

Spring



## II Quarter 2002

Volume 7 Issue 2

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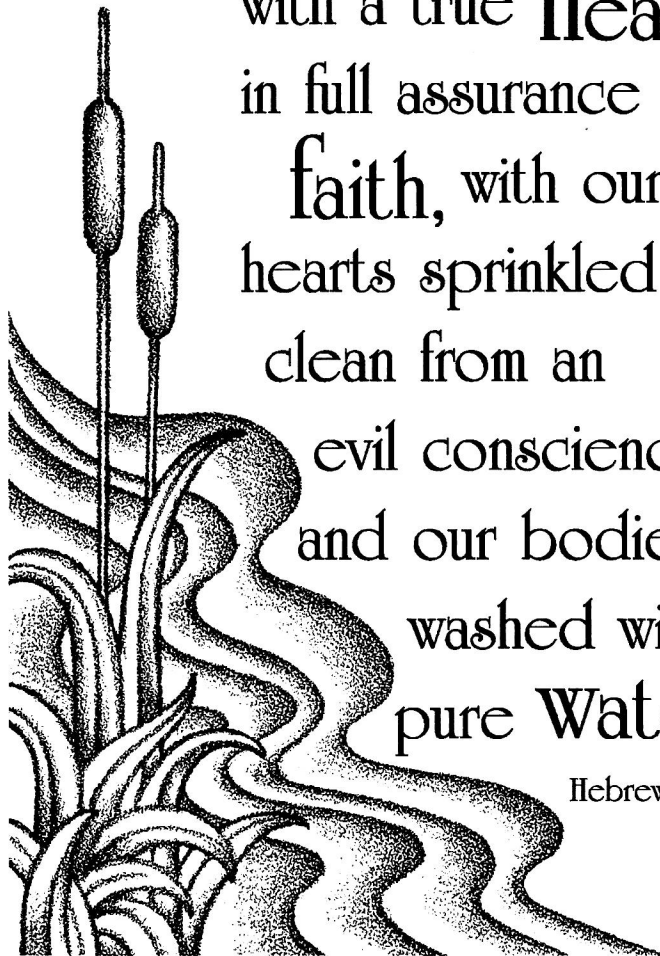
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*A Journal for Those Who Dare*

**L**et us approach  
with a true heart  
in full assurance of  
faith, with our  
hearts sprinkled  
clean from an  
evil conscience  
and our bodies  
washed with  
pure Water.

Hebrews 10:22



# 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.

I was just at the Northeastern Ontario Campmeeting with guest speaker Prof. Veith, and I was truly blessed by all the subject matter that he shared with us on that incredible weekend. Although I had seen some of his video tapes a few years ago, his new and updated material has made me feel even more that we are very, very close to the end. May God continue to bless Dr. Veith and his ministry until the Lord comes to take us home.

R.C.

I am a mother of three young children. I just wanted to write to you and tell you how much I appreciated the articles on music on this site. I had never given it much thought, but now, I see the direction in which my family and myself need to go. I appreciate the honesty and integrity of your articles, and hope that you continue with it. Thank you. A.W.

I have recently seen 2 videos on the freemasonry and New World Order that changed my life forever! ...

J.P.

Re: Halting Between Two Opinions, Winter 2002. I hope the above article strikes a chord in every Seventh-day Adventist who reads it. It did with me, as I have seen many people leave my local church for a place of fellowship "more in tune with the times", where breakfast and lunch are served on Sabbath and people "have more fun". I hope these "stomach Adventists" come to their senses and embrace that "old time religion" before it's too late. J.W.

Men have over many years strayed from their natural way of life. We can trace what our diet should be by studying our closest relative, the chimpanzee who shares 98% of our DNA. They eat raw food, mostly fruit and nuts, and less than 5% raw meat. To regain our health, we must follow suit. G.C.

I bought two of your video tapes about the new world order symbols. I think these tapes are very interesting and informative. I learned a lot. K.S.

So who is this lunatic Dr. Walter J. Veith? He sounds so full of himself. So is he a Protestant or a Jew or a KKK flunkie or what? If there's one thing I can't stand it's a person who thinks they know it all when it's clear they have a Doctorate in Stupid. See, this type of brainwaste is the perfect example of internet spam that we ourselves must learn to control by not contributing. Dr. Veith, get a life buddy! M.C.

As to your multiple choice question, I would choose (A.) Protestant. The Jews refuse to accept Christ. And the KKK is a free-mason derivative who serve another master altogether. I have never laid claim to knowing it all. But I do lay claim to knowing Him who knows it all. And that is what gives me a life. Join me in this, buddy, and get a life also. W.J. Veith

I just checked out the new website - fantastic - God has truly inspired someone to create just the right site that is eye-

catching and informative. Now, when I hit the link button a song came on "We are the children of the Light". I loved it! How can I get a copy? Who is the singer? How can I get more songs by the singer? Sept. 11 has had a profound effect on me - is our Lord very near? I feel so excited when I think this is so, but a few days pass and doubts about His soon coming seem to creep in. I must pray always. God be with you and the whole Amazing Discoveries team! C.H.

The song mentioned is by Brian S. Neumann on his CD: *Mists of Time* available through *Amazing Discoveries*.

Dear Professor Veith: I am a black man who always thought black people were descendant from Ham. I always thought that the low state of affairs of blacks especially in Africa was due to their long affiliation with paganism. But the other day I heard a minister claim that blacks were a sub species of the ape family. Are we the missing link or are we Ham's descendants. I must admit though that after reading about Ham I almost hope we are descendant from apes. Thank you for teaching us about truth.

- Edward

Dear Edward: It always amazes me that there are people that are warped enough to claim some sort of superiority because of their genetic heritage. I feel intensely for the minister who claims that blacks are a subspecies of the ape family as he does not have a biological or spiritual leg to stand on. And the sad fact about our heritage is that it doesn't matter whether we are the descendants of Ham, Japheth, or Shem, as the Bible says "ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." External color does not reflect the heart. The sad news is that all cultures are steeped in paganism and that even so-called Christian cultures have been duped into accepting pagan philosophies in a Christianized form. So welcome to the club! But the Bible says that God

will call forth a remnant out of every race, tribe, and creed who will stand for truth in the latter days. My prayer is that we will be able to reflect on these things together one day in heaven. God be with you, W.V.

Hi: What is the influence of nutrition on our brain, our frontal lobe in special? I've heard that especially fast food impacts our consciousness. Is this true? I would be thankful for an answer.

Hi: Thanks for your question. There are so many factors involved in mental health. It is known that diet plays a significant role. Whole foods generally contain all the original components required for health but refined foods rob the body of essential components. Fast foods are generally also refined foods and in addition they are spiked with food additives which makes them even more dangerous. For example, the synthetic antioxidants BHA and BHT which are widely used in the industry, lower the serotonin levels in the brain which leads to altered neural function. Schizophrenics are known to have low serotonin levels and not to feel conscience and that is what makes them so dangerous. So these fast foods and snack foods can actually create a form of schizophrenia, which makes modern society where it is today. This is just one example, but time does not allow us to give a more detailed answer. Hope this helps you in your quest. Some more information can be obtained from my health videos, especially *Your Health Your Choice*, or the book *Diet Health* may be even more helpful.

- Professor W.J. Veith

Hi: Can you tell me about genetically modified foods. Are they dangerous?

Genetically modified organisms are supposed to provide species which are

resistant to diseases and herbicides. But of course, we have no idea as to the long-term effects that such manipulations bring about. I am of the opinion that God knew what He was doing when He constructed the genome, and selection by breeding seems warranted, but to manipulate the genetic material or to add genes seems to me counterproductive, and we might see an increase in diseases on the long run which would outweigh any benefits in the short term.

Professor Walter J. Veith

Author's Correction:

There was an error in one of your articles in the Fall 2001 issue - the reference at the end of the article for Michael J. Behe's *Darwin's Black Box* published by The Free Press, was not published in 1966 but rather 1996.

Dr. Sean Pitman, M.D.

Hi! I'm a girl from Norway and I've just started my studies in nutrition this fall. My question is: what would you do with a person who is allergic or intolerant to dairy products, eggs, nuts and legumes? I'm a vegetarian and I don't like telling people to eat meat. But is eating meat or fish the only alternative to get enough protein in a situation like this?

L.H.

First of all, the question is very vague. What are the symptoms? Is this a true allergy or just sensitivity?

In the case of milk and eggs, it is best to leave them alone. Neither are necessary for health and they are the cause of many true allergies. Often these allergies set up a reaction in the body so that people develop allergies to other products as well. Leave dairy products and eggs entirely alone.

In regards to legumes and nuts: If this is a true allergy - so that the symptoms of shortness of breath, severe pain in the abdomen, severe diarrhea, bloody stools, etc. develops, you may have to eliminate these also and use fish from cold waters that are

not contaminated with heavy metals on a twice a week basis, and use a mixture of grains and seeds, such as sesame, sunflower, and pumpkin. These are all good sources of protein. Also use large amounts of greens daily.

If however, the nuts and legumes give only bloating and gas, then the following methods can be used:

For legumes - soak them for 2-3 days in pure water, changing the water every 4-6 hours (during the day). Then cook them till very soft - 8 to 12 hours - best on stove for 3 hours, then 8 hours in crock pot. This will get rid of the gas forming enzymes.

In regards to nuts - they can be rotated on a 5-7 day basis, and according to nut families. For example:

Monday - walnut or pecans  
Tuesday - hazelnuts  
Wednesday - pine nuts  
Thursday - cashews  
Friday - peanuts (cook like beans)  
Saturday - almonds  
Sunday - Brazil nuts

Use only small amounts, e.g. 1/4 cup, and do not repeat till next week.

Also, for severe gas, you can use charcoal to help relieve the discomfort. Use 1 tsp charcoal in water or 4 pills or capsules twice daily.

Hope this is helpful.

Dr. Hilda S. Rainda, M.D.

Dr. Rainda answers our nutrition and health questions. She is a graduate of Loma Linda University School of Medicine and has practiced family medicine for 41 years. During her life, she has been medical director of Sopas Adventist Hospital, Papua New Guinea and missionary for four years, Health Ministries Director for the South Pacific Division in Sydney, Australia for five years, founding member and board member of Pacific Health Education Center for 12 years, and Vice President for 5 years. Pacific Health Education Center is located in Bakersfield, CA and has trained over 150 health evangelists from over 40 countries.





## CUSTODIANS OF HIS GRACE

By Walter J. Veith

When sin marred the perfect world God had created, "grace" was the promise given to our first parents, and Adam and Eve became custodians of that "grace" along with future generations. Until sin disturbed the peace and beauty of the first garden home, there had been no need for grace. Sin is the transgression of the Law, and with its appearance, grace was introduced into the equation as well.

"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, *grace* did much more abound." *Romans 5:20*

In order for grace to abound, the transgression of a law had to precede it. And therefore, before one can understand grace or its meaning to mankind, the need for grace must be clearly portrayed and understood. The law, the mirror of character, was to be upheld so that the transgressor could turn to the Saviour to find the solution to its condemnation and sentence. **Custodians of His grace must, therefore, also be custodians of His law.**

"In the beginning God placed man under law as an indispensable condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law. . . ." *HP 146.2*

Soon the world became so apostate and utterly wicked that God in His mercy had to eradicate sin to preserve posterity. The flood was a judgment of God, and also an act of grace. The conditions which were to prevail in a post flood world were to induce a milder more dependant spirit in man.

"But Noah found *grace* in the eyes of the Lord." *Genesis 6:8* "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a *preacher of righteousness*, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." *2 Peter 2:5*

After the flood, in spite of the changed conditions and the shortened life span of man, apostasy soon prevailed again upon the earth, but God found in Abraham one who sought Him with his whole heart. Many have the dispensationalist view that law and grace are to reign in different periods of man's existence. It is believed that under the dispensation of law, one is saved through obedience and that Christ fulfilled the obligations of the law thus placing man under grace. However, law and grace are inseparably united. Abraham lived before the law was given at Sinai, yet he kept the law. It must therefore have been in existence and passed down to posterity by word of mouth.

"And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations." *Genesis 17:9* "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." *Genesis 26:5*

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Jesus never replaced the law with grace. When Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees with regard to Mary Magdalene's adultery, he exposed their hypocrisy by writing in the sand. This writing induced them all to leave and it must be assumed that He showed their own sins which is confirmed by the Spirit of Prophecy. Turning to Mary Magdalene, He asked the question, "Where are your accusers? Has no man condemned thee?" Upon which she replied, "No man, Lord." Then Jesus replied, **"Neither do I condemn thee."** With this statement, Jesus places her under grace. For there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Then, He says to her, **"Go and sin no more."** And places her under the law. So, grace does not remove the obligation of keeping the law, since grace is only the solution to the problem of sin.

The important correlation of the law to grace is evident from the very beginning of the Bible. The great controversy between self reliance and self exaltation as opposed to obedience and trust in God has divided mankind into two classes since the fall. This battle continued in Abraham's descendants with Jacob and Esau representing these two great groups. But God has proven Himself longsuffering and filled with compassion for erring man, "unwilling that any should perish". Again and again He reminded His people that the way to life was to be found only in obedience to His righteous precepts and that in keeping them, there was great reward. (Ps. 119:18)

Jacob and Esau are prime examples of the workings of grace. Jacob wrestled with the angel and fell broken on the rock. Esau sold his birthright and built his fortress in the rocks of Petra thus relying on his own merits for salvation, but his city is desolate.

### Aaron and the Golden Calf

Speaking to Moses, God declares Himself to be: "... shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. *Exodus 20:6; Deut 5:10* And the Lord admonishes His people: "Therefore shall ye keep my commandments, and do them: I am the Lord." *Leviticus 22:31*

When Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Law written with the finger of God, the people apostasized citing his delay as a justifiable reason for their apostasy. In leading the Israelite people out of Egypt, "the world", into Canaan, the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey, as well as in his continual intercessions before the Lord on behalf of a continually rebellious people, even offering his own life for them, Moses was a type of Christ. Is it possible that the "delay" in the Lord's coming at the close of this earth's history could have similar results at the end of time?

"And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, "Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of

Egypt, we know not what is become of him."...And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." ... And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play....And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)... Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. *Exodus 32:1-5; 17,18,25*

The delay induced a desire for a worship of display and succumbing under the pressure, Aaron capitulated. The type of worship was reminiscent of all pagan cultures with dancing around the molten calf. Once the burnt offerings and peace offerings had been presented, part and parcel of the worship system was eating and drinking, "and they rose up to play..."

**What comprised the play?** Strong's defines this "play" as "sport". Pagan cultures had sun worship games which, according to the Gilgamesh epic, comprised of games with a ball and also employed an implement from a tree in the form of a branch or stick with which a ball had to be shot into a hole. In fact, all our modern sports are schooled on the games of ancient sunworship and according to UNESCO, games such as baseball, hockey, cricket, soccer, rugby/football are all based on sunworship rituals. In fact, in all sports, scoring a goal was equated with the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil. (The sun in myth and art, UNESCO, p. 87,88) Of course, we must realize that in occultism, Lucifer is regarded as light, and Adonai (the God of the Bible) is regarded as darkness. Therefore, in masonic temples, there are only three lights (candles), and the north is in darkness because the north represents the throne of God. The worshipful master sits in the east and represents the "dog star" - Sirius, a symbol of Lucifer - the brightest star in the heavens. Baseball is related to the sun in the sundial shape and pattern of the field, as well as its rules of play and scoring. Like all sports, baseball also embodies the sun's seasonal cycles in much the same way as ancient

**The Seventh Day  
Adventist Church is to be  
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grace at the end of time.**

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## CUSTODIANS OF HIS GRACE

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ceremonial contests were held as part of fertility rites. (*The sun in myth and art, UNESCO, p. 87,88*) So, when the children of Israel rose up to play, they participated in pagan sunworship sport rituals.

Ellen White counsels to avoid this type of game playing and to channel energy into useful activities.

"Games have been allowed such as God disapproves. It was to prevent this kind of thing that the Lord gave counsel to the effect that students should learn useful trades. Where were these watchmen while these unseemly games and athletic sports, these trials of animal strength and exhibition of physical skill were in progress?... Do not substitute play, pugilistic boxing, football, matched games, and animal exercises, for manual training. All of this stripe and type should be vigilantly prohibited from the school ground." 11 MR 161.3

**What did it mean that people were naked?** Other translations render the term as "uninhibited, boisterous, charismatic". Strong's renders this term also as "let go, let loose, be loosened of restraint, to show lack of restraint." There is a modern movement to replace reverence in worship with a "let your hair down" attitude.

As their wandering in the wilderness continued, the leaders of Israel also rebelled against what seemed to them to be overly restrictive regulations in the leading of Moses. Korah and the chief princes rebelled against Moses

"Now Korah, and Dathan and Abiram, ... took men. And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown. And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, "Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?" And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell upon their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?"... And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. And there came out a fire from the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense. Numbers 16:1-3; 20-22;32,35

The interesting concepts to be learned from these passages of Scripture is that the "famous men in the congregation - the men of renown" were the ones that were unhappy with the leading of Moses which reflected the Spirit of God. Moreover, they claimed that "all the congregation are holy, every one of them" which is reminiscent of the doctrine, "once saved, always saved" which forms such a prominent part of the new theology in our age. But God showed in this example of Korah's rebellion that our only safety lies in meticulous obedience to God's leading.

**Ahab & Elijah**

Again in the time of Elijah, the people apostasized under the leadership of Ahab and Jezebel. The people were led into accepting the religions of the surrounding nations. We read these passages today, as if they were strange and amazing, but the same is happening in our day. The doctrines of the world are accommodated in order to become more acceptable in the world's sight. Ahab was not areligious, there were numerous prophets of which he inquired. He even had normal relations with Judah, but the worship had become Baal worship without the children of Israel really realizing in which way they were led.

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**Please continue to pray for the people of Tulsa, Oklahoma as they continue their Bible studies and make life-changing decisions. Thank you.**

"And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, 'Art thou he that troubleth Israel?' And he answered, 'I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore, send and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table'....And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, 'How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people answered him not a word." 1 Kings 18:17-21

In spite of the harlotry of Israel, which once again is written for our admonition, God never called her Babylon. God permitted apostasy to run its course but He always called His people back. The final custodians of His law may follow the same pattern but God will call them back. **The final movement of destiny on this planet is Laodicea.** There is no call out of Laodicea, there is no removal of the candlestick of Laodicea and passing it on to another organization. There is just a "spitting out" of Laodicea because of its lukewarm state. There is however, counsel and reproof - "Buy from Me gold, refined in the fire...". As was the case in the story of Elijah, so history will repeat itself. In 2 Kings we read:

"Yet the Lord testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets." 2 Kings 17:13

"But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there." Nehemiah 1:9

The New Testament contains the same entreaties. Christ had paid the price for man's transgression. How much more should the revealed love of Christ compel worship and obedience.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." John 15:10

"By whom we have received grace and apostleship,

for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name." Romans 1:5

**Seventh-day Adventist Mandate**

According to Revelation 10, the final warning of God would be proclaimed to the world after the unsealing of the sealed scroll which would bring about a sweet expectation of the second coming of Christ but would turn to the bitter disappointment that was experienced by the Advent believers in 1844. They also had to prophecy again to many nations, peoples and multitudes and this theme we pick up in Revelation 14, where we have the three angel's message which is proclaimed worldwide only by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. **The Seventh Day Adventist Church is to be the custodian of God's grace at the end of time.**

"Every institution established by Seventh-day Adventists is to be to the world what Joseph was in Egypt and what Daniel and his fellows were in Babylon. As in the providence of God these chosen ones were taken captive, it was to carry to heathen nations the blessings that come to humanity through a knowledge of God. They were to be representatives of Jehovah. **They were never to compromise with idolaters; their religious faith and their name as worshippers of the living God they were to bear as a special honor.** CH 203.1

Are we fulfilling this mandate or is the past being repeated as we live in the very end of time? It has been predicted

that there would be a "falling away" at the end of time, and that our church would experience confusion and apostasy. Ellen White mentions it numerous times in her writings.

"The things you have described . . . the Lord has shown me would take place just before

the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit." Mar 234.1

"A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit's working. . . . Those things which have been in the past will be in the future. Satan will make music a snare by the way in which it is conducted."--2SM 36,38

"Let us give no place to strange exercisings, which

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**The final movement of destiny on this planet is Laodicea. There is no call out of Laodicea, there is no removal of the candlestick of Laodicea and passing it on to another organization. There is just a "spitting out" of Laodicea because of its lukewarm state.**



## CUSTODIANS OF HIS GRACE

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really take the mind away from the deep movings of the Holy Spirit. **God's work is ever characterized by calmness and dignity.**"--2SM 42

"The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure." 1SM 204.2

"Some are acting the part of Aaron, to help on the

work of apostasy. They have been weighed in the balances, and have been found wanting. Men are spoiling their record, and are proving that they are not to be trusted, but that they will betray the interests of the cause of God,

**They were never to compromise with idolaters; their religious faith and their name as worshippers of the living God they were to bear as a special honor.**

making them the sport of sinners. The messages of heavenly origin that God has sent to His people, to prepare them to stand in the last days, they have sneered at and scorned. But the evidence we have had for the past fifty years of the presence of the Spirit of God with us as a people, will stand the test of those who are now arraying themselves on the side of the enemy and bracing themselves against the message of God." - *Testimony to Members of the B.C. Church, Oct 24, 1907*

New theology wishes to bring the doctrines of grace and salvation in line with the doctrines of evangelical Christianity which marginalizes the law and exalts grace. This theology also negates the work in the heavenly sanctuary since it teaches that the work of Christ was completed for all man-

kind at the cross. Yes, the sins were paid for in full, but we still have a High Priest who intercedes on our behalf in the sanctuary above. Christ entered into the heavenly sanctuary at His ascension and He could not have entered into the Most Holy as the new theology teaches, as the priest could not commence the sanctuary service prior to the sacrifice, as he was not permitted to enter without blood. Since Christ entered not with the blood of sheep and goats, but with His own precious blood, the service in the sanctuary could only have commenced in the Holy and not the Most Holy. This means that the service in the Most Holy must have commenced sometime **after** the service in the Holy. The **only** prophecy dealing with this is the 2300 day prophecy which culminates in 1844 and therefore, the pioneer position that Christ entered into the Most Holy in 1844 is the only one that is backed by Scripture.

The reason why it is essential for the new theology to remove the doctrine of the antitypical day of atonement and the pre-advent judgment is because this doctrine places the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the unique position of being the only custodians of the final day message which is the third angel's message emphasizing the mark of the beast and is the essence of the righteousness of Christ. This is seen by modern thinkers to be a contradiction in terms but if law and grace are inseparable because without transgression of the law there is no need for grace, then there is perfect harmony in the pioneer position regarding this issue.

Should the new theology be adopted, the Seventh-day Adventist Church would no longer qualify as the remnant chosen by grace to deliver the final judgment message to the world. It could become just one of the many churches teaching grace while de-emphasizing the law. This opens the way to full ecumenical participation and violates the principle of "Come out of her, My people."

No matter how many in our ranks or no matter how high the position of those who adopt these new teachings, it still does not make the cause of God of none effect nor does it give us the right to call the church "Babylon". Moreover, it does not even mean that they are lost. Aaron was the high priest but he succumbed to pressure and made the golden calf, giving his sanction to idolatrous worship. In spite of this, God did not remove him from his position nor did He judge him on the spot. Aaron repented of his error and served God the rest of his life. Therefore, we have no right to become judgmental but are to leave all things to the judgment of God. However, this does not mean that we are not to reprove error. Moses also reproved Aaron. God will purge His church. God will eventually, through the shaking, spit out those that fall into the category of Korah and his rebellious cohorts. Let us weep between the porch and the altar for all the evil that is done in Israel and wait on the Lord. Just as Moses interceded on behalf of Israel when God wanted to destroy them and make a new nation from the seed of Moses, so we should be endowed with the same spirit. Separating ourselves from the body does not reflect the spirit of Moses.

"I tell you, my brethren, the Lord has an organized body through whom He will work... When anyone is drawing apart from the organized body of God's commandment-keeping people, when he begins to weigh the church in his human scales and begins to pronounce judgment against them, then you may know that God is not leading him. He is on the wrong track." 3SM 17,18

## God Will Set His Church In Order

"There is no need to doubt, to be fearful that the work will not succeed. God is at the head of the work, and He will set everything in order. If matters need adjusting at the head of the work God will attend to that, and work to right every wrong. Let us have faith that God is going to carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port."--2SM 390

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"Has God no living church? He has a church, but it is the church militant, not the church triumphant. We are sorry that there are defective members, that there are tares amid the wheat. . . . Although there are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world, the church in these last days is to be the light of the world that is polluted and demoralized by sin. The church, enfeebled and defective, needing to be reformed, warned, and counselled, is the only object upon earth upon which Christ bestows His supreme regard."--TM 45, 49

"The bulwarks of Satan will never triumph. Victory will attend the third angel's message. As the Captain of the Lord's host tore down the walls of Jericho, so will the Lord's commandment-keeping people triumph, and all opposing elements be defeated." --TM 410 (1898)

**Iceberg Ahead** "In a representation which passed before me, I saw a certain work being done by medical missionary workers. Our ministering brethren were looking on, watching what was being done, but they did not seem to understand. The foundation of our faith, which was established by so much prayer, such earnest searching of the Scriptures, was being taken down, pillar by pillar. Our faith was to have nothing to rest upon--the sanctuary was gone, the atonement was gone. I realized that something must be done.

"The battle nearly killed me. I saw what was coming in, and I saw that our brethren were blind. They did not realize the danger. Our young people, especially, were in danger. They delighted in the beautiful representation--God in the flower, God in the leaf, God in the tree. But if God be in these things, why not worship them?

"The reason I have published anything in regard to the medical missionary work, was that the errors that were coming in must be met. I did not design to meet them, but in the visions of the night I saw a large ship far out at sea. Suddenly the man on the lookout cried, "Iceberg ahead!" Without hesitation, the command rang out, "Meet it." The engines were put on at full force, and the vessel crashed into the iceberg. There was a tremendous shock, and the ship quivered from stem to stern; but she rebounded from the shock unhurt, and went safely on her way. After seeing this representation. I knew what work I must do. I knew that I must meet the errors that were coming in among us." 1SAT 344

The church will triumph! God Himself has informed us that there would be obstacles and icebergs ahead. But He also guarantees that the church will go through triumphant! There is no need to abandon ship. And let us remember that God did not come to heal the healthy and that we have a work in helping each other to come into harmony with the teachings of Christ.

...Continued on Page 16





## Changing Our Religion Unleashing the Omega

by Brian S. Neumann

### Part 2

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath, of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.

"Who has authority to begin such a movement? We have our Bibles. We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. We have a truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth?"

"I hesitated and delayed about the sending out of that which the Spirit of the Lord impelled me to write. I did not want to be compelled to present the misleading influence of these sophistries. But in the providence of God, the errors that have been coming in must be met! 1SM 204, 205. With reference to the Alpha and Omega apostasies)

Contained in this warning given by Ellen White, lie all the elements making up the final great omega apostasy that the Seventh-day Adventist church will have to face. This apostasy, and the resulting reaction from those who would stand against this deception, will cause the final shaking in God's remnant church.

Sister White, writing about these apostasies, saw that

The track of truth lies close beside the track of error, and both tracks may seem to be one to minds which are not worked by the Holy Spirit, and which, therefore, are not quick to discern the difference between truth and error.

the omega would be of a 'most startling nature'.

"Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature." (1 SM p. 197) So startling, in fact, that she writes: "I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people." (1 SM, p. 203)

In the alpha apostasy, initiated by Dr. J. H. Kellogg and his book *'The Living Temple'* in the early 1900's, error rode on the back of truth like a blood-sucking parasite. Great minds, intentionally or unintentionally, used the truth to destroy the truth. The deception was so clever, that the danger was hardly discernable:

"One and another come to me, asking me to explain the positions taken in *Living Temple*. I reply, *'They are unexplainable.'* . . . All through the book are passages of Scripture. These scriptures are brought in in such a way that error is made to appear as truth. Erroneous theories are presented in so pleasing a way that unless care is taken, many will be misled. . . . The track of truth lies close beside the track of error, and both tracks may seem to be one to minds which are not worked by the Holy Spirit, and which, therefore, are not quick to discern the difference between truth and error." (1 SM, p. 202)

We face similar dangers today. Books are written that have the track of truth and error so closely beside one another, that erroneous teachings are almost indiscernable. As it was in the alpha, the Bible is being used to make these untruths appear to be truth. Only with spiritual discernment, through the study

of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy, are we able to read the danger between the lines. I am not suggesting that all the authors writing books of this nature are part of an official conspiracy, intentionally spreading heresy to deceive innocent church members. As in the alpha, they may simply be deceived themselves. But, it does not negate or lessen the danger. Teachings/sins that affect the whole body, in a public way, must be dealt with without delay.

In the alpha apostasy it was also claimed by those men supporting Kellogg that Ellen White's writings were in full agreement with his views:

"I am compelled to speak in denial of the claim that the teachings of *Living Temple* can be sustained by statements from my writings. There may be in this book expressions and sentiments that are in harmony with my writings. And there may be in my writings many statements which, taken from their connection, and interpreted according to the mind of the writer of *Living Temple*, would seem to be in harmony with the teachings of this book. This may give apparent support to the assertion that the sentiments in *Living Temple* are in har-

mony with my writings. But God forbid that this sentiment should prevail." (1 SM, p. 203)

Some of the brethren that were in favour of circulating these teachings declared: "It contains the very sentiments that Sister White has been teaching." This assertion struck right to my heart. I felt heartbroken; for I knew that this representation of the matter was not true." (Ibid.)

Because of such misleading use of the truth, many exposed to the alpha could not discern its diabolical nature. The omega apostasy will, likewise, deceive many. Indeed, we would be foolish to assume that Satan has not learned from his previous mistakes. If he is going to use the truth to destroy the truth, he will make even more effective use of it now than he has previously. But, in spite of this, we need not be deceived. We have the experience of God's people in the past to cast light upon the present. In both the Bible and the Testimonies, we have, if we have made these books our deep study, all the light we need to protect us from these deceptions.

Initially, Ellen White thought that the people would discern the 'alpha' deception and did not say anything about it, but she had been mistaken:

"From the light given me by the Lord, I knew that some of the sentiments advocated in the book did not bear the endorsement of God, and that they were

a snare that the enemy had prepared for the last days. I thought that this would surely be discerned, and that it would not be necessary for me to say anything about it." (Ibid. p. 202)

There is only one way to meet such a massive danger, and that is to meet it head on, to reveal it in no uncertain terms and to do it before Satan steals the march on us and deceives many innocent souls. We cannot remain silent and wait till the disease is full-blown before we attempt to treat it. It is always more effective to treat cancer at the first sign than to wait until its effects have riddled the whole body with life destroying cells. This was the way in which Ellen White finally dealt with the alpha and we will accomplish much more if we follow her example. Here are some of her striking comments: "I am instructed to speak plainly. 'Meet it,' is the word spoken to me. 'Meet it' firmly, and without delay." (Ibid. p. 200)

She warns, with reference to this apostasy, that those who would take their stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel should: "No longer consent to listen without protest to the perversion of truth. . . . Every one is now to stand on his guard. God calls upon men and women to take their stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel. I have been instructed to warn our people; for many are in danger of receiving theories and sophistries that undermine the foundation pillars of the faith." (Ibid. p. 196)

This could not have been impressed more forcefully

than in the vision she had concerning the ship and the iceberg: "One night a scene was clearly presented before me. A vessel was upon the waters, in a heavy fog. Suddenly the lookout cried, 'Iceberg just ahead!' There, towering high above the ship, was a gigantic iceberg. An authoritative voice cried out, 'Meet it!' There was not a moment's hesitation. It was a time for instant action. The engineer put on full steam, and the man at the wheel steered the ship straight into the iceberg. With a crash she struck the ice. There was a fearful shock, and the iceberg broke into many pieces, falling with a noise like thunder to the deck. The passengers were violently shaken by the force of the collisions, but no lives were lost. The vessel was injured, but not beyond repair. She rebounded from the contact, trembling from stem to stern, like a living creature. Then she moved forward on her way.

Well I knew the meaning of this representation. I had my orders. I had heard the words, like a voice from our Captain, 'Meet it!' I knew what my duty was, and that there was not a moment to lose. The time for decided action had come. I must without delay obey the command, 'Meet it!'. (Ibid. p. 205, 206)

We shy away from meeting the iceberg head-on, fearing that we will be labeled as disturbers, fault-finders and critics. In their day, Ellen and James

White were often accused of the same thing. But, if Ellen White had not met the 'alpha iceberg' in a decided way then many souls would have been lost in the collision. The lookout/watchman in the vision did not wait till the danger had overrun them but, seeing the danger, he gave the warning before it was too late. If the present-day watchmen had recognized the omega then, we would not have allowed this frozen wasteland of devilish, omega philosophy to go as far as it already has.

Did Ellen White see herself as the only one with the responsibility of speaking out against deceptive teachings? No, she cries out in anguish – in relation to the alpha:

"Where are the watchmen that ought to be standing on the walls of Zion? Are they asleep? . . . We have a truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate anything that is not in harmony with this truth?" (Ibid. p. 204, 205)

Today, we are faced with the very situation described by Ellen White. There is a call for a 'great reformation' to take place among Seventh-day Adventists. By using the truths of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, it has not been immediately apparent that 'this reformation would actually consist in giving up the doctrines of our faith.'

A 'process of reorganization' is taking place at present that will cause the principles of truth, 'that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church', to be 'discarded'.

'Our religion' is in the process of being 'changed' in

**We shy away from meeting the iceberg head-on, fearing that we will be labeled as disturbers, fault-finders and critics. In their day, Ellen and James White were often accused of the same thing.**



## CHANGING OUR RELIGION

... Continued From Page 11

just about every area of our beliefs. New 'worship styles' and 'culturally relevant' methods of evangelism, that meet the 'felt needs' (not always the real needs) of the people are being introduced at such a pace that it is almost overwhelming us. A 'revolution', based on a 'system of intellectual philosophy', has already been introduced. Teams of trained 'evangelists', using contemporary, popular style music, clowns, puppets, drama teams, slight of hand techniques and stand-up comedy are going 'into the cities' and doing a, so called, 'wonderful work'. The statistics look convincing and the basic philosophy behind these methods seem to be a fantastic new way of 'reaping the harvest'. Churches catering for the un-churched with 'revitalized', secularized, worship styles (the style of worship and 'doing church' is not determined by God, but by the culture of the people being 'discipled'), are being planted in the cities all around the world. Pastors and hoards of other church-leaders and lay people are being trained in the spiritualistic techniques of 'neurolinguistic programming' (TEACH - LAB1, 2 . . .), and other forms of manipulative psychology. It must be added at this point that, in spite of the denials and convincing arguments that have been presented in defense of these techniques, it will be proved, conclusively, in this document (in issues to come), that they are done in service of another leader and not Christ. Through all these methodologies (concocted by Satan himself), men and women are being indoctrinated to rely more and more on the sciences of man and less and less on the power and leading of God.

'Books of a new order', quoting the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy to support their claims, are being printed a dime a dozen. Because of the new church-worship practices and mentality, 'the Sabbath', has become 'lightly regarded' in some areas— if not always in word, then in deed.

Nothing will be 'allowed to stand in the way of the new movement'. Church leaders, who should know better, are being led to believe that if they do not go along with the 'revolutionary plan' they will actually be sinning against God and will be in open apostasy. Because the Bible and the Testimonies are being used so effectively (yet deceptively) even some of the more conservative, traditional pastors and other church leaders are being swept away in the current and excitement of such an apparently wonderful plan. What makes it even more frightening, is that people are being led to be-

By using statements selectively and out of their context, you can actually use the truth to ultimately destroy the truth.

lieve that this new system is simply a return to the Apostolic and early Adventist Church model. Anyone who dares to raise their voice in protest is viewed with suspicion and is immediately labeled as a fanatic, fundamentalist, Pharisee, witch hunter, conspiracy theorist, or a divider.

Leaders are literally teaching that 'virtue is better than vice' but, without the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit, they place their 'dependence on human power' (a strategy of worship and outreach based on human techniques) 'which, without God, is worthless'.

Praise the Lord though, in spite of the successes of this omega movement, in spite of the fact that the majority of church leadership and lay members may follow this deception, 'their foundation would be built on sand, and storm and tempest (the shaking), would sweep away the structure'.

The purpose of this study, is to reveal this deception for what it really is – a last-ditch attempt by Satan himself to destroy God's remnant church, the keepers of the flame, for once and for all.

It is essential, especially in light of this, that we search the Scriptures and Testimonies more deeply than ever before. I realize now, that when we heard about the possibility of even the very elect being deceived, we had no idea how effective Satan's plan would be in accomplishing this end. Of course, Ellen White warned us that he would attempt to destroy faith in the Testimonies and, ultimately, in the Word of God, but, we never really considered how effectively he would use both these sources of truth to accomplish this.

How can one use quote after quote from the Testimonies, lift it up as an infallible guide and still hide the truth as effectively as if you had never revealed it in the first place? In the same way that the Bible has been misused for nearly two-thousand years. By using statements selectively and out of their context, you can actually use the truth to ultimately destroy the truth. By using a two-pronged attack – open rejection and professed belief – you can reach both groups of church members (liberal and conservative) that you are trying to deceive.

Today, Seventh-day Adventism is being taken by storm. The floodgates of 'diabolical deception' have been swept open to allow every species of false doctrine to almost drown out the very last vestiges of truth we have held dear for the past 150 years. Thank God though, that this church is still the 'object of His supreme regard'.

A large portion of this problem, as already alluded to, lies in the area of misinterpreting and misquoting E. G. White's writings. Today it would seem that you need a degree in hermeneutics or require the use of some or other instructional manual, to be able to get the true gist of even her most categorical statements (unfortunately, even these statements are effectively misused by the enemy). When it comes to the Word of God, things get even more interesting. Do we use the historical-grammatical method (the method traditionally accepted by

early Adventist theologians), the historical-critical approach, or one of the other interpretive labels that fit somewhere in between or on either extreme of these two most popular methods used in Adventism today? Even in the area of the Scriptures, it may be hazardous to trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit and let Scripture expound Scripture. I would be left adrift in an ocean of dangerous assumptions if I did not seek the superior knowledge of some or other professional scholar. (*I am not minimizing the necessity of consulting those experienced in the study of the Word and Ellen White.*) Yet, the Word of God tells me that He designed it such that even the most simple, with the aid of the Spirit, could understand the it.

The answers I would get to just about any question I may have on Scripture or the Spirit of Prophecy would depend on which theologian or pastor I spoke to. At which seminary did he obtain his diploma, where is he lecturing, what school of interpretation does he subscribe to? Does he lean away from the writings of E. G. White, is he conservative, liberal, and so on? Even in a church that has the final message for the world, I would be hard pressed to find continuity of thought on even the most basic of our fundamental beliefs. So who do I believe, who can I trust, do I ascribe it all to the popular, 'unity in diversity', concept? A proper Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy understanding of diversity and unity would certainly come in handy. Is it safe for me to subscribe to the culturally relevant methods of evangelism and church worship (how far do I take this idea)? What does it mean to cater for the 'felt needs' of various individuals and people-groups, and how effective (in the true spiritual sense), are the various training and equipping programs that seem to rely more on strategies, statistics and a psychology of witnessing, in fulfilling our mission? These, among others, are some of the many questions and thoughts that run through my mind when I begin seeking answers to some of the issues at hand.

I have spoken to various Adventist Theologians, Doctors, Pastors, Elders, etc., from around the world, about the issues surrounding the use of methods of evangelism, worship style, music, the interpretation of Scripture, the writings of Sister White and much more. Each one has a different variation of understanding. Some views differ so widely that one may be forgiven for wondering if all these individuals belonged to the same denomination. Yet, they are all teaching/coaching, either a church, lecturing at our seminaries, teaching Sabbath school members or 'discipling' potential converts. Any interpretation that differs widely enough from a cherished perspective is often viewed as backward, uninformed, out of context or irrelevant. As already stated, it all seems to depend on what school of thought the individual would like to subscribe to. Can anything and everything be dealt with from a philosophical perspective, leaving no room for absolutes? The questions I am raising here are not new or

hidden. Most Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders, scholars and many lay members, know this to be true. Whole books and magazine articles, in "Ministry", the "Review", and more, have printed articles discussing these issues.

To be sure, we do face major problems, not just in the area of the issues we will attempt to address here, but in nearly every aspect of our religious understanding. Does that mean that there is no hope, any way of getting to a truth that rises above the dance floor of 'hermeneutical' tap-dancing? Is the colour green, green for all people? Are the colours of the rainbow truly what they appear to be, or is nothing really, as it seems? Some Adventist thought leaders have stretched things to the ridiculous, including *moral relativism* in their school of thought. This basically means that it is up to the individual to decide what is morally right or wrong. There are no absolutes, not even, it would seem, in God's Word. If concepts had to continue flowing along this direction, then the Bible would eventually cease to be the blueprint for God's remnant people – a dead book for a dead church.

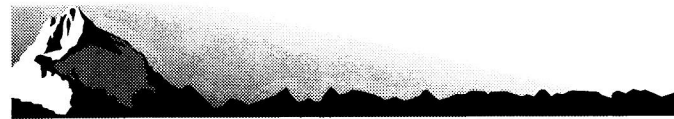
Even in light of these sobering thoughts, there are still some who would be content to see us continue our dog-paddling round and round our melting pot filled with scraps of mixed 'hermeneutical' soup. You say 'tomaato', I say 'tomayto', you say 'potaato', I say 'potayto'. Who cares, just keep the status quo, don't criticize where I place my accent. You be you, and I will be me. We may have completely different ideas on what truth is, but after all, we serve *the same God* and are inspired by *the same Holy Spirit*, whom Christ said would lead us into *all truth* and fulfill His desire that His Church be *united in this truth*. Is there not some strange contradiction here?

Well, in the case of understanding the issues at hand, where you place the 'accent', and what spirit of truth you follow, really does make a difference. We must attempt to place the emphasis on a clear "*It is written*". Let the word speak. Yes, consider opinions and ask questions, but in the final analysis, let Christ and His testimony be the last word.

... To Be Continued







## REFLECTIONS ON THE WALDENSANS

By Jim Hohnberger

*"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* 1 Timothy 2:5 This was the Bible verse written above the door of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Waldensian church I visited in the alps of Italy. In every age there have been men and women willing to suffer extreme hardship and privation in order to maintain the simple Bible faith in its purity. The grand offense of these Waldensians was that they would not worship God according to the will of the church of Rome. They would not accept a "Thus saith the church" for a "Thus saith the Lord." For this they were branded as heretics, their motives impugned, their characters maligned, their writings suppressed, misrepresented, and mutilated. Persecuted and oppressed for hundreds of years, they found refuge behind the lofty bulwarks of the mountains in northern Italy. Here they maintained, at great peril and hardship, the ancient faith of the apostles. It was largely in fleeing from the power of the church of Rome that they preserved their freedom to worship God in the liberty of their individual consciences.

The church of Rome wanted to usurp the position of Christ as mediator between God and these simple people. She wanted them to look to **her**, to follow **her** man-made guidelines, rules and regulations. **She** wanted to be a conscience for these people, to raise **her** authority above the authority of God's Word. But the Waldensians, in their purity and simplicity rejected the supremacy of the church of Rome and held to the Bible as the only supreme infallible authority and the rule of life and faith.

The Waldensians were determined to maintain their allegiance to God and to preserve the right of their individual liberty of conscience. Thus an inevitable separation took place. But I ask you, who was the schismatic? Was it the Waldensians who continued to worship God in spirit and truth? Or was it the church of Rome with all her man-made guidelines, rules and regulations? Who, I ask you was the most dependent on God? And who was the most independent of God? Friends, it was the proud hierarchical church of Rome that was the schismatic and not "the Church in the wilderness." It was the church of

Rome that left off her dependence upon God and His Word and became the most independent of all.

I was raised in this church of Rome, was taught from the catechism rather than the Bible, confessed my sins to a priest rather than to God, prayed to Mary rather than to Christ, attended church on Sunday instead of Sabbath, refrained from eating meat on Fridays, used holy water to sanctify myself, paid money to get souls out of purgatory, got absolution from a priest to break what I thought was the law of God, prayed hail Marys for the forgiveness of sins, and kissed the bishops ring on my confirmation day. In short, I grew up with the understanding, belief and practice that the authority of the church superseded that of the scriptures. Thus my religion was made up of externals. There was no real heart conversion, no true trusting in Christ as my daily mediator and His Word as a sure path unto my feet.

Friends, this church, the church of my youth had in reality stolen the place of Christ in my life. She had become my mediator, her man-made rules and guidelines had become the basis for my religious experience. But when I was about 30 years of age, God sent a couple into Sally's and my life. They introduced us to God's infallible Word. After thorough study for over 18 months, we decided to join God's remnant church. No longer would it be necessary to blindly follow the counsels and decrees of man, or to substitute the church for my mediator. Everything would be put to the test of God's Word. "Sola Scriptura" would be our rule of

faith. Even in our vows in joining the remnant church, we confirmed that, "We believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, and that it constitutes the only rule of faith and practice for the Christian." We also vowed that we, "Accept by faith the righteousness of Christ recognizing Him as our intercessor."

We owe much to the Waldensians. They planted the seeds of Reformation that began in the time of Wycliffe, grew broad and deep in the days of Luther, and is to be carried forward to the close of time by those of us who are willing to suffer all things for, *"the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ."*

One might ask why we didn't join the Waldensian church, the church that maintained the ancient faith for a thousand years? The church that longer than any other church lived out the simple pure faith of Christ and held the Bible as the only supreme, infallible authority, for its life and faith. It grieves my heart to tell you this but this "church in the wilderness" left off Christ as her only mediator and agreed to accept man-made guidelines from the church of Rome in order to secure peace, falsely so called. But friends, these concessions could not be substantiated from the Word of God. Thus the Waldensians allowed the church of Rome to become the mediator between them and God. It is thus that the pure church fell. And today, if you would visit a Waldensian church, you would find a nominal profession and a dry formality. How terribly sad have been the results of that one unfavorable moment and decision. Today, she has lost that purity and simplicity that she held, against

all odds for a thousand years. She fell in one day, the day she allowed the church of Rome to become her mediator and accepted her man-made guidelines for the promise of peace. For a thousand years, the Waldensians preferred to submit to the loss of their properties and even their lives and children's lives, than to sanction the mingling of human requirements with divine precepts. But now, they were tired, the church of Rome offered them a favor, one which was in reality always their divine right.

What was this favor granted them? Namely, the liberty of Protestant worship within **their territorial** limits. What was it that the Waldensians had to concede to, for this "favor"? They had to, among other things, agree to banish Henri Arnaud, their faithful leader as well as other faithful shepherds and men of strength and virtue into exile forever. They were forbidden to evangelize or make converts. They were forbidden to have a printing press. And they were forbidden to sell or even lend their books to a Roman Catholic. (See *History of the Waldenses* By J.A. Wylie) In short, many of the duties, rights and privileges that constitute the Christian life were denied them. Thus the spiritual condition of the Waldensians languished. Though the hand of bloody persecution could no more be placed on them, they were now more captive than when they were hunted and treated as animals.

The principles of freedom of conscience – the root of all liberty – they traded for peace, falsely so called. They abjured their God given inalienable rights. **They allowed themselves to be put under exactions not prescribed in the Word of God.** Whenever any of us do this, either as individuals or as a church body, we will surely fall as they did. **We must all choose to be God's separate, peculiar people, regardless of the cost and what others may think or say.**

Since my days of membership in the church of Rome, I've come to cast off that **blind** submission to the teachings of mere human authority, unsubstantiated from the authority of God's Word, for it always and inevitably brings bondage. I have also come to see that the Bible is a sufficient and all perfect rule, and that every man, woman and child has an inalienable right to follow the Word of God for his own guidance, practice and faith. Even Jesus, *"acted independently of the rabbinical laws... They urged Him to receive the maxims and traditions that had been handed down from the ancient rabbis, but He asked for their authority in Holy Writ. He would hear every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; but He could not obey the inventions of men."* Desire of Ages 84-85. So it was with the apostles when they were commanded not to preach their doctrine of Christ. They answered the leaders of the Jewish church and said, *"We ought to obey God rather than man."* Acts 5:29

We are rightly told that, *"Protestantism sets the power of conscience above the magistrate, and the authority of*

*the word of God above the visible church."* GC 204.

The two great issues of all time, **authority and liberty**, are the two necessities wanting to be rightly restored in the church today. Authority, in the infallible Guide, and liberty, freedom to follow that Guide, which is Christ. These two must ever go together, the one cannot exist without the other. Liberty without author-

ity is anarchy. Authority without liberty is bondage. These two great necessities must together flourish or together die.

We owe much to the Waldensians. They planted the seeds of Reformation that began in the time of Wycliffe, grew broad and deep in the days of Luther, and is to be carried forward to the close of time by those of us who are willing to suffer all things for, *"the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ."* Revelation 1:9 These 20<sup>th</sup> century Waldensians are called the 144,000 and will be made up of every nation, kindred, tongue and people who will hold to Jesus as their only Mediator and the Word of God as their only rule of life and faith. Will you be one of them? Or will you, with the vast majority of Christians past, as well as present, bow your neck to another?



### THE ISRAEL OF THE ALPS

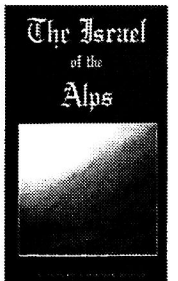
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## CUSTODIANS OF HIS GRACE

*Continued From Page 9*

The most useful men in the world have not been the exalted, self-sufficient ones, who have been praised and petted by society; but those who have walked humbly with God, who have been unassuming in manner and guileless in conversation, who have given all the glory to God, not taking any of it to themselves, are the ones who have exerted the most decided and healthful influence upon the church. When they stand before the people, as a mouth-piece for God, everything around them is forgotten. Their words come forth in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power. They exert their God-given ability to set things in order in the church, whether it makes them friends or foes. When straight, solemn testimony is needed, in rebuking sin and iniquity, even though it be in those of high position, they will not hold their peace, but will heed the instruction of the God of truth, when he commands, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins." They will stand as faithful watchmen upon the walls of Zion,—not to hide sin, not to flatter the wrongdoer, not to obtain the sympathy of their brethren, but to meet the approval of God. They will not suppress one syllable of truth that should be brought out, in reproof, or warning, or in vindication of the righteousness of the oppressed, in order to gain the favor and influence of any one. In a crisis, they will not be found in a neutral position, but they will stand firmly on the side of righteousness and truth, even when it is difficult to take this position; and to maintain it may imperil their prosperity,

and deprive them of the friendship of those whom they love. *RH, September 4, 1888*

If we hide self in Jesus, if we lift up and exalt the Saviour, if we take no credit to ourselves, the preaching will not be in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God. Jesus, the world's Redeemer, will be presented before the people as the one who "is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercessions for them." "We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous." Then let us do those things that are pleasing in his sight. Let us come in full assurance of faith. Let us draw from the heavenly storehouse, and present to the people things new and old, giving to every man his portion of meat in due season; "and when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." *RH, September 4, 1888*

If we are to preach grace and the righteousness of Christ with power, then we will have to lift up His downtrodden law, lest we receive His grace in vain.

"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." *2 Cor 6:1*

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." *Heb 4:16*

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." *1 Peter 1:13*



Professor Walter J. Veith



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