"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
Isaiah 43:18,19
OH WHAT JOY!
By Norman R. Gulley

In my last class on last day events, 87% of the university students said they were scared of last day events, and many of them would rather die than have to live through them. This anonymous poll was taken at the beginning of the semester. They were looking at the crisis instead of looking to Christ, and nothing but fear filled their minds and hearts. For them "joy" and "last day events" don't belong together.

"Joy," isn't that a Christian attribute (Gal 5:22-23)? Aren't Christians supposed to be happy? Don't they have the blessed hope? Why so many joyless Christians—especially as they face final events on planet-earth?

"H.L. Mencken described a Puritan as a person with a haunting fear that someone somewhere is happy. Today, many people would apply the same caricature to evangelicals or fundamentalists. Where does this reputation of upright joylessness come from? A column by humorist Erma Bombeck provides a clue. "In church the other Sunday I was intent on a small child who was turning around smiling at everyone. He wasn't gurgling, spitting, humming, kicking, tearing the hymnals, or rummaging through his mother's handbag. He was just smil-

ing. Finally his mother jerked him about and in a stage whisper that could be heard in a little theater off Broadway said, 'Stop that grinning! You're in church!' With that, she gave him a belt and as the tears rolled down his cheeks added, 'That's better,' and returned to her prayers..."

Then Bombeck continued, "Suddenly I was angry. It occurred to me the entire world was in tears, and if you're not, then you'd better get with it. I wanted to grab this child with the hair-stained face close to me and tell him about my God. The happy God. The smiling God. The God who had to have a sense of humor to have created the likes of us...!"

I just received an email from a former student who attended a Bible study where a well-meaning retired minister told the group that, "God expects absolute perfection to go through the great time of trouble, and that they will have to go it alone, for He will not hold their hands." The student went home and cried until midnight. Perfection is not a solo performance, where we practice hard and then on the stage of final events demonstrate our achievement. Perfection is a perfect relationship of dependence upon Jesus, and knowing the joy of His presence. The relationship will be reflected in a Christ-like life, which we can never have apart from Him. Christ promises, "Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you" (Heb 13:5). For, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt 28:20). The lost sheep wasn't rebuffed by the Shepherd Jesus and made to walk home alone. No! He picked the helpless animal up and placed it on His shoulder rejoicing as He carried it all the way home (Luke 15:5).

Our joy is in direct proportion to our understanding of God. If you have a legalistic God— love and pain. If you have a God of infinite compassion—then freedom and joy abound. The God of the Bible is a great God, an awesome God, a God who is for us and with us.

Did you notice that those who pass through the final times of trouble stand near the Lamb in Revelation (7:9; 14:1)? They're not alone in Heaven nor on earth. The Lamb makes all the difference. His presence with them, His work for them, His love within them—that's their joy. They have Christ in the crisis and He radically changes them. Many saints are up to their neck in crises. They cannot look at final events. The good news is they don't have to... They can look to Christ. He surrounds them, fills them, empowers them. His perfect love casts out all fear (1 John 4:18). This is the truth that sets them free (John 8:32). Exultant joy bears them up, carries them through, and causes them to triumph. The Lamb is Christ in His sacrifice for them in Calvary, for them in their walk today, and for them in their passage through final events. Just as He carried your sins on the cross, so He carries your burdens today, and will carry them through the greatest time of trouble.

And on the other side the saints will sing a new song (Rev 14:3), a song of their experience. Look at the song. It's fantastic! It's incredible! It's terrific! 'Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed'.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Amazing Discoveries together with Vancouver Central Presents a Historical Weekend with Dr. Norman Gulley
October 20 & 21, 2000 at Vancouver Central SDA Church 5350 Bailee Street
Friday, October 20, 2000
7:00 pm
Christ is Coming --- Soon!
What's happening in America with the Christian Coalition and other movements that could bring the end rapidly upon us?
Sabbath, October 21, 2000
11:00 am Divine Service

The Good News About Last Day Events
A look at Revelation 13 in its Biblical context brings exciting good news that will thrill the hearts of God's remnant people who pass through final events. It will reveal our eternal mission.
We wouldn't miss it for anything.

Fellowship Meal to Follow
All invited to attend
Please plan to bring some contribution
Sabbath, October 21, 2000
2:30 pm

Armageddon
Look to Christ and not the crisis, for it's not what is coming, but Who is coming that matters. A Christ-centered look at the final battle that will set you free from fearing final events.
Question & Answer Period to Follow
MARK OCTOBER 20 & 21,2000 ON YOUR CALENDAR!
IT'LL BE A GREAT SABBATH!


When Jesus offered His high-priestly prayer in John chapter 17 for unity amongst the believers, this unity was to be based on the Word of truth. In today’s society, this prayer of Jesus is often used to achieve a unity of all religions particularly within the Christian community.

I have revealed Your name to the men whom You gave to Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for those whom You have given me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am in the world no longer, but these are in the world, and I come to You, Holy Father. Keep them in Your name, those whom You have given me, so that they may be one as We are. I have given them Your Word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not pray for You to take them out of the world, but for You to keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Your truth. Your Word is truth. As You have given them to Me, I give them to You; and I sanctify them with the truth; for they were Your gift to Me, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. John 17:6-23

It is evident from this prayer that Jesus is not praying for a worldly consecracy and unity, but on the contrary, is praying for a unity based on the Word of truth which is to be found in Him as His is with the Father. Friendship with the world is condemned in the Word of God.

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world will be the enemy of God." James 4:4

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." John 2:15

In fact, true unity in Christ will bring about such a separation from the world that the world will be hated just as Cain was hated by Abel when Abel did the will of the Lord.

In fact, true unity in Christ will bring about such a separation from the world that the Word will testify of God and mankind will be hated just as Cain was hated by Abel when Abel did the will of the Lord.

If human rights mean that you have the right to be what you want to be, then indolence, insolence, rebellion, blasphemy, and idolatry, within the boundaries of human legislation, are permissible. Self is exalted and a higher authority than self (even parental authority) is disowned. If this be the case, humanism, then God is replaced with self.

In the Old Testament, under the theocratic system, God viewed behaviour contrary to His Word and Law in a very serious light. And as the Old Testament is an object lesson, sins which today are protected by human rights, were even punishable by death. What were the sins punishable by death in the Old Testament? To mention but a few:

- "And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death," Lev 20:10
- "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them," Lev 20:13
- "You shall not lie with mankind as with a woman. It is abomination to God."

Has God changed His thinking in regard to the sins outlined above? Modern science urges that man is not responsible for his sexual preferences because genetic factors could have influenced his behaviour. If this were so, then the Law and Commandments to which we have been taught are worthless. In the New Testament, we find the exact same sentiments expressed.

"Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor swearers, nor the fornicators, nor the idolaters, nor the adulterers, nor the extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor 6:9-11"

This is not a judgmental statement and it clearly demonstrates the effect of salvation in Christ. The words "and such were some of you" underline the transforming power of the gospel. An adulterer ceases to be an adulterer. An idolater ceases to be an idolater. A thief no longer steals. A drunkard no longer drinks. Nor do homosexuals transform. Do the churches in their quest for unity today endorse homosexuality and idolatry? Indeed, they have no choice. So various Protestant confessions have ordained homosexuals in order to comply with human rights. The world gathering of religious leaders in September 2000 in New York proclaimed the equality of all religions thus entrenching idolatry. This unity is therefore not based on truth, but on eccumencial grounds. In this regard, it is therefore not strange that in Roman Catholicism, the icon of Mary is to tour churches in North America to be prayed for in various churches. During the first week of September 2000, the local newspaper in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada reported: "It is wonderful, says Gino Masotti, the grand knight of Columbus Council 11608 at Precious Blood Cathedral. He is hoping that many Precious Blood parishers will pray before the icon." Unity with Roman Catholicism would thus also be a unity outside of the Word of truth. In light of the Vatican statement of 5. September 2000, issued by the inter-congregation for Doctrine of the Faith (a 36-page document), that Roman Catholicism is the only true church and that all authority rests in the Pope who should make Bible-based thinkers reconsider any form of solidarity with such unity. However, Canon David Hargrave, the minister of the Christian Church in Montreal, says: "I don't think it breaks any rule of dialogue."

A further sin punishable by death in the Old Testament was spiritism and communication with the dead.

"A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone him with stones: their blood shall be upon them." Lev 20:27

When you come to the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to do according to the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that uses divination, an observer of clouds, or a fortune-teller, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulor with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or one who calls to the dead. For all that do these things are an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be perfect with the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 18:9-13

At the WCC meeting in Australia, a list of dead people including our "brother" Jesus Christ was called upon under great ceremony. The Times of London, 28 August, 2000 carries an article in which the Church of England is urged to hold services for those dead for the dead, particularly for deceased atheists to counsel them. "Parishes in the church of England will next month..."
God has not changed. He hates sin as much today as He hated it in the past. Yet He has the same tender compassion for the sinner as He demonstrated in Eden when He covered Adam and Eve with the robes of the Lamb.

God is calling a people to come up to the standard. To give up wrong character traits, to work in our sphere as He works in His sphere. Moreover, in order to achieve this, we cannot be unequally yoked with unbelievers, or those willing to compromise on such important issues. The Scriptures say: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by what you are that good and pleasing and perfect will of God." Rom 12:2


"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that having denied ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live discreetly, righteously and godly, in this present world, looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearance of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify to Himself a special people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14

A Triumphant Church

A Humble, Meek Spirit

If we are to succeed as a church we need earnest confession of sins. We need to come up to the standard. We need to stand together in humility of spirit and meekness. Where there are wrongs let us correct them. We need to restore the erring gently knowing that he that thinks he stand should take heed lest he also fall. We need to support and sustain each other. The spirit of prophecy says: "Let us learn to follow the Bible rule for dealing with the erring. Let us do our part to answer Christ's prayer for unity among His people. During the coming year, let us obey the new commandment that Christ gave to His disciples every year, "Love one another, as I have loved you." For our soul's sake let us serve Him with more zeal and earnestness than we have ever served Him before." [KC 38:3]

"Be very careful how you treat the Lord's heritage. Each person is a link in the chain of faith. We are to cherish and honor Christ's love. There is no need of their being estranged from one another. They are all embraced in Christ's prayer that the disciples might be one with Him as He is one with the Father." [Spm 269:2]

"Confessing His prayer, Christ pleaded: "I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine. And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I am glorified in them." John 17:9-11

No one of us should ever teach every one who bears any responsibility in God's service! Can Christ say concerning us, "I am glorified in them?" Should not a thorough transformation take place in the hearts of even the men who have long known the truth, but who have not earnestly endeavored to glorify Christ? Let every worker carefully search his heart to detect the motives prompting wrong words and actions. Have men become so blinded that they cannot distinguish between sin and righteousness?" [Jr 11:17]

"The arrows of the Almighty must wound you so sorely that you will feel that you need a physician. I have torn," [Spm 269:2]
God can and will use an obedient church.

Church members must work; they must educate themselves, striving to reach the high standard set before them. Church leaders must work to help them reach this goal. Pastors and church leaders must be committed to the work of leading their congregation to this goal.

There are many young people and (old) inquire as to the purpose of further education.

God’s test is a matter of faithfulness. He who sanctified Himself can sanctify His disciples. United with Him, they will be united with one another in the most holy faith.” (AG 210.5)

A church lifting up the Sabbath standard

"God has a test for us, and if we come up to the standard we shall be peculiar people. The Sabbath draws a separating line between us and the world, not faintly but in plain, distinct colors. To those who have received the light of this truth the Sabbath is a test; it is not a human requirement, but God’s test. It is what will distinguish between those who serve Him and not, and upon this point will come the last great conflict between truth and error. All who profess to keep God’s law should stand united in the sacred observance of His holy Sabbath.…” (HP 150.2)

"Christ is not a guest, but an inheritor of the family. The church will be a blessing to the community, a disseminator of light and truth and the true joy of fellowship with God and with each other will give direction and meaning to life. We need to be missionaries and not hide our light ‘under a bushel.’”

A mission-oriented church

"The people who obey God’s commandments are now the light of the world, the preserver of the World of God in its purity, and they are elevating and exalting the God of the law—‘the only true, infallible standard of character in our world,’—therefore every man and woman whom Heaven has entrusted with this most sacred trust is required to be an active instrument to diffuse the light to others. The church which obeys God’s law is to send forth her sons as missionaries and preachers, and her daughters as teachers. The Bible is to be opened and explained to those who are in the darkness of error. The great missionary work is to draw men to Christ. Every individual member of the church is under the claims of God to let this light shine to the world…. He desires that we should be sanctified through the truth, elevated, enlarged, and all our powers increased to do good.”

An educated church

We are living in the closing stages of this earth’s history, and many young people (and old) inquire as to the purpose of further education.

"Church members must work; they must educate themselves, striving to reach the high standard set before them. Church leaders must work to help them reach this goal. Pastors and church leaders must be committed to the work of leading their congregation to this goal.”

Can Christ say concerning us, “I am glorified in them?” Should not a thorough transformation take place in the hearts of even the men who have long known the truth, but who have not earnestly endeavored to glorify Christ?”

"Our heavenly Father presents before his finite creatures no impossibilities; he requires not at their hands that they cannot perform. He has not set before his church a standard to which they cannot attain; yet he desires that they shall labor earnestly to reach the high standard set before them in the text. He would have them pray that they may be ‘filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God.’ And he would have them to the fullest extent carry out the truths of the Bible, and in all things grow up into Christ their living Head. This was the apostle’s great desire, not with reference to the church at Ephesus only, but to all the churches that he had been instrumental in raising up.” (ST, December 9, 1886 p. 2)

A reforming— not conforming—church

"He who would reform others must first reform himself. He must obtain the spirit of His master and be willing, like Him, to suffer reproach and to practice self-denial. In comparison with the worth of one soul, the whole world sinks into insignificance. A desire to exercise authority, to lord it over God’s heritage, will, if indulged, result in the loss of souls. Those who really love Jesus will seek to conform their own lives to the Pattern and will labor in His spirit for the salvation of others.” (ST 614.1)

There is a new tendency in the world today to meet the people where they are. Jesus mingled with sinners and outcasts, yet He never sinned. One does not become a sinner to reach a sinner. Sin and righteousness are mutually exclusive. To become a Greek to reach the Greek does not mean to take part in pagan worship in order to win a soul. “Like Israel, Christians too often yield to the influence of the world, and not conform to its principles and customs in order to secure the friendship of the ungodly; but in the end it will be found that these professed friends are the most dangerous of foes. The Bible plainly teaches that there can be no harmony between the people of God and the world. "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.” John 1:33. Our Saviour says, 'Ye know that it hated Me before it hated you.” John 15:18. Satan works through the ungodly, under cover of a pretended friendship, to allure God’s people to sin, that he may separate them from Him; and when their defence is removed, then he will lead his agents to turn against them and seek to accomplish their destruction.” (PP 559.1)

"We are not to shut ourselves away from the world to escape from it. Christ’s prayer to His Father was, ‘Not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.’ We have. Like to do in the world, the work of seeking for lost souls. The law of God is made void. God calls upon us to stand in defence of this law. As Christ was the light of the world, so we are to be lights in the world. Christ lived in the world, but He was not of the world. Men did not understand Him. His self-sacrifice was to them a mystery. He lived a life apart from them. ‘He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not.’ They hated Him because He would not be one with them. Had He united with them in eager pursuit for applause, for riches, for worldly honour, they would not have hated Him; for He would have been of them. And because the world knew not the Saviour, it knows not His followers.” (RH, July 23, 1901 p. 6)

"Many urge that by uniting with worldlings and conforming to their customs they might exert a stronger influence over them in pursuit of this cause; but we separate from the Source of their strength. Becoming the friends of the world, they are the enemies of God. For the sake of earthly distinction they sacrifice the unspoilable honour to which God has called them, of showing forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvellous light. 1 Peter 2:9. (PP 607.2)

God’s people will separate themselves from the unrighteous practices of those around them, and will seek for purity of thought, and holy conformity to his will, until His divine image may be perfected and reflected, and they will be fitting for translation to Heaven. While they endeavour to instruct and warn the world, they will not conform to the spirit and customs of unbelievers, but will condemn them by their holy conversation and godly example. Communication with those who really love Jesus will seek to conform their own lives to the Pattern and will labor in His spirit for the salvation of others.” (ST 614.1)

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live for ourselves, to use all our entrusted capabilities for our own gratification. Our lives were not given to us for this purpose. Jesus did not follow this plan. He did not live to please Himself, and He desires us to learn of Him. In order to do this, we need to keep away, as far as possible, from the excitement and bustle of the world, close our ears and eyes to things seen, and contemplate, far more than we do, unseen, eternal realities. As we daily conform our lives to His perfect example, we shall, like Him, bear precious fruit in good works.” (HM, October 1, 1897 par. 2)

A Christ-centered church

"But few of the youth understand what it is to be Christians to be Christlike. A prayerful study of the word of God is necessary if they would conform their lives to the perfect Pattern. Few experience that separation from the world which God requires of them in order to become members of His family, children of the heavenly King. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” (RH, March 11, 1880 par. 25)

"Dear brethren and sisters who shall assemble in our camp-meetings, Jesus will do great things for us, if we will faithfully perform our duty. We must yield our will to the will of God. We must honour the Lord by obeying all his commandments, even in what we term little things. The truth, like its divine Author, is unchangeable in its requirements, the same yesterday, today, and forever. It is in harmony with the traditions of men, it does not conform to their opinions. The truth has ever brought a separation between God's people and the world. But if our position in former years, as a peculiar people, was approved of God, how does He regard our present position? Have we gained in spirituality since we departed from our early simplicity? "Ye are living epistles, known and read of men." It was our Saviour's mission to "purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." To His disciples He says, "Ye are the light of the world." And the apostle Paul declares, "We are a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men." (ST, May 25, 1882 par. 20)

"The children of God profess to be pilgrims and strangers on the earth, seeking a better country. It is not for them to set their affections on things below. They are not to conform to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of their mind. They are to learn daily in the school of Christ, so profiting by the lessons of the divine Teacher that they shall be able to serve God better and better, better today than yesterday, better tomorrow than today. This is the hour of probation, when opportunity is given us to per-
and peace, to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; tie them around your neck; write them upon the tablet of your heart; and you shall find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:1-6)

We need to display total trust in Christ and be distrustful of self. Proverbs 3:5,6 says: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

If we do these things, then we will truly have unity, and the prayer of Christ will be answered in us.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment on the head that ran down on the beard, Aaron’s beard, that went down to the mouth of his garments; like the dew of Hermon that came down on the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing, life forevermore.” Psalm 133:1

Dr. Walter J. Veith

SCHEDULED SERIES BY DR. WALTER VEITH AROUND N. AMERICA

September 1-4
Campmeeting at North Ontario Conference

September 5,6,7
Campmeeting at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada

September 8,9,10
Bellingham, WA

September 15,16
Sacramento, CA

Watch for reports in the next newsletter!!

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