

Dr. Walter Veith:

I can only thank God for messengers like yourself. It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them...

I have just come back to rejoin the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This time I am here to stay and to serve God with His power and glory....

I love what you have presented re-

garding the symbols of Satan and who is in control of the New World Order. Your evidence is so fascinating and clear. I almost fell out of my chair! It is the only one I have seen so far and it was a little faded as it was a copy of a copy. I was told I haven't seen nothing yet until I've seen it all.

People around the world need to know, we must not hesitate....I have never been so excited about wanting to serve God as much as I am now....

V.D.
Frankford, Ontario

Dear Dr. Veith:

I enjoyed your seminar at Grand Terrace last year and am looking forward to this year. I am an R.N. and have been sharing my tapes and telling others. May God bless you.

K.C., Email

Dear AD,

In your Winter 1999 issue, you had a write up about bill HR2431, and I would like to know if you have more information on this bill. ...By the way Dr. Veith's tapes that I bought from you already are great. Thank you.

P.V.
Coarsegold, CA

Editor's Note: Please see www.house.gov/wolf/free/irpass.htm on the net for further information.

Dear Dr. Veith:

It is with great joy that I recently discovered your videos, tapes, newsletter and website!

A few months ago, I was visiting a church, and the pastor told me about a new believer who was very excited about creation, asking if I would talk with her. She excitedly told me about some videos they gave her..." (I have mixed feelings about all

the ones I had seen) - but when I saw your name on them, I shouted for joy!

It was as though it lifted a great burden from my shoulders, a burden I wasn't even fully aware of - I thought I had to make a video set to counteract the poor ones that are circulating. When I saw your name, I was confident that you have already done it. Since then, I have seen the set of six videos, and recommend them to people who ask me, including leaders in various ministries. It is such a blessing to be able to recommend them. You have done a great work - among many other things, you put Dr. Roth's fieldtrip on video!

I don't know if you remember me at all - I was one of the students sitting in the seminar you gave for the biology grad students at Loma Linda University about 1987 when you came to go with Dr. Roth on the Colorado Plateau fieldtrip...I was finishing (or had just finished) my PhD on fossil pollen in a Jurassic-Cretaceous sequence in California...

I, too, was a relatively new convert to Christianity, creationism, and Adventism. I remember J's question to you about whether it was possible to get the different races of humans in only a few thousand years, and your yes answer. Ever since, I have wanted to ask you for some of the documentation on that.

At present I am Nature Center Director at the Northern California Conference's Conference Center at Leoni Meadows, in the snowy mountains about 70 miles east of Sacramento, California. I also teach a class called "Creation and Science" at Weimar College, about 50 miles north of here... I praise God for you!

Dr. K.G. J.
California

Email: Re. Wine article on web site:

I took my CNA training from a wonderful instructor. But when she covered that article and supported the "goodness in a little wine for health", I felt I could not answer because I had no access to anything scientific to the contrary. Thank you for such information.

P.W.



Suffering- God's Tool of Redemption

Edited and Abridged from a Sermon
by Emilio B. Knechtle

To love is to serve. To serve means to sacrifice, and sacrifice always brings suffering.

Suffering is a component part of redemption. Before sin came into the world, there was no suffering. Suffering is the result of sin. But God uses suffering as a tool of redemption.

SUFFERING IN THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION

Suffering runs through the whole plan of salvation. The first to suffer were two little lambs. As soon as Adam and Eve sinned, Jesus left Heaven, came to our earth and took two lambs and killed them to demonstrate to man how He one day would be innocently put to death in our place. And for the first time in the history of the universe, suffering had entered it.

Abel suffered when he was hated and killed by his brother Cain because he believed in the forgiveness of sins through the blood of the Son of God.

Mankind suffered when it was wiped out by a worldwide flood because the rebellion against God endangered the whole human race.

Isaac suffered when his father laid him down on an altar and was about to kill him in obedience to God's command.

Jacob suffered when he heard that Esau was coming with five hundred armed men to kill him and his family in revenge for having been cheated out of his birthright by Jacob.

Joseph suffered when his brothers sold him, bound to Egypt, where he was thrown into jail innocently.

Moses suffered 40 years alone in the desert with sheep and then 40 years in a desolate wilderness with a rebellious nation.

David suffered when he was persecuted by his own son Absalom who tried to kill him and take the kingdom away from him.

For centuries, lambs had to suffer and die every morning and evening in the temple, pointing to the suffering of the coming Messiah.

In Isaiah 53:7 we read: "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter..."

And Isaiah 63:9 says: "In all their affliction, He was afflicted..."

SUFFERING IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Suffering also ran through the life of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Hebrews 5:8 says: "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered, and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him."

Hebrews 2:10 says: "For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

Hebrews 12:2 says: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, ..."

Luke 24:25,26 says: "Oh fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?"

In John 15:25, Jesus said: "...They hated me without a cause."

SUFFERING IN THE LIFE OF THE REDEEMED

Suffering runs through the life of the redeemed. You cannot learn to suffer through books or through hearing how others suffer, but only through experience. John saw in a vision the multitude of redeemed in heaven robed in white robes and he wrote, "These are they which came out of great tribulation..." Revelation 7:14

This tribulation spoken of is not a long era of persecution. This great tribulation are the periods of suffering that Christians go through.

Maybe you're going through such a period of tribulation right now. Moses described the grain offering which is acceptable to the Lord in these words: "And if thy oblation be a meat offering baken in the frying pan, it shall be made of fine flour with oil." Leviticus 2:7

How do you get fine flour? It's made of wheat. But wheat must first be grinded, broken, and crushed before it turns into fine flour. So our ego, our self-love must also be first grinded, broken, and crushed through suffering, through trials.

In the same verse, we read that the fine flour was offered with oil. What does oil stand for? The Holy Spirit. If you suffer without the Holy Spirit, you go into deep depression. But if you suffer with the Holy Spirit, drawing closer to Him, then it's a glorious experience. God tests our obedience, not only through temptations but also through suffering.

Why was it fitting that Christ be made perfect through suffering? (Hebrews 2:10) Was Christ not perfect? Yes. But God never before had to prove His obedience and surrender under such difficult circumstances, namely living in the form of a human being, surrounded by sin, beset from every side with suffering and privations.

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SUFFERING, GOD'S TOOL OF REDEMPTION

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The way of suffering is the official, the only, way to heaven for all of God's children. The great question is this: How far is a person willing to go in his endurance of suffering? Every one of us reaches the maximum point of endurance at a different stage. Some give up earlier than others. Only a few endure to the very end like Jesus did. But this decides our own destiny. If we ever say to God, "I will go this far and no further, God. If you continue making me suffer, I will give you up," you will lose your salvation. God expects us to endure to the end. He will grant us the necessary power to endure any amount of suffering and humiliation.

The way of suffering is the official, the only, way to heaven for all of God's children.

To abandon ourselves completely to the leading of the Holy Spirit while suffering - without doubting, without rejecting God - is one of the greatest Christian virtues. Why? Because it requires the highest degree of trust in God. The person who has an intimate love relationship with Christ - a strong hold on Him - knows that God's mercy and help is always greater than the difficulties, suffering, and obstacles he faces. He will endure to the end, like Job.

ACTIVE VS. PASSIVE POWER

Jesus had tremendous *active* power, which He demonstrated and exhibited by creating a universe, walking on water, turning water into wine, raising the dead, healing the sick, preaching and teaching with authority, and stilling a hurricane.

But Jesus also has tremendous *passive* power. This He demonstrated by enduring shame and suffering. When He finally went to the cross, He allowed Himself to be brought down to the zero point - the second death.

In the last 12 hours of His life, Jesus needed more passive power than at creation. The last 12 hours of His life were the greatest demonstration of God's power in the history of the universe. Never before did God have to endure that much. It was so much, that He died of it. For Jesus had all the power of the universe at His disposition to destroy those who crucified Him, but He controlled it completely. On the contrary, He used that power to subdue *Himself* and endure the cross. For this reason, the angels do not sing, "Worthy is the King or Lion of the tribe of Judah", but "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." (Revelation 5:11,12)

God suffered meekly like a lamb that is brought to the slaughter. This Christian philosophy of life runs against the philosophy of our age. The world cannot understand that strength, power and influence can be shown in enduring suffering and humiliation, that a man endowed with much power can walk the low road, the road of unpopularity, shame and suffering and become the victor. The world does not understand passive power. It only understands active power - the power that asserts itself, and forces itself, resists and fights for its rights.

It takes more power to allow another person to slap your face without hitting back, than to retaliate. Some Christians become discouraged and give up, when they are asked by God to endure humiliation and mistreatment. They become physically and emotionally ill. Not Jesus. Remember? He stood erect before Pilate, before Caiaphas, before the mad and angry mob. He stood there like a King - calm, composed, Lord of the situation, while enduring the most inhuman degradation, until finally a centurion exclaimed, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

IN THE NEWS

Sunday vs. Sabbath Sacredness - when is the Lord's day? Adventist says Pope unfairly promotes Sunday Sabbath

In response to Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter "Dies Domini", Samuele Bacchiocchi, published an article in *Liberty* earlier this year. Upon reading this article, a *Washington Post* staff writer, Bill Broadway published the following article in the newspaper on Saturday, January 23, 1999:

"An article in the current issue of *Liberty*, a Seventh-day Adventist magazine published in Silver Spring, attacks Pope John Paul II's recent apostolic letter on observing the Sabbath on Sunday as 'highly flawed' and says the pope is trying to use 'the strong arm of the law' to enforce Sunday as an official day of worship.

Titled 'John Paul's Pseudo-Sabbath', the article was written by Samuele Bacchiocchi, professor of theology and church history at Andrews University Theological Seminary in Michigan and an ardent defender of Sabbatarianism.

Sabbatarians, a growing group that includes Seventh-day Adventists and other Protestant sects, believe that the Bible calls for the faithful to rest on the seventh day of the week, as God did in the Genesis account of Creation. Like Jews, they believe the Sabbath is Saturday and begin its observance at sundown on Friday.

In a telephone interview, Bacchiocchi said the publication of his article before John Paul's visit to St. Louis on Tuesday and Wednesday was coincidental. But the general timing is appropriate, he said, given the pope's 'shrewd and deceptive' arguments promoting Sunday Sabbath-keeping in countries around the world in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2000.

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We all must obtain this passive power - this power to endure any suffering without breaking down. Only then are we equipped for the trials ahead. We must learn to conquer not only under favourable conditions, but to become victors under the most unfavourable circumstances.

Satan and the world hate the passive power of the Christian. The world wants you to assert your power. If you use passive power, you are called a weakling. The world misjudges the character and power of the godly man.

Think for a moment about Judas and Jesus before Caiaphas, the high priest. It's early morning and still dark. Caiaphas is the judge. Judas stands in the background. He was a man that believed only in active power. He listens intently as Jesus is being criticized, maligned, mistreated, and finally condemned. Suddenly Judas becomes aware of the real power of Christ - His passive power, and he says to himself, "Only God could behave like this. He must be the Son of God after all." And suddenly 30 pieces of silver mean nothing to him anymore. He throws the money down on the floor and yells "I have betrayed innocent blood. I have sold the Son of God to you!"

Just like Judas, too many Christians recognize the value of passive power too late. They actually don't want to submit themselves to this power. They don't want to follow the humble Nazarene in this respect. They're so fascinated by the glory, the praise of men, recognition, victory, popularity. We poor human beings. Because of our lack of insight, we do not recognize the attraction of passive power, which expresses itself in abandoning oneself to God and circumstances, subduing one's urge to use force, giving up things for the sake of God and others, tolerating the intolerable, suffering willingly even if we do not see the reason for it.

Every promise of God contains its fulfillment. In the same way, every suffering contains the necessary comfort, strength and glory. And this most Christians do not see. Therefore, they run away from suffering and difficulties. Paul wrote of Jesus in Hebrews 12:2: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Didn't Christ have a sensitive nature? Wasn't He ashamed to be treated the way He was? Didn't He know it was a scandal to hang on a cross between two gangsters? His suffering - that scandal - was His greatest glory. Jesus has glorified suffering, shame and inhuman treatment by enduring it all while being innocent. When Jesus uttered, "It is finished," He finished the greatest demonstration of God's passive power - namely, love that endures all things. Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope. It can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen. (1 Corinthians 13:7)

Only when we become newborn men and women by the power of the Holy Spirit, do we begin to understand and desire this new outlook on life. Those who reject this concept will always consider us fools, while we call it the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Are you willing to be nothing and unnoticed for Christ's sake? When you reach that state of mind, then you are prepared for the real glory. Are you willing to take the low road,

the road of unpopularity, or are your thoughts geared only for the high road, the road that leads to man's approval? If you crave for the high road, you will always be in the company of the majority of mankind, for this is the philosophy of the world. God's greatest men of character are usually considered small

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and insignificant in the eyes of their fellow men. They go unnoticed by the world and are honored only after their death - never before. This is the secret of the victorious Christian life. The world calls victory what is really defeat, and calls defeat what is really victory. We desperately need a transformation in our outlook on life before

we can become successful Christians, otherwise we will only become successful wordlings.

Today, we Christians stand in the same embattled place as Christ stood 2000 years ago. In desperation, we sometimes ask God the same question Jeremiah addressed to God, "Woe is me, that I was born a man of strife...O Lord, thou knowest: remember me,...know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke..." God answered His prophet, "Cleanse your own heart from unworthy suspicions concerning my faithfulness and you shall again be as my mouthpiece." (Jeremiah 15:10 - 19)

All of us who may be in the same position as Jeremiah, must always remember this: We cannot prescribe God the circumstances and the way in which He should use us.

WE BELONG TO GOD

You and I are in God's possession. We must remain in His hands no matter what happens. We must say to Jesus, "As you permit difficult circumstances to surround me and my work, I want you to know, Lord, that I accept them all, and more, I even rejoice in them." Then enumerate to Jesus all the good things, all the blessings, all the benefits He allowed you to experience in your life, beginning with your birth to this day. Jesus Himself was not spared difficult circumstances in His life.

I, myself, let God wait for 34 years. I could have found Him in my own home. I had wonderful Christian parents, but I was not interested. I left Switzerland as a banker and came to New York to live it up. I was only interested in myself, in getting ahead, making a career, building a big bank account. Yet Jesus waited for me. Then He brought suffering into my life, and He called me back to him.



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SUFFERING, GOD'S TOOL OF REDEMPTION

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WE ARE BORN TO QUENCH THE THIRST OF GOD.

God thirsts for our love. He says through Hosea: "I long for your steadfast love." (Hosea 6:6) The Bible says, "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways." (Proverbs 23:26) I wish I had heard His voice when I was young and had not wasted 34 years. It is only when I went on a business trip to the West Indies, where, in the Dominican Republic, a humble missionary spoke to me in such a way that my heart broke. I considered all the wealth, influence, and the high position I had acquired in the pharmaceutical company as nothing compared to the unsearchable riches of Christ. But then I realized also, that suffering was the only way that God could have used to draw me to Himself.

There is such a hard crust around our hearts that it takes suffering to break up that crust, so that the rays of the Holy Spirit can penetrate. Suffering came to me again and again. I was confronted with a very difficult new truth, and it was only through suffering and humiliation that I was able to accept that difficult new truth.

Suffering is an able tool in the hand of a loving God to draw us closer to Him. Sometimes it even seems that God goes opposite to our prayers. Through difficulties, opposition, shame, disaster, God accomplishes the very thing you ask for. To understand this, to endure this, to accept this requires faith in Him. Some Christians can't take it. They give up and lose everything. But if God chastises me exceedingly, it means He also loves me exceedingly. (Heb 12:6)

ISRAEL - AN OBJECT LESSON

The history of Israel is an object lesson for the follower of Christ. God wanted to educate the people of Israel. He desired to teach them love for Him, faith in Him, trust in Him. He desired to use Israel for a special task in the world. God took this vile people out of Egypt, but He didn't lead them into the Promised Land filled with milk and honey and the degenerate way of life of the sin-polluted Canaanites. Instead He led them into a land where there was no milk, no honey, no bread, not even water. He led them into a dry hot desert. By day it was 125° F and by night it was 35° F. Why did God do this? To show Israel what God can do with people who trust Him explicitly under the most difficult circumstances. To demonstrate how He can look out for and provide lavishly for those who trust Him. But instead, what did God get from Israel? Nothing but complaints. The Jews asked, "Can God give us water in this dried out place? Can He give us bread? Can He give us meat?" They doubted God's ability to take care of them. The Jews dreamt of Egyptian melons and Egyptian garlic and Egyptian fish. When they had those things in Egypt, they were slaves. Now they were free, but still they longed to go back into slavery.

But God reorganized a mob. He turned a horde of slaves into a powerful nation! God gave them the highest ethical values, the finest health laws, the best civil laws, and He gave them the gospel of salvation through the tabernacle. No other

people on earth received such superb revelations, such superb ordinances and teachings as the Jews in that desert. More, God wanted to live among them personally in that beautiful tabernacle. By day, God spread a large cloud over them which reduced the desert temperature. Imagine. Air conditioning in the desert. At night, God gave them a pillar of fire which illuminated the whole camp and warmed them. Furthermore, God kept away all illnesses from their camp. None was ill in all the 40 years they wandered in the wilderness. Their clothes, their shoes never wore out. Their feet did not swell from walking. All serpents

We are born to quench the thirst of God.

were driven underground by God's command. He rained manna on them daily as bread. He provided grass for the cattle. He provided water daily from unexpected springs. God kept their enemies far away. What else did Israel need? Still the people were dissatisfied and talked only of the things they missed. They became rebels by nurturing a dissatisfied spirit. They never cooperated with God. And then they brought that false attitude to Canaan where everything flowed with milk and honey in abundance. Even there, amidst plentiful food, they remained unfaithful and dissatisfied.

What can God do with such a people? The answer is very sad. He can save a few genuine ones among them, and dismiss the rest. What's the conclusion? If you fit yourself into God's plans, even if it is a crisis, you become more precious to God than gold. Your reward will be unbelievably great. "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer; behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Revelation 3:10

COPING WITH DISCOURAGEMENT

When Satan tries to discourage you during your crisis, think of these two pillars of faith and truth:

1. God is so powerful that He can uphold the whole universe.
2. That same person died on the cross of Golgotha for you because He loves you.

Conclusion: If the most powerful person in the whole universe loves you more than Himself, what do you have to worry about?

When we contemplate these two great truths, we need have no fear of the future, no fear that God will mistreat us or play with us.

But then, how do I understand my difficulties? I need them for my spiritual growth. I'm being shaped by God. You and I find ourselves sometimes in a desert where everything seems to be missing - no success in our work, no friends, no loved ones, no acceptance, no money. And you say to yourself, "I'm through. I'm finished" But God says, "No, you are not finished. I am everything to you. Only trust in me and I will supply all your needs."

Listen to Paul. He understood this. "...we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life; but we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead..." 2 Corinthians 1:8,9

CHOSEN FOR VICTORY

We Christians are chosen for victory, not for defeat. But we must have a Spirit in us that is much higher than what is in the world. The Bible says of Daniel: "...Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him;..." Daniel 6:3

God cannot be defeated by anyone. And when God gives His Holy Spirit to a person, then that person can also not be conquered by his enemies. Christ has already overcome this world. God can give you the victory, either by leading you down the high road of success or the low road of unpopularity and suffering. Either way, God always reaches His goal.

After thousands of years of rebellion and planning to overthrow the work of God, Satan will stand helplessly before the New Jerusalem and discover that everything he did only helped to promote the work of God. God is so wise that He can accomplish His goals through the activities of His enemies.

JESUS STEPPED DOWN TO BE RAISED GLORIOUSLY

Think for a moment. Did Jesus when He came among us go the high road or the low road? Jesus originally was not a Son. He was absolutely equal with His Father. We read this in Isaiah 9:6: "...his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, *The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*" But Jesus voluntarily stepped down and became a Son of God, being dependent on His Father the way you and I are dependent on Christ.

Then He stepped down the second time and became Michael the archangel. As Michael the archangel, He fought against the third of angels that rebelled against Him in heaven. (Daniel 12:1, Revelation 12:7)

Then He stepped down a third time and became a human being.

He stepped down a fourth time and became sin, not sinful - *sin* for us.

He stepped down a fifth time and went to the cross.

He stepped down a sixth time and went into death.

He stepped down a seventh time and went into the second death. The second death is the lowest place in the universe. You can't go any lower. No being ever came out of the second death. It's the end of the road. Christ stepped down

The highest evidence of nobility in a Christian is self-control. Whoever under abuse or cruelty fails to maintain a calm and trustful spirit, robs God of His right to reveal in him His own perfection of character.

from the highest point of the universe and went into the lowest point of the universe. Second death is hell - separation from God. In the gospel it's called "outer darkness". And He did it all for you and for me. Down, down, down, seven times. Shame, suffering, degradation and humiliation. Followed by what? Glory. Up, up, up - the resurrection, ascension. At Pentecost, Jesus was crowned in heaven. He became High Priest, Mediator, Advocate, King, Ruler of the Universe - equal again with the Father. Yes, glory is always preceded by suffering and shame.

THE LESSON OF JOSEPH

Take Joseph. As a young boy, he had two dreams. Shortly thereafter he found himself sold by his brothers as a slave into Egypt. In Potiphar's house, he was innocently condemned and wound up in an Egyptian jail - for life. He could have said, "Lord, wait a minute! Is this the way you fulfill your promises? I've had it." No, he accepted the circumstances God allowed to come into his life, remained loyal to the Lord and served his fellow prisoners in love and humility.

Because of a dream given to Pharaoh, within 24 hours, Joseph sat as Prime Minister of the empire of Egypt. He sat beside the ruler of Egypt. Down, down, down and then within 24 hours up to the highest point. That is the official road to heaven. This, you and I must understand.

The principle of heaven is "he whom I love, I chasten. He whom I bring up as my son, I discipline." (Hebrews 12:6-8) For those who mourn in trial and sorrow, there is comfort. The bitterness of grief and humiliation is better than the indulgences of sin. Through affliction, God reveals to us the black spots in our characters, that by His grace we may overcome our faults. The difficulties we have to encounter can be very much lessened by the meekness which hides itself in Christ. If we possess the humility of our Master, we shall rise above the slights, the rebuffs, the annoyances to which we are daily exposed. And they will cease to cast a gloom over the spirit. The highest evidence of nobility in a Christian is self-control. Whoever under abuse or cruelty fails to maintain a calm and trustful spirit, robs God of His right to reveal in him His own perfection of character.

SEVEN REASONS FOR SUFFERING

Let me suggest seven reasons for suffering:

1. To make us willing to give up cherished sinful habits. Sometimes you and I are clinging to a sinful habit so tenaciously that the Lord has to strike us. And then we let go of it and say, "O Lord, thank you that you delivered me of that awful habit."

2. To test our love. God wants to test us as He tested Abraham on Mt. Moriah with Isaac to show to all the inhabitants of the universe that are watching how far a person is willing to go in his love for God, how much a person is willing to give up for God.

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3. To show the universe that opposing God does not pay. We are giving a demonstration to the intelligent beings in the universe of the dreadful consequences of rebellion.

4. To train us for office in heaven. God plans to give us a high office on the new earth. The greater the future office, the greater the test now. The Bible promises that we will become co-regents with Christ over the whole universe.

5. To help others who are suffering. You can be an example to other men and women who are suffering: comfort them and teach them from your own experience how God can help us when we are under great pressure. (2 Cor 12:7)

6. To constantly remind us of our need for Christ. Suffering is permitted to remain in our lives, maybe as long as we live, in order to keep us aware of our continuous need of Christ, because many of us lose our first love for Jesus the moment Christ solves our needs and problems. God wants to prevent this disaster.

7. To bring us into closer communion with Christ, a fellow sufferer. What does an intelligent, educated man do when he looks for a wife? Choose an uneducated, insensitive girl? No, there would be no communication between the two. He looks for a woman that's equally talented and educated as he is - for the sake of communication. God has chosen us from this planet as the closest co-workers in eternity. We are His bride. He is the bridegroom. Even the angels in heaven can't claim this kind of relationship. What angel ever stood by the graveside of his son or daughter? What angel ever went to prison because of his faith? What angel ever lost his position because of his stand for honesty? What angel was ever divorced by his wife or husband because he followed the Lord into new truth? No angel ever experienced this. But you and I have. And God, who has also experienced rejection, can empathize with us. And so He allows us to go through experiences that make us so rich in character, adding many dimensions, so that even a complex God will have satisfaction in communicating with us throughout eternity.

For these reasons, I rejoice. It would be absolutely absurd to become bitter and rebel against such a wonderful God just because I suffer. You and I must learn to gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice and loyalty from their treason. (5 T, p. 136) But we should never be discouraged. We are given the promise:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

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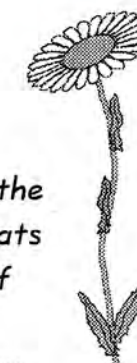
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AMAZING DISCOVERIES UPDATE

"In the last analysis, the one thing which defeats God is the defiance of the human heart."

William Barclay

On the weekend of **August 13 & 14, 1999**, Amazing Discoveries welcomes Margaret and Thomas A. Davis from Armstrong, BC for a **powerful weekend at the Vancouver Central SDA Church.**

Thomas A. Davis, international speaker, author, pastor, and missionary spent ten years overseas, with his wife, as missionaries in India and the Philippines. For several years he was associate editor of the Adventist Review and book editor for the Review & Herald. Thomas Davis is the author of over a dozen books, most of them printed by the Review & Herald. His wife, Margaret is also an international speaker and since 1974 has spoken in many countries and continents including Europe, Australia, United States, Korea, Singapore, and more. She is also the author of a popular book: *What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?* We are privileged to hear their thought-provoking seminar at:

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11:00 am service
"The New Creation"

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2:30 pm "What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?" Part 2
5:30 pm "What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?" Part 3

California 2000 or bust - Plans for a series presentation by Dr. Walter J. Veith in south California have been confirmed. On January 7 to 23, Dr. Walter J. Veith will present his full evangelistic series with **newly updated slides and the latest information.** Make plans now to attend every night of this one-of-a-kind series that may never be repeated in America again! Plan now to invite your friends and neighbours. Further details will follow in the fall newsletter, but here are some previews:

January 7 & 8, 99
Series A: The Genesis Conflict
includes The Geological Column, The Origin of Life and the Fossil Record

January 9-22, 99
Series B: The Bible Speaks
includes Archaeology & the Bible, Our Day as Revealed in Bible Prophecy, The Healing of the Wound, The Wine of Babylon, False Prophet/False Holy Spirit, NEW Tongues & the Charismatic Movement, NEW, The New Age Movement, and much more.

January 23, 99
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To stand in defense of truth when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions

the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, & loyalty from their treason." 5T 136

IN THE NEWS

...Continued From Page 4

On numerous occasions, the pope has said he envisions the new millennium as a time of renewed Christian commitment and unity. In 'Dies Domini' ('Day of the Lord'), released in July, John Paul called on the world's 1 billion Catholics to set aside one day a week as a time 'to rest and celebrate' and to 'look anew upon the wonders of nature'. And he reminded them of the 'grave obligation' to attend Sunday Mass.

'It is the duty of Christians,' the pope wrote, '...to remember that, although the practices of the Jewish Sabbath are gone, surpassed as they are by the "fulfillment" which Sunday brings, the underlying reasons for keeping "the Lord's Day" holy - inscribed solemnly in the Ten Commandments - remain valid, though they need to be reinterpreted in the light of the theology and spirituality of Sunday: 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.'

Bacchiocchi, whose Catholic parents converted to Adventism during his childhood in Rome, said what bothers him is the pope's use of such Biblical references to the Sabbath to support its observance on the first day of the week, Sunday, rather than the last. That creates a 'moral imperative' for Catholics and other Christians who look to the pope for spiritual guidance, he said.

The Rev. James P. Moroney, executive director of the liturgy office at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the pope's letter supports the dominant Christian practice of worshiping on the day of the week they believe Jesus rose from the dead.

'The intention of the Holy Father's statement is to restore the appreciation of the celebration of the Sabbath to the day of resurrection,' said Moroney, who believes the Sunday Sabbath dates to the time of the apostles. 'I respect [Bacchiocchi's] point of view, but he's at variance with most Christian denominations.'

In his article in the January/February issue of *Liberty*, Bacchiocchi asks, 'Why should Sunday be chosen to celebrate the atoning sacrifice of Christ when His redemptive mission was completed [with his crucifixion] on a Friday afternoon... and [He] then rested in the tomb according to the Sabbath commandment? Doesn't this suggest that both God's creation rest and Christ's redemption rest in the tomb occurred on the Sabbath?'

He also argues that Sunday observance of the Sabbath was an invention of the early church, not a biblically mandated day of worship, as he believes the pope suggests.

It's a position Bacchiocchi chronicles in his doctoral dissertation, 'From Sunday to Sabbath,' which he wrote when he was the first non-Catholic student at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and which was later published by the Vatican. And it is a position generally accepted by Catholic historians, he said.

Bacchiocchi also is troubled by the pope's call for Christians throughout the world to promote civil legislation supporting Sunday as a Christian holiday. In 'Dies Domini', John

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From Rock n' Roll to Rock of Ages

by
Brian S. Neumann

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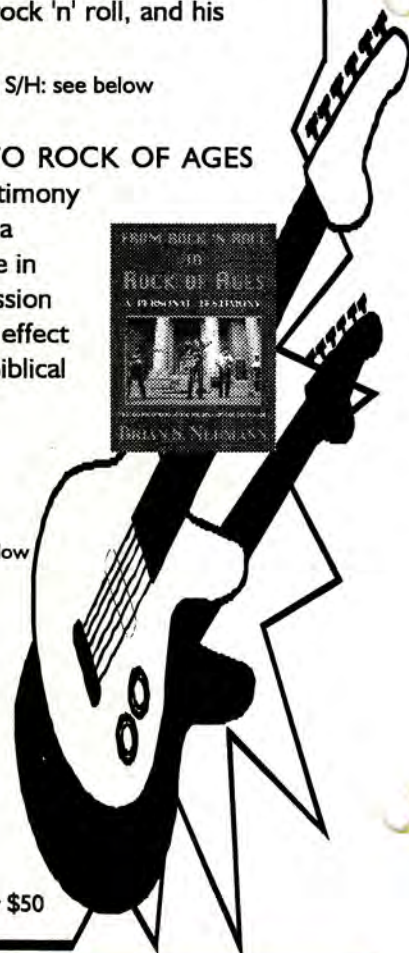
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Preventing Addictions in Teenagers

(It's all about RELATIONSHIPS)

by Don Anderson

Seinfeld is the show about nothing. Actually, the show painfully depicts the fact that Jerry, Kramer, Elaine, and George are unable to establish an intimate long-lasting relationship. All of their attempts to get emotionally close fail miserably. Likewise, the teenagers in our homes, churches, and communities are crying for long-lasting relationships. When these young people don't find this soul-need they often end up addicted instead.

V. Bailey Gillespie of La Sierra University (www.lasierra.edu/hcyfm) and Gary L. Hopkins of Andrews University give some sobering facts:

- ♦almost half of all American babies are born into single-parent homes
- ♦most teenage girls who become pregnant do so between 3 - 6:00 pm in their own homes
- ♦half of teenage crimes are committed between 3:00 - 8:00 pm

Let's pull our heads out of the sand - nobody has been there to establish long-lasting relationships with these young human beings - very likely due to the relentless pursuit of moneymaking or pleasure seeking. When they walk home from school, jump off the school bus, finally opening the front door to an empty house, what are they going to do? Who are they going to meet and spend time with? This eye-opening research screams for solutions. Secular society has responded by saying, "Educate kids about drugs, sex, AIDS - that's all they need is education, education, education." That's good, but that simplistic answer is not working.

I like this excellent sage wisdom from one of my favorite authors: "One of the surest safeguards of the young is useful occupation. Children, who are trained to industrious habits, so that all their hours are usefully and pleasantly employed, have no inclination to repine at their lot and no time for idle daydreaming. They are in little danger of forming vicious habits or associations. There is untold value in industry. Let the children be taught to do something useful. More than human wisdom is needed that parents may understand how best to educate their children for a useful, happy life here and for higher service and greater joy hereafter." *Child Guidance*, p. 122

Even further, Gillespie and Hopkins point to yet the highest solution of all time: youth need at least one person in their lives who accepts them unconditionally, regardless of temperament, physical attractiveness, or intelligence. Our youth need to experience Jesus Christ in you and me! Then, their young lives might not be a painful Seinfeld rerun!

Don Anderson makes his wife Carole, daughter Candice, and son Quennel a priority after Jesus Christ. He also pastors the Maple Ridge and Mission SDA Churches.

IN THE NEWS

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Paul wrote: 'In the particular circumstances of our own time, Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.'

Bacchiocchi said that although the United States historically has supported the separation of church and state, countries in Europe and other parts of the world have not. And many nations have large Catholic constituencies that might influence government policy - for example, restoring or reinforcing laws against operating a business on Sunday.

Laws supporting Sunday as a religious holiday discriminate not only against Sabbatarians and Jews, Bacchiocchi said, but also against Muslims, who worship communally on Fridays.

'We are concerned that we will not be able to enjoy our own day of worship,' Bacchiocchi said of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, whose international headquarters are in Silver Spring. The church has 1 million members in the United States and 10 million worldwide.

Bacchiocchi said he understands that one purpose of 'Dies Domini' is to call recalcitrant Catholics back to Mass on Sunday. Studies show that from one-fourth to one-third of the 60 million U.S. Catholics attend church weekly. In Italy, the figure is 28 percent; in some countries in Latin America, attendance has dropped to as low as 6 percent.

If the Catholic church wants to enforce church attendance by imposing penalties on those who don't attend regularly, 'that's their prerogative,' Bacchiocchi said. 'What's troubling to me is that the pope expects civil governments to support the church plan by passing civil legislation.'

Bacchiocchi also argues that the insistence on Sunday Sabbath-keeping is a form of antisemitism. The shift in the early church toward worshiping on Sunday began in the 2nd century during the reign of Emperor Hadrian, who 'promulgated the most anti-Jewish, anti-Sabbath laws' after Jewish revolts in Palestine, he said. To avoid the repressive laws, Christians moved their celebrations to the first day of Creation, the 'day of the sun.'

The issue is 'not just the Sabbath, but the whole relationship of Christianity and Judaism,' Bacchiocchi said. 'Christianity has been plagued by antisemitism and theology that is contemptible of the Jews, not only for the abandonment of the Sabbath, but the heritage of the Jewish faith.'

Moroney said that observing the Sabbath on Sunday is not antisemitic, but reflects the Christian belief that Jesus' death and resurrection offered a 'new covenant' between God and humanity. 'God chose the church as the interpreter of tradition,' he said. And Jesus' early followers, the founders of the church, interpreted the Sabbath tradition in light of the life and death of the man they believed to be the Messiah."

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Are You A Christian?

by Jim Hohnberger

Director of the non-profit ministry *Restoration International*, dedicated to addressing practical godliness in the lives of Christians.

Why of course I am! Why do you ask such a thing? Your question even irritates me! Don't you know I go to church, pay my tithes and offerings, believe in Christ, believe in the tenets of the church, have a clean lifestyle, and basically try to be a good person? I even do some witnessing and hand out some literature. Besides I belong to the right denomination. Certainly I'm a Christian! You are not going to make me question my Christianity are you?

If you'd have been a member of the Jewish church in Christ's day you would probably have believed you were a Jew and thereby in good standing with God. Why? Because you were a member of the right church - God's church, paid a faithful tithe and offering, went to the temple on Sabbath, refrained from eating unclean meats, and followed the ordinances of the church and looked for the coming of the Messiah, thus feeling quite confident of your standing with God.

Being a Christian is not a one time choice but rather a minute by minute, continuous choice to let God have all of me.

But when the Messiah came, friends, only a handful recognized Him, only a handful followed Him, only a handful found their salvation "in Him." The vast majority of Jews were not real Jews. In fact, Scripture validates this. "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly." (Romans 2:28,29)

It is apparent not only from Scripture but history also that most of the Jews were Jews only outwardly. In other words, they followed a form, a routine, a ritual. They went to the right church and believed in the Bible.

These "professed" Jews were the very ones that crucified Christ Himself, hung Him on the cross and denied Him. It wasn't just the church leadership, but also most of its members that in the end were only Jews outwardly.

Romans 9:6 puts it this way, "For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel." In other words they are not all Jews (Christians) that profess to be Jews (Christians). In fact, Scripture clearly indicates that though their numbers "be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved." (Romans 9:27) So are you going to be part of the Remnant? Are you going to be a Christian outwardly or inwardly? Don't rely on your church membership because it won't save you. Don't rely on your mental assent to certain truths; they won't save you. Don't rely on your lifestyle changes, nor your donations; they won't save you either! Salvation is found "in Christ" only! In the day of final reckoning there is going to be a lot of "weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Luke 13:28) Millions of "Christians" have been led to trust, in their church, in their creeds, in their leaders, in their lifestyle but have not been led "into Christ." Only those found "in Christ" will in the end be saved and

found to be true Christians versus professed Christians.

Let's validate this first with Scripture, then define what it means to be "in" Christ. Let's start with I John 5:11,12: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son." Could it be any plainer, any clearer? Even I can understand and see it. Eternal life is "in His Son." Not in the church, in a doctrine or in a lifestyle but "in His Son." Verse 12 now expounds upon it, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." We must have Jesus, we must be "in Christ" for in Him only is eternal life.

But what does it mean to be in Christ? Well it's the opposite of out. When Lucifer stepped "out" of Christ, he decided his way was better than God's way. He lost eternal life because he chose to disconnect himself from the Source of life. He chose to follow his will and way instead of God's will and way. Whose will and way are you choosing, yours or Christ's? When Adam chose to step "out" of the will of Christ, he became fallen and selfish. He began to die, to age, to lose his life. He too wanted it his way instead of God's way. Which way is it with you? God's or your own?

So then the word "in" is very important. In fact it is the apostle Paul's favorite expression occurring in his epistles more than 70 times. Six of his epistles are addressed to the saints and faithful who are "in Christ." Are you "in Christ?" or merely in the church, in the truth, into reforms, into outreach, into end time events? These without the former can be a curse. Why? Because they become a substitute, a counterfeit, a cover up for the real, the genuine. They have a subtle way of convincing us that we are the "enlightened ones," when in essence we may be the "foolish ones."

Are you a wise or a foolish virgin? The only difference between them is that the wise virgins possessed the oil, which represents the Holy Spirit. The wise virgins lived under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment they surrendered to do the will of God. They were "in Christ" by faith, by a faith that worked and cooperated with God in all things in the present not the future. There is a big difference. No one is safe unless they are "in Christ," in the present, in the now, experientially. Theoretically we are to assent to what is true, but experientially we are to be doers not hearers only.

All of humanity was constituted in Christ on the cross; all of humanity was in Him. What He did, He did for all of us. But that's only half of the "in Christ" equation.

Christ also invites us, by His preemptive grace, to surrender ourselves; mind, body, soul and will to His Lordship over our lives in the present. Because what He has done for us and what He is doing in us are to be inseparably one. You cannot have one without the other. Christ cannot be divided. You are complete in Him not apart from Him. If you accept His substitutionary role for your sins you must also accept His role as Lord. It was the fact that Lucifer and Adam wouldn't allow Him to be their Lord that got us all in this mess of sin today. Adam repented and allowed Christ to regain His posi-

Choice doesn't merit me anything with God. I am not saved by my choices. The very desire to make the choice of submission to God is a gift from His grace.

tion of Lordship over him. Lucifer still resists coming under Christ's control and is now Satan, the leader of the foul revolt.

Who are you following: Adam or Lucifer? Millions of Christians have accepted Christ's substitutionary role but resist allowing Him to be Lord of their entire life, particularly in the now. Until they do, they are not "in Christ." You see, "in" denotes you are presently in, right now it is happening, you are cooperating with Him in the present, in all your known choices. No resistance, no rebellion, just a conscious, "Yes, Lord."

For example, it may be -40° F below zero outside. You may know that in Christ's house it is a pleasant 80° F. But if you're out in the cold, you receive no real benefit; you're still outside. Knowing about the 80° in Christ does not warm you. Talking about it does you no saving good. Telling others about it does you little practical good. The fact that Christ's house is paid for and you have a title to it in your safe deposit box, still brings you no present benefit unless you choose to get into Christ. As long as you remain "in Christ", you receive all the benefits of His protection, warmth and security. They are yours, they are free, but you have to choose to enter in and remain in. You can at any time step outside, but if you do, you lose all the benefits of its warmth, security and protection. That's what Paul meant when he said in Colossians 2:10, "Ye are complete in Him." Not in a knowledge or profession of Him, but abiding "in Him."

In an article in *Signs of the Times* July 4, 1892, a well known author put it this way, "We are complete in Him, accepted in the Beloved only as we abide in Him by faith." Also we find in the book of Acts 17:28: "For in Him, we live and move, and have our being." Isaiah also understood this when he declared, "In the Lord have I righteousness and strength." and "In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified." (Isaiah 45:24,25) May I also quote just a couple more passages so as to remove all lingering doubt? "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." (11 Corinthians 5:17) It doesn't say if you are in the church or in the truth, or into the doctrine of salvation, or into a good lifestyle. It says we must be "in Christ," not just legally but experientially. It is a here and now experience of letting Christ have all of me, that I may have all of Him.

Hopefully one more text will help cement in our hearts and minds what constitutes salvation, and consequently a true living Christian: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1) Who are them? Can "them" be an Adventist? Yes! Can "them" be a Baptist? Yes! Can "them" be a Catholic? Yes! You mean to say there's going to be Catholics, Baptists as well as Adventists in heaven? Yes, if they meet the condition, which is not walking in the flesh but in the Spirit by a living faith experience in Christ Jesus.

You say, "I hear you Jim, but will you spell out practically not theologically, how I am to be found in Christ daily, hourly? I'm glad you asked, because conversion and righteousness are not received or retained apart from being "in Christ" and continuing to abide in Christ. For no man is in a saving relationship any longer than he abides in Christ and exercises a living faith in Him. **Being a Christian is not a one time choice but rather a minute by minute, continuous choice to let God have all of me.** Day in and day out I am to live for Jesus. My focus is to be in His will, His way.

Many attempt to accomplish this through their own humanity. They set out with their strong will power and their teeth gritted in determination to live the Christian life. It always ends in defeat. How then is it possible to live everyday, every hour, every

moment to the glory of God? It's very simple. We are to live as Jesus did. Every morning Jesus took time with God. We too, must take time to give ourselves to God every morning, to surrender at the beginning of every day. It can't be a rushed thing, but has to allow time for us to commune with God and really listen to what He's saying to us individually. God speaks to us through the Bible, nature, providence and the impressions in the mind. Then after communing with our Father, and making sure there is nothing to prevent us from hearing His voice, we can rest assured that He will guide us.

What He has done for us and what He is doing in us are to be inseparably one.

When we leave our place of quiet devotion, it is essential to take God with us in order to commune with Him throughout the day. We need to learn to ask, "What wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6) God wants us to know we are not in this alone. We need help from a source outside of ourselves at the beginning of the day and then all through the day. **As we learn to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's prompting upon our hearts and learn to submit our wills to always do His will, then it is that, "... Christ liveth in me. Galatians 2:20)**

But then temptation comes, perhaps the very same temptation where we have often failed before. In the past, we have gritted our teeth and tried to resist the temptation until we either failed or forced ourselves to obey. There is no peace or joy in such an experience. **Friends, the true conflict of temptation occurs in the heart. I first must decide if I want to remain surrendered to God. When surrender is my choice, then self dies and the victory is won and then God supplies all the power to meet the temptation.**

This experience is hard because self, my way and will must die; but it is the only path to peace and joy as a Christian! I must choose to remain in Christ, daily, hourly. **Now choice doesn't merit me anything with God. I am not saved by my choices. The very desire to make the choice of submission to God is a gift from His grace.** Salvation is fully the gift of God, yet it is that choice to submit which allows God the freedom to transform our lives through the ministry of His grace upon the human heart. It is vitally important to see this, for most who have taken the name of Christ live a strange amalgamation of Christ and self contending for the management of the life. This type of Christian life is like a yo-yo, continuously up and down. Being born of the Spirit is going from this experience to allowing Christ to be sole Ruler of the life. When this amalgamation ends, there is rest for the soul. Then we learn the true science of salvation and the language of heaven, which is simply how to allow Christ full access to all my decisions and then by His grace, through a living faith, to say yes to God and no to self. It all has to do with faith, a living faith, a faith that works by love and purifies the soul, where we are enabled to live above the pull of the flesh in the present.

Faith is not only a belief in what Christ has done for me but also a surrender of all my known choices to Him, where all my thoughts, feelings and actions are in accordance to His known will, where I choose by His preeminent grace to depend only in Him. This is a faith that works! Are all your known choices surrendered to Him? Do you trust only in His merits

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IN THE NEWS

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Pakistan Enforces National Sunday Law and Martial Law

On February 23, 1997, a Sunday closing law was enacted as one of the first actions taken by the incoming government of Nawaz Sharif, whose Pakistan Muslim League won a landslide victory over Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in the elections held on February 3, 1997. According to Sharif, Pakistan's economy would benefit from the reinstating of Sunday as the weekly holiday which would synchronise Pakistan's work pattern with that followed in Western countries. In a rally on January 6, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, spiritual and political leader of the powerful Jamaat-e-Islami party, said that the new Sunday legislation showed that the PM and his Pakistan Muslim League government was in reality "serving the interests of Jews and Christians." In an article in "The Dawn" on April 22, 1997, it was reported that two leading Islamic groups were joining together in a rally demanding that Friday be declared the weekly holiday. Leaders of the two groups spoke at a press conference and declared that reverting to Sunday as the weekly holiday "had not only deprived the country of its Islamic identity, but had also cut it off from the rest of the Islamic block from Afghanistan to Morocco."

Despite mounting opposition from fundamentalist groups who have made the Sunday law issue a plank in their campaign against the current government's failure to implement Islamic law, Pakistan's Sunday law has found support among the more secular minded intelligencia, leaders of big business, and the Sunday-keeping Christian community, although the latter have been less than vocal in their support of the change to avoid possible attacks from Muslim militants.

The president of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Salim Ali, appealed publicly to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif not to heed the demands of Jamaat-e-Islami and other similar militant groups to change back to the Friday holiday. In a report carried in "The News" on January 8, "he said that Pakistan, a developing country with a tattered economy, could not afford to be cut off from the major trading partners in the West for three-and-a-half days. He said foreign investors would invest if they were given their own style of working week." As it now stands, almost all businesses (banks, retailers, schools) and government offices are closed on Sunday. Most government offices are open for only a half day on Friday and private businesses and banks are required to close from 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm so that the faithful may attend mosques to hear the Friday sermon. In a revealing letter to the editor published in "The News", Dr. M. Altaf Ali Qureshi wrote in support of the reinstating of the Sunday holiday. "At no place does the Quran mention that Friday, or for that matter, any other day should be observed as a weekly holiday. It is only a tradition through the ages, although a good

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DOES "LESSER LIGHT" MEAN LESSER AUTHORITY?



"The Lord has sent His people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. Oh, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth." (CM 125)

Can the lesser light of the Spirit of Prophecy be of lesser authority than the Bible if the same "Lord" gave the light in both cases? Does God's authority have different degrees, or has it changed since the Bible was written? Obviously, No! The only question we have to settle in our minds then is: "Was it really the Lord who has given an authoritative lesser light to point us to the greater light?" If so, then the Spirit of Prophecy, like the Bible, is nothing less than the voice of God speaking to us today. Shall we question His authority? God forbid!

Why is the term "lesser light" used to describe the Spirit of Prophecy? In the physical world, we describe light in terms of "intensity". So it is in the spiritual world. The Bible, in its literary style and spiritual content, is more concentrated than the Spirit of Prophecy, and in this sense is considered a "greater light". One potent verse from the Bible can propagate thousands of Divine revelations when properly understood. But because our minds are feeble, and we have neglected our Bibles, God has given us simple testimonies which have begun to unfold some of these deep truths, and are intended to further stimulate this spawning process in our own minds. Yet it should be clearly understood that the same "current" empowers (gives authority to) both the lesser and greater lights.

QUESTION: Have there been other messengers/messages termed "lesser light" and do their messages have lesser authority than the Bible?

"The prophet John [the first "Elijah" prophet (Luke 1:17)] was the connecting link between the two dispensations. As God's representative, he stood forth to show the relation of the law and the prophets to the Christian dispensation. He was the LESSER LIGHT, which was to be followed by a greater. The mind of John was illuminated by the Holy Spirit, that he might shed light upon his people; but no other light ever has shone or ever will shine so clearly upon fallen man as that which emanated from the teaching and example of Jesus." (DA 220)

"If we reject or ignore the "lesser light" of Ellen White, then to be consistent, we would have (in the days of Christ) rejected or ignored the "lesser light" of John the Baptist, who also pointed his hearers to Christ - the "greater light". The Pharisees rejected the authority of the Baptist's message in preference to their own opinions; John's response to their position may be found in Matthew 3:7,8. Jesus however was not deceived about the authority of His forerunner's mission. See Matthew 11:11.

QUESTION: Can we safely reject or lessen the authority of the Old Testament because it was a "lesser light" which pointed to the "greater light" revealed in the New Testament - the life and teaching of Jesus Christ?

"With the first advent of Christ, there was ushered in an era of GREATER LIGHT and glory; but it would indeed be sinful ingratitude to despise and ridicule the lesser light because a fuller and more glorious light had dawned. Those who despise the blessings and glory of the Jewish age are not prepared to be benefited by the preaching of the gospel. The brightness of the Father's glory, and the excellence and perfection of His sacred law, are only understood through the atonement made upon Calvary by His dear Son; but even the atonement loses its significance when the law of God is rejected. (TDG 246)

In like manner, the Bible loses its significance when the Spirit of Prophecy is rejected.

The New Testament was not given to supersede nor take the place of the Old Testament, but rather to expand upon it, and bring us to a clearer understanding of its types and figures. Yet we do not hesitate to ascribe equal authority to the teachings of the New Testament because we find that they perfectly complement the light given in the Old Testament. Then should we not ascribe equal authority to the Testimony of Jesus, which likewise perfectly complements the teachings of both Old and New Testaments, and so clearly and beautifully brings us to this most precious word? Yes! But just as the New Testament was not to override the Old Testament, we must never attempt to uplift the Testimonies above the Bible:

"The Spirit was NOT given - nor can it ever be bestowed - to SUPERSEDE the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the Word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested... Isaiah declares, "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (3 SM 30)

"The Lord desires you to study your Bibles. He has not given any additional light to TAKE THE PLACE of His word. This light is to bring confused minds TO HIS WORD, which, if eaten and digested, is as the life-blood of the soul. Then good works will be seen as light shining in darkness." (3SM 29)

"Brother J would confuse the mind by seeking to make it appear that the light God has given through the Testimonies is AN ADDITION to the Word of God, but in this he presents the matter in a false light. God has seen fit in this manner to bring the minds of His people TO HIS WORD, to give them a clearer understanding of it." (4T 246)

"The Word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind, and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the Word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed Testimonies, bringing them back TO THE WORD that they have neglected to follow." (2T 455)

"The Word of God abounds in general principles for the formation of correct habits of living, and the testimonies, general and personal, have been calculated to call their attention more especially to these principles." (4T 323, 5T 663-664)

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God..." Hebrews 5:12

"In the Scriptures, God has set forth practical lessons to govern the life and conduct of all; but though He has given minute particulars in regard to our character, con-

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one. Followers of all the three great religions observe a weekly holiday. Therefore, any day can be observed as the weekly day off." He then argues that he has observed a marked increase in attendance at Friday prayers as a result of the Sunday holiday, suggesting that when Friday was the holiday, people were lazy to leave their house and go to the mosque for worship.

At this point in time, there is no evidence to suggest that Pakistan's economy is improving or that there might be any strong correlation between the passage of a Sunday law and changes in the economy.

In the *New York Times*, February 10, 1999, an article by Barry Bearak, reveals that martial law has begun in Pakistan "Right now is a period of crackdown. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has used his constitutional powers to turn over control of Sindh Province, which includes [the capital city] Karachi, to his appointed Governor, Moinuddin Haider." Apparently, Karachi, with 10 million people, is one of the world's largest and most dangerous cities. "In Karachi, police officers and paramilitary troops were unleashed to capture people accused of being terrorists, and thousands of people were taken into custody like minnows in a seine...for 'the speedy and inexpensive justice' that he insists is a must, Mr. Sharif had little faith in the existing courts and their overwhelmed, often intimidated civilian judges. In December, citing conviction rates of less than 1%, he enlisted military officers to try criminal cases, a strategy he says he now hopes to expand to the rest of the country."

All Christians Asked to Note Pope's Authority

As reported in *The Vancouver Sun*, May 13, 1999, a document released by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission took another hesitant step forward in recognizing the Pope's ministry as a "gift to be received by all churches."

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"The study, called *The Gift of Authority*, also says the Pope has a 'specific ministry concerning the discernment of truth.'

"The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, urged the world's 70 million Anglicans to read the document.

'Christians need urgently to be able to speak with a common voice, confident of the authority of the gospel of peace,' Carey said in a statement.

Reverend Mark Sander, the Anglican bishop of Birmingham, said the study was a 'recognition of the place that the Pope has in the Christian family. Even now, before we are in full communion, the Pope is a pastor of immense authority in the Christian world as a whole,' Sander said.

Next year, all Anglican and Catholic archbishops plan to meet in Canada, the first time the entire hierarchies will have met to discuss healing their four-century-old rift.

35 Things the IRS Prohibits Churches From Doing

About 12 months ago, Texe Marrs, founder of *Living Truth Ministries*, was told by the IRS that his ministry would be undergoing an examination of its 'philosophy and viewpoints' to see whether it has violated its 501(c)3 tax exempt status. The IRS said that they may have violated IRS policies by making disparaging remarks about faith groups and cults that oppose Christianity, and may be subject to penalties and fines for exposing the 'Catholic Pope, the United Nations, the Masonic Order, the Skull & Bones Society, the Illuminati,' and other organizations deemed worthy by the IRS. The IRS also found objectionable their stand against the sexual immorality and pro-abortion views of President Bill Clinton. The following list shows what the IRS contends is prohibited of churches and ministries in the U.S. - a list compiled by Texe Marrs in the 10 month investigation of his ministry by the IRS.

According to the IRS, Christian churches, ministries, and organizations may not:

1. Expose conspiracies
2. Criticize the New World Order.
3. Say or publish anything negative about any politician, Republican or Democrat.
4. Criticize government agencies and bureaus - the IRS, FBI, BATF, CIA, EPA, DEA, OSHA, DOJ, etc.
5. Criticize an institution of government such as the White House, the Congress, the Federal Reserve Board, or the Supreme Court

6. Encourage citizens to call or write their congressman, senator, governor, mayor, or other public official
7. Critize any proposed or pending bill or legislation that would take away the rights and freedoms of the people.
8. Make disparaging remarks about, or criticize, any other faith group, cult, or religion.
9. Expose or criticize the New Age Movement
10. Support or encourage a law-abiding citizen's militia
11. Support or encourage the Second Amendment, the right of the people to keep and bear arms.
12. Discourage young women from getting an abortion, or endorse the pro-life movement
13. Teach that abortion, especially partial birth abortion, is murder and is the killing of innocent babies.
14. Identify homosexuality as a sin and an abomination to God.
15. Express an opinion on any subject or issue.
16. Appeal to peoples' emotions by employing an evangelization method (such as 'fire and brimstone' preaching)
17. Discuss or identify threats to Christianity
18. Discuss subjects or topics the IRS deems 'sensationalist'.
19. Criticize well-known public figures or institutions the IRS deems 'worthy', such as the super-rich elite, international bankers, the Hollywood movie industry, etc
20. Publish or broadcast information on any topic without giving credence to the opposing viewpoints of Christ's enemies.
21. Publish and offer books, tapes, or products that expose the elitist plot against humanity and God.
22. Criticize the Pope or the Vatican, or contrast the New Catholic Catechism with the truths found in the Holy Bible.
23. Criticize the United Nations or such globalist groups as the Council on Foreign Relations, the Bilderbergers, and the Trilateral Commission.
24. Criticize the Masonic lodge, the Order of Skull & Bones, or other Secret societies.
25. Highlight or otherwise bring attention to immorality or public officials or corruption in government.
26. Complain or otherwise bring attention to immorality or public officials or corruption in government
27. Criticize the Jewish ADL or other Jewish lobby groups.
28. Say anything positive about the 'religious right' or the 'patriot movement'.
29. Support home schooling, home churches, or unregistered churches.
30. Spend money on missionary projects or charitable causes not approved by the IRS.
31. Promote or encourage alternative healthcare (herbs, vitamins, etc)
32. Expose false teachings of any kind by anyone
33. Support or encourage persecuted Christians suffering under anti-Christian regimes in Red China, Cuba, Russia, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and elsewhere.

34. Ordain a pastor whose training or qualifications are not approved by the IRS

35. Advocate or teach any Bible doctrine that is politically or religiously incorrect, or is inconsistent with any 'public policy' (abortion, feminism, gay rights, etc) currently being enforced by the IRS.

Panic in the Year Zero

According to a *WorldNetDaily* exclusive (March 4, 1999), David M. Bresnahan reports that "the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued plans which include the use of the military as a domestic police force in the event of Y2K civil disturbances.

The plan also provides for the movement of large numbers of people into shelters in the event of a disaster associated with Y2K computer failures.

The FEMA plan of action for the Y2K crisis is outlined in the report "Contingency and Consequence Management Planning for Year 2000 Conversion: A Guide for State and Local Emergency Managers." The plan was recently made available to local governments throughout the country.

As part of the FEMA Federal Response Plan, there is a detailed plan for the evacuation, shelter, and care of large populations. Such plans for shelter are in place for any major disaster, but they have been incorporated into Y2K consequence planning by FEMA.

The plan describes the details of care for up to 300,000 people including registration, feeding, emergency first aid, mail delivery, and all other aspects of care for a minimum of 30 days following the start of the crisis."

FEMA predicts that the magnitude of the disaster "will rapidly overwhelm the capacity of State and Local governments to assess the disaster and respond effectively to basic and emergency human needs."

There are references in the FEMA documents to the use of the military and their equipment as part of the Y2K Federal Response Plan. The National Guard and local law enforcement are also included in the plan.

'Each state has the general responsibility for law enforcement, utilizing local resources, and State resources, including the National Guard (to the extent that the National Guard remains State authority and has not been called into Federal service or ordered into active duty),' says the FEMA plan.

In the event that a problem or disturbance is beyond the ability of local law enforcement to handle, FEMA has provided a means within the plan for federal law enforcement and the U.S. military armed forces to be called into action.

The plan specifies that it is the President who will call the National Guard into federal service, and 'use the Armed Forces, to end the emergency or suppress the disturbance.'

Franklin Frith, hired by Michigan to help prepare local

governments for the consequences of the Y2K problem, became alarmed when Michigan's many government agencies opened their documents to him. In them he claims he found compelling evidence that a greater problem exists than has been admitted publicly.

At a special workshop on Feb 11 organized by Frith, Tom Mattioli, the emergency management coordinator for the Michigan State Police, gave a presentation. Participants were given a handout which showed a FEMA/Red Cross checklist for Y2K preparedness that included a need to store 3-5 days supply of food and water. When asked if it was expected that Y2K disruptions would only last a few days, Mattioli replied, "The 3-5 day period for preparations is not the expected down time for essential services, rather it is the expected response time for emergency response personnel to arrive and evacuate people to shelters."

Frith was further alarmed when the President's Council on the Year 2000 issued a report on Dec 3, 1998 which stated that the country was now moving from contingency planning to crisis management. Frith contends that plans are under way for martial law and the use of mass shelters. The basis for his belief includes the recent Operation Last Dance training conducted by the Army Special Forces command in some Texas towns involving live-fire exercises and other evidence Frith uncovered, including Executive Order 12919 passed by Bill Clinton on June 3, 1994, which is included in FEMA documents involving emergency plans and preparations. According to Frith, "statements made by Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre (the Pentagon's number one man on Y2K) and John Koskinen in the Dec 8, 98 report of the President's Council on Year 2000, along with the existing FEMA Federal Response Plan confirms the intention to invoke Executive Order 12919 and that the possibility of a national emergency being declared with the potential for martial law to follow is probable and should be planned for." The full order is outlined below:

E.O. 10995 - **The seizure of all communications media in the United States.**

E.O. 10997 - **Seizure of all electric power, fuels, and minerals, both public and private.**

E.O. 10998 - **Seizure of all food supplies and resources, public and private, all farms and farm equipment.**

E.O. 10999 - **Seizure of all means of transportation, including personal cars, trucks or vehicles of any kind and total control over all highways, seaports, and waterways.**

E.O. 11000 - **Seizure of all American people for work forces under federal supervision, including the splitting up of families if the government has to.**

E.O. 11001 - **Seizure of all health, education, and welfare facilities both public and private.**

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E.O. 11002 - Empowers the Postmaster General to register all men, women, and children in the United States.

E.O. 11003 - Seizure of all airports and aircraft.

E.O. 11004 - Seizure of all housing and finance authorities, to establish Forced Relocation areas to be abandoned as 'unsafe', establishes new locations for populations, relocated communities, new housing with public funds.

E.O. 11005 - Seizure of all railroads, inland waterways and storage facilities, both public and private.

E.O. 11051 - Provides the Office of Emergency Planning complete authorization to put the above orders into effect in times of increased international tension or economic or financial crisis.

E.O. 12919 - Encompasses all the above Executive Orders. Signed by Bill Clinton, June 3, 1994 [This way he only has to sign this one Executive Order and all these others go into effect.]

"Mike Prince, a public affairs officer for the emergency management office of the Michigan State Police, calls Frith an extremist, and admits the plan exists, but says there is nothing sinister about it. There is no effort to hide information from the public, he claims. Full disclosure of Y2K related documents, and even transcripts of meetings and discussions are available without restriction, he says. Even though there may be disruptions for longer than three days, Prince does not believe people should be warned to store food and water for longer use. He said no one would be forced to go to a shelter unless the area where they live were determined to be unsafe. A mandatory evacuation could also be required if specifically designated by local, state, or national authorities."

Banks Worldwide Make Confident Y2K Test Leap

By Paul Carrel *Worldnet Daily* Correspondent
June 12, 1999

FRANKFURT, Germany (Reuters) - Banks in 19 countries around the world took a virtual step into the future Saturday as they simulated the first day of business in 2000 to test if their computer systems could keep the millennium bug at bay.

"Everything has gone very well for us so far," said Deutsche Bank vice-president and millennium expert Gerhard Singer.

The global exercise, involving at least 190 banks, is intended to ensure that whatever else happens the backbone of international payment systems worldwide will function normally as the world's clocks tick past midnight on December 31, 1999.

Concern centers on older computers and software that

are only able to recognize the last two digits of the year and could read 2000 as 1900 and crash.

The test was designed to see whether computer upgrades -- in which banks have invested billions of dollars -- are "understood" by the computers operated by banks on the opposite end of global transactions.

Deutsche's Singer and Commerzbank millennium expert Detlev Kirchner said they had tested their financial messaging and clearing systems and they had worked smoothly.

In the United States, the New York Clearing House, which initiated the test, reported that payment settlements were processed without any problems.

"I think this will go a long way to show the world that the world payment system is intact and ready to go for 2000," said New York Clearing House Senior Vice President and Director of Information Clearing Systems George Thomas.

The New York Clearing House and major banks in Germany and other countries have already carried out extensive simulations within their national boundaries to test their systems, but this weekend's drill is the first worldwide exercise.

Thomas said the New York Clearing House, which is connected to 82 U.S. and international banks, had successfully made the "international handshake" -- the connection to other financial institutions around the world.

"Virtual" business at other clearing houses around the world was also running smoothly.

"We've had reports from the European Bankers Association, Australia, CHAPS in Great Britain, TARGET (the European Central Bank's payment system), France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Korea and Poland -- and they are all excellent," Thomas said.

Kansas Board Split on Whether Creationism Belongs in Schools

By Scott Canon, *Globe* Correspondent, 06/13/99

OPEKA, Kan. - In the classrooms of Kansas, there may soon be a place for the lesson that man and beast were designed by God.

"Just because something's in the Bible seems a poor reason to keep it out of the classroom," said John Bacon, an accountant and one of five religious conservatives on the 10-member Kansas Board of Education.

The faction is pushing to put creationism, which reflects a fairly literal interpretation of the Bible, on an equal footing with the theory of evolution.

These conservatives are seeking a toehold in state education standards for the theory that says the Earth is but a few thousand years old and its myriad species were created es-



THE NEW WORLD ORDER

And the ushering in of
the long-expected
millennium

By Brian S. Neumann

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entially as they are today as related in the Book of Genesis.

The opposition, which follows the mainstream of science and education, argues that the proposal could turn Kansas students into science dopes.

This side rejects science rooted in the Bible, seeing instead humans and other species as the work of millions of years of natural selection. To them, the elevation of creationism replaces science with theology.

"If people want to teach creationism in their homes and their churches, that's their business," said retired home-builder John van Keppel of Leawood.

In the middle of the dispute are Kansas schoolchildren, whose futures will be affected by the outcome of a political battle that seemed to have been settled in the so-called Scopes Monkey Trial nearly three-quarters of a century ago in Tennessee.

The conflict may be especially heated in Kansas, but is not unique. The state school board in Texas, for example, approved a biology text only after its references to evolution were trimmed. In Alabama, legislators insisted on having disclaimers pasted in every biology text saying evolution is not proven.

Televangelist Pat Robertson struck a chord among religious conservatives last year when he traced the demise of public education to John Dewey's reforms a century ago and what the minister saw as the resulting Godless education.

In Kansas, the seeds of controversy were planted about a year ago, when elected members of the Board of Education set out to overhaul science and social studies standards.

Those standards don't mandate a curriculum for local school districts, but strongly influence how schools teach various subjects. They form the framework for state proficiency tests, and student scores on those exams play a key role in determining how much state aid a local district receives.

The state board appointed a committee of 26 scientists, teachers, and parents to look at how best to teach science. That panel relied heavily on national standards developed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The committee's report emphasized that comprehending evolution is vital to a student's grasping life sciences.

Board chairwoman Linda Holloway complained that the committee's standards emphasized evolution much more than existing state benchmarks.

"I don't think we expected creationism to be in there," she said, "but there was just page after page after page of evolution."

The concept has long been the bane of some Christian fundamentalists. Back in 1925, when high school teacher John Scopes broke state law by teaching evolution in Dayton, Tenn., William Jennings Bryan described it as a "brute theory." He worried it would cause schoolchildren to "lose the consciousness of God's presence in [their] daily life."

Seventy-four years later in Kansas, education board member Steve Abrams also objects. He worries that standards stressing evolution give too much weight to what he believes is an unproven theory.

"The evidence isn't there for it," said Abrams, a veterinarian. Abrams consulted with the president of the Creation Science Association for Mid-America and came up with an alternative.

His version changed the definition of science, scaled back evolution to a single reference, and made room, without requiring local districts to teach it, for "creation science."

The alternative standards include a definition for creation as "the idea that the design and complexity of the design of the cosmos requires an intelligent designer."

If these standards are adopted, questions on both creationism and evolution would not appear on state proficiency tests. Excluding these subjects from the tests would remove an important state incentive for teaching evolution, but no one knows whether individual teachers and school districts will decrease their teaching of evolution or add lessons on creationism.

Some parents would like to see creationism in the schools. "There should

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be some room for what we think, too," said Phil Ellsworth, whose daughter attends high school in a Kansas City suburb. "The whole idea that evolution is the only answer and the only possible explanation of life, that's what we're opposed to.

"It's a theory, and it's a theory that has a lot of holes in it." But Bill Wagnon, a member of the state board and a history professor, said students would fall behind their peers in other states if they weren't held accountable for something as critical as evolution.

"They're hurting the instruction of evolution as a way to promote their 'intelligent designer' outlook," he said. "It would hobble our youngsters if they're not required to use evolution in understanding the natural world."

John Staver, a Kansas State University professor who led the drafting of the pro-evolution standards, said the alternative "warps the whole nature of science" to conform with a religious view.

"The quality of education would be significantly decreased," he said. "And there's no middle ground here."

Board members, split 5-5 on the issue, have yet to produce a compromise and won't vote on the standards until at least August.

This story ran on page A3 of the Boston Globe on 06/13/99. © Copyright 1999 Globe Newspaper Company.

ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN!

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for your standing before God? Do you depend on His power to choose right over wrong? If you do then you are a Christian. If this is a continuous choice, a continuous acceptance, a continuous dependence, then you are continuing to be a Christian. Welcome to the body of Christ!

Just a final note. Someone might think that I am anti-church or anti-doctrine or anti-lifestyle because I de-emphasize these things. This is not so! I believe in the church but not as the solution, only as a tool. I love the truth but only as a means - not an end. My lifestyle changes have given me better health and a greater aware-

ness of His presence, but I'm not made righteous by carrots and bananas. These are good only as they direct us to Christ. They are the dock that leads us onto the ship; which is Christ. Let's not just be excited about being on the dock, let's get aboard the Ship which is Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour! P.S. The ship is sailing soon!



LESSER LIGHT

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versation, and conduct, yet in a large measure, His lessons are disregarded and ignored. **Besides the instruction in His Word, the Lord has given special testimonies to His people, NOT as a new revelation, but that He may set before us the plain lessons of His Word, that ERRORS may be corrected, that the RIGHT WAY may be pointed out, that every soul may be without excuse.**" (3SM 30-31)

"The Testimonies are not to belittle the word of God, but to **exalt it and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all.**" (2 T 605)

From the testimonies, it is apparent that the Spirit of Prophecy should never be exalted above the Bible, take the place of the Bible, nor be considered an addition to the Bible. The Lord's purpose in giving us the Spirit of Prophecy is to bring us to a correct understanding of the Bible. However, this purpose will never be realized to the fullest extent until it is acknowledged that the same Spirit which inspired the Bible was working through Ellen White. This being the case, her writings MUST be of equal authority with the Bible, for the Highest Authority in the universe has established the authority of BOTH.



All Emphasis supplied

Excerpted from:

"Who is He That Gave Thee This Authority?" - A Study on the Authority and Importance of the Spirit of Prophecy



by Paul Rahoi

"We are on the verge of a global transformation. All we need is the right major crisis, and the nations will accept the New World Order."

David Rockefeller, the powerful leader of the council on Foreign Relations in Newsweek, January 1991

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