

faith on the line

A Journal for Those Who Dare

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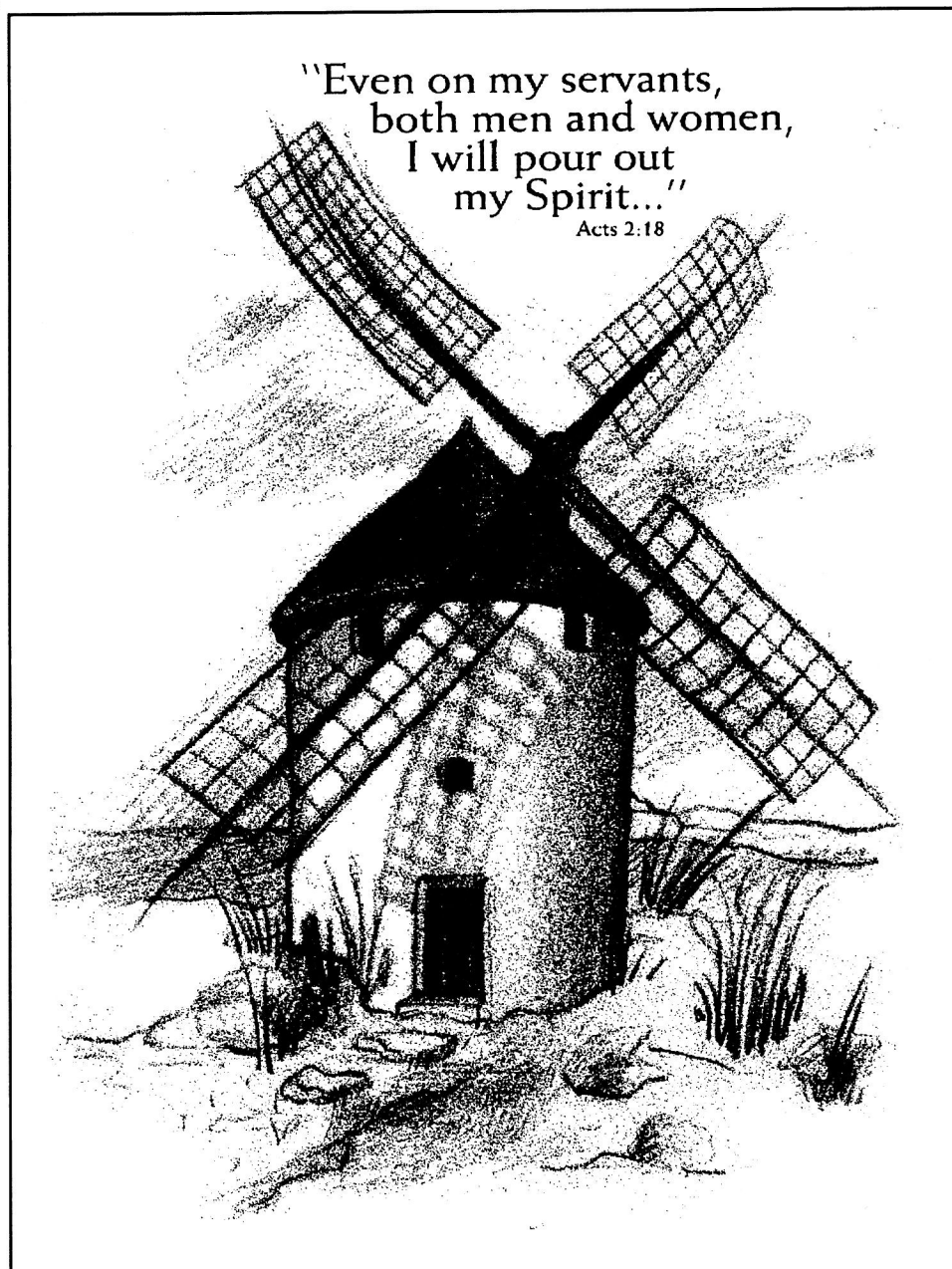
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From the Mailbox...



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 used to listen to KARI almost every day when living in Langley, BC. It is an excellent station. I was happy to hear that Victor Gill would be a regular contributor to your broadcast. I have known Victor since 1994 when I attended his Revelation Seminar and was baptized. He is a very dedicated Christian who truly loves the Lord. I wish you all the best and I know that God will be with you as the showers of the "latter rain" are poured out on this latest effort on KARI. -D.P.

We appreciate your excellent publication "Faith on the Line". May the Lord bless you as you help prepare a people for His coming! -F.F.

Please continue sending us "Faith on the Line". It is very enlightening. And may God richly bless the work Dr. & Mrs. Veith and associates are doing for Him. Time is running out and we must be ready for Jesus' return. -E.D.

I have recently ordered "The Two Babylons" by Alexander Hislop, and "Nearer My God (CD)" by Brian Neumann. I just wanted to thank you for providing good Christian music. It's so hard for me to find music that is acceptable. Every time I try to find some decent music, I get bombarded with rock music (I make no distinction between worldly rock and Christian rock). Also I thank God that there are people like you who aren't afraid of selling books, CD's, and video tapes that glorify God. Thank you and God bless. -S.K.

I attended the meetings in South Africa. It was truly amazing and I thoroughly enjoyed the series and was really enlightened. All the material that I need is here, and what a blessing. God bless all who contact this site. Greetings from Africa. Continue to serve the loving Saviour, for He's coming soon. -P.W.

This is personally my favourite web site on the internet containing the Three Angels Messages. My prayers, encouragement, and complete support and endorsement are with Walter Veith and his ministry. This site contains not only precious truth, but also present truth. My counsel to all is to remember truth is a sharp sword, not a butter knife to spread out smooth butter. Share this site with every soul that has access to the internet and also use this site for your own preparation for the end times and the soon coming of Jesus Christ. If possible purchase the video materials available by this site and go door to door inviting your neighbors to enjoy the hospitality of your home and watch these videos with you. May the peace and strength of the Lord Jesus Christ abide with you and keep you faithful. -D.C.

Dear AD:

Thank you very much for your ministry. I know it is of God because it has all the signs. I am listening to your videos with rapt attention. No other SDA source that I know of has taught me so much that is Biblically prophetic so fast! I want them all as I can afford them - and their price is so reasonable - another sign that they are from God. -Sincerely, W.L.

Dear folks at Amazing Discoveries: Thank you for all the enlightening articles in your news-magazines. They contain much information and encouragement even as we look forward to Christ's soon return. More Holy Spirit power on Dr. Veith and the Amazing Discoveries staff. -R.R.

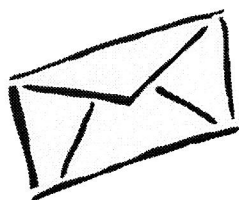
Thank you for "Faith on the Line". I enjoy reading it since I was first introduced to it when Dr. Veith spoke at Azure Hills church. -G.P.

Hello: I'm a student from Australia. I go to an SDA Church in Sydney. I have recently started to watch your videos and they are mind blowing!!! You gotta come to Australia and talk live!! Keep on teaching and may God bless you all. -Yours in Christ, C.

Dear Family of God:

With great pleasure I'm sending another drop in the bucket. Praying that your efforts and good work will be blessed by God Almighty until our blessed Saviour comes to put an end to the human madness, and take us home. Together in the blessed hope. -C.G.

I want to let Dr. Veith know that his sermons have greatly strengthened my faith and understanding in God's Word. Until I heard some of the amazing discoveries uncovered by Dr. Veith, I thought that what I'd been hearing from the pews on Sabbath mornings was all that we (Seventh Day believers) needed to know about to be prepared for the final test (obedience to the law) and Christ's return. I know now that had I not heard the messages from Dr. Veith, I would have more easily been lead astray by the deceiver and the thought of how close I truly was to being deceived still brings tears of relief to my eyes! I praise God for the work that you and your staff are doing! Don't think for a second that your work is falling on deaf ears, because it has helped in drawing me closer to Christ and His truths. -A.M.



Dear Dr. Veith:

I was wondering if in the RCC tapes, those tapes specially focusing on the RCC and its doctrines, if there could be more comparing and contrasting with Jesus and His doctrinal positions? As I have listened so far the data and the facts are without question but after awhile I have heard so much about the RCC that I wanted to hear more about Jesus and His positions on the various subjects. I don't want to get people so focused on the RCC that the principle of "by beholding you become changed" gets staled and that they think RCC and start to become changed into the RCC. Do you think there is any merit in this concern? -G.G.

Response: Thank you for your concerns, I have had many people ask me about this issue. My calling is to reveal the deceit in the world. I'm not out to make Catholic haters of everyone, I simply want to reveal the way the Papacy has mislead millions of people across the globe. It would be good for the people that have watched my videos to get involved in an Adventist church somewhere. A place where they can be taken in and nurtured and shown the love of Jesus. Our religion would be empty without Jesus, I don't deny that. But there is a time and place for everything, my calling has been, as I said, to reveal the deceit. I plant a seed, another follows and waters, still another will follow and fertilize, and so it goes on until there is a strong tree that will withstand the storms of life because it's rooted in Jesus.

Most of my videos appeal to the scientific, academic mind. Although it's geared to suit everyone's intellect, the scientific would appreciate the head the head knowledge more than the heart conversion. Some people are converted to Christ before they're converted to the truth, while others are converted to the truth before they're converted to Christ. We are all individuals that have different needs. May God bless you as you search for the truth.

Regards, Walter Veith

From the Editor...



Prepare to Meet Thy God Part II

What was John the Baptist's Message?

"In preparing the way for Christ's first advent, he [John the Baptist] was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming." DA p. 101

If our work is similar to that of John the Baptist's, we ought to also consider how his message is similar to ours. What kind of message did John the Baptist proclaim? Ellen White gives us a few insights into this question. God's messengers are:

- not "to flatter the sinner"
- to deliver "no message of peace to lull the unsanctified into fatal security"
- to lay "heavy burdens upon the conscience of the wrongdoer" and pierce "the soul with arrows of conviction"
- to "lift up the penitent" DA 104

John the Baptist did all this. He sought to arouse the people out of self-satisfied sleep. He desired to waken them "to their danger from the wounds of sin".

He preached about *sin*, showing the dangers of continuing in sin, and offered salvation through cleansing. He challenged them to live a life worthy of

their calling, by producing fruits that would be acceptable to God.

"In the spirit and with the power of Elijah, John denounced the corruptions of the Jews, and raised his voice in reproving their prevailing sins. His discourses were **plain, pointed, and convincing.**" *SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 5. p. 1089

One may notice that John's message was not a "smooth saying" that would "tickle" the ears of the hearers or please them. It was startling in nature, and to the point.

"Many of those who profess to believe the truth would say, if they expressed their real sentiments, 'What need is there of speaking so plainly? They might as well ask, 'Why need John the Baptist have said to the Pharisees, 'O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' (Matt 3:7) Why need he have provoked the anger of Herodias by telling Herod that it was unlawful for him to live with his brother's wife? He lost his life by speaking so plainly. Why could he not have moved along without incurring the anger of Herodias?' So men have argued, till policy has taken the place of faithfulness. Sin is allowed to go unrebuked. When will be heard once more in the church the voice of faithful rebuke, 'Thou art the man'? (2 Sam 12:7) If these words were not so rare, we should see more of the power of God. The Lord's messengers should not complain of their efforts being fruitless until they repent of their love of approbation, their desire to please men, which leads them to suppress the truth, and to cry, 'Peace!' when God has not spoken peace." *GW p. 149,150*

In an age of compromise where peace, harmony, and unity have become the watchwords of our world, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the same tenor in our message as John

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My Continuing Journey

By Walter J. Veith

To most scientists in the world today, the theory of evolution is no longer just a theory, but is regarded as a fact. There are differences of opinion regarding the tempo, mode and mechanisms of evolution, but the basic concepts of the theory have become an established paradigm. Even in the religious world, old animosities between science and religion have been largely forgotten and are shrugged off as unfortunate history based on ignorance. After all, the church has made mistakes in the past and has had to acknowledge its errors in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence against its stand. Science has gained the ascendancy in this battle and in the light of the awe-inspiring discoveries and progress in the civilized world attributed to science, who is there who would dare to contradict its paradigms? The educational systems of the world bear witness to this total regard for the voice of science, as they propagate naturalistic worldviews on origins to the exclusion of all others. Moreover, proponents of the literary critical method have questioned the Bible not only on issues concerning origins, but on historical content as well.

The theory of evolution is presented in secondary and tertiary institutions as the only feasible theory of origins and even at the primary educational levels, evolutionary concepts are imprinted in young minds as indisputable facts. Alternative models are regarded with skepticism, even ridiculed, but in spite of these odds, there still exists a large body of people, including eminent scientists, who believe in a personal creator God and support a literal interpretation of the Genesis account. This fact may astound some evolutionary scientists, but it is indeed true. In 1999, a book was published in which fifty scientists with PhD's confirmed their faith in a literal creation account. The book *"In Six Days - why 50 scientists choose to believe in creation"* was published after a research scientist at Marquarie University in Sydney challenged the concept that even one scientist with a PhD would advocate a literal interpretation of the Genesis account. Rising to the challenge, the Editor of the book sought to show that many scientists would be prepared to defend their faith on scientific grounds. All the contributors had doctorates from State recognized universities from around the world and included university professors and researchers, geologists, zoologists, biologists, physicists, chemists, mathematicians, medical researchers and engineers. Many many more would have contributed had space allowed.¹

Evolutionary scientists argue that creationism is not science, as it is based on preconceived ideologies which exclude it from the realms of science. Religious views and revelations are not subject to the scientific method and the two worldviews on origins need thus to be kept separate. This sounds like a sound argument, but what if the facts actually fit the Biblical paradigm? On the basis of them being recorded in Scripture, would they then be excluded from the realms of science and thus also from the realms of fact as well as from the educational system? Right would then be excluded on the grounds of having been preconceived and truth would be thrown to the ground. If this scenario were indeed

From the Editor

continued from page 3

the Baptist had. At Amazing Discoveries, our desire is to preach the straightforward message as admonished by the Spirit of Prophecy and the Bible. We have occasionally received opposition because the message presented is not a peaceful message. Yet it is truth-filled, and truth divides *as well as* unites. It unites those who seek it, but it divides those with sin and compromise hidden in their hearts. *Hebrews 4:12*: "For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Our message calls to return back to worshipping God God's way. Our message is an exposure of "wickedness in high places". Every worldly base is removed and nothing is left to stand on except Jesus Christ. Despite this, surprisingly enough, Amazing Discoveries has not always received a favourable welcome among leadership and compromising individuals.

It is important to note the one major difference between John's message and our message - John's message was directed to *God's people*. It is for this reason, perhaps, that his message was so pointed, because these people should have known better, but despite all they had received, they were barren. The last message of warning will be directed to the world at large, by a church that is purified, awakened out of its slumber, consecrated and revived to do this last great work. The message to us now is the Laodicean message and warning: "I wish you were cold or hot, but because you are lukewarm... I will vomit you out of my mouth... you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your naked-

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true, then science would be left groping in the dark outside of the defined parameters of truth. There are only these two possibilities. The world as we know it came into existence by naturalistic processes or it was created by an intelligent designer. No other possible choices exist.

In my own life, I have been confronted with this dilemma and have sat on both sides of this fence. For most of

...it is quite incredible how flexible the scientific fraternity is in accommodating changes in existing time paradigms as long as they remain within the framework of the evolutionary paradigm.

my life, I was a committed evolutionist and presented the theory of evolution to my students as an established fact. I received my training at a secular university, well known for its ground breaking research and views on evolution. World-renowned evolutionary scientists such as Robert Broom, of Miss. Ples fame, had molded the thinking and direction of the Zoology department where I received most of my training and there was no room for any other paradigm. For twenty years of my teaching and research career, I was so committed to the naturalistic view of origins that there was no room for alternative explanations.

As a young lecturer, I was occasionally confronted by students who believed in a literal creation, but this made no impact on me. Occasionally we would even entertain creationists at the university and would then delight in tearing their arguments apart and ridiculing their efforts in our subsequent lectures to our students. It was not that we were devious in these endeavors. It was just a matter of the two worldviews being so far removed from each other that the differences were irreconcilable. Our worldview was obviously right; therefore the other had to be ridiculous. Thinking back on these events makes me realize that our worldview embraced more than just Science. It embraced religion. The Biblical paradigm was rejected in favor of ours and we would defend it vehemently even acrimoniously, but what were we defending other than a theory of origins? Yes to our minds it was not a theory, it had become a fact in spite of the fact that the origin of all things is not subject to scientific empirical research but must always remain in the realms of faith - faith in a naturalistic process or faith in God.

This conflict between these opposing worldviews is nowhere fought as rigorously than at the tertiary institutes of the world, but it is also a conflict which rages at many other levels of society not least of which is in the minds of men. Yes, there have been attempts to reconcile the two views by propagating some form of theistic evolution, but this halfway meas-

ure is equally unacceptable to the atheistic evolutionist who has no room in his paradigm for a 'Higher Being.' Moreover, there are so many theological problems associated with this compromise, that the rigorous Bible believer is also not in a position to embrace this ideology. The conflict is fierce and it is not possible to resolve it peacefully, as I was to discover for myself.

My Personal Conflict

At the university where I received my undergraduate training and where I spent a substantive part of my academic career as a lecturer and researcher in Zoology, most of my colleagues believed in the traditional model of Darwinism in that they embraced gradualism. However, the Neo-Darwinist view of punctuated equilibrium, championed by Stephen J. Gould of Harvard University and others, was also well supported as well, resulting in many a heated debate in the evolution discussion classes. In actual fact, gradualism (the idea that evolutionary change occurs gradually as organisms adapt to changing environments and the viable and fortuitous mutations are selected through the process of natural selection) is the only model that lives up to the expectations of the traditional evolutionary model, and is representative of the view held by Darwin himself. Darwin wrote in the *The Origin of Species*:

If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.²

The punctuated equilibrium model (the idea that change is not gradual over time, but that organisms experience long periods of stability or equilibrium, and that these periods of stability are interrupted by punctuated periods of rapid change during episodes of environmental change) was born out of necessity, because the fossil record does not seem to support the gradualistic model.

The fossils speak of an explosion of life forms, which is termed the 'Cambrium Explosion' where lifeforms literally

Prof. Walter Veith's personal testimony is available on video or DVD through Amazing Discoveries. His life story has also appeared in "Adventist Affirm" and other magazines and has been an inspiration to many. To order your own copy, please contact us at: 604-572-9457.

exploded into existence, including even the Phylum Chordata to which man himself belongs. The idea of punctuated equilibrium was born to deal with this dilemma. Of course, this has time implications as well, since rapid change implies shorter time periods than would be required for gradualism and it is quite incredible how flexible the scientific fraternity is in accommodating changes in existing time paradigms as long as they remain within the framework of the evolutionary paradigm. Hundreds of millions of years can be dropped out of the geological column without too many feathers being ruffled, but should a creationist dare to challenge existing time frames, then even the warring factions in the evolution camp stand united in their condemnation.

The leap from 'Punctuated Equilibrium' to special creation is really not that great. With creation, one would expect the sudden appearance of diverse lifeforms just as we see it in the Cambrian explosion. The sequence of change in evolutionary thinking described above is also a summary of my personal 'evolution' in terms of my understanding of the issues involved. As an undergraduate student I subscribed to gradualism, then as my insights were broadened at the post graduate level, I fell into the Neo-Darwinist camp and supported the punctuated equilibrium model. However, when I was challenged by the veracity of the Bible with regard to its historic and prophetic statements, I was compelled to reassess my views on the Scriptures in general. One of my greatest problems, however, concerned the question of origins, and this compelled me to study this issue in detail. I was so deeply rooted in the evolutionary paradigm that it took much research to even entertain the possibility of an alternative model of origins, but I was fortunate in that I was granted the opportunity to visit many sites around the world which provided evidence for catastrophism in line with what is recorded in the Scriptures and which contradicted the gradualistic paradigm of origins. Based on the evidence, I gradually changed my views but I was to find out that scientists do not take to this change of heart lightly. The concept of a divine origin for the universe and life is contrary to the evolutionary mindset, as the geneticist and evolutionary proponent Richard Lewontin so clearly writes:

We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of the failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but on the

contrary, that we are forced by our *a priori* adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.³

Indeed, the materialistic worldview leaves no room for a creator, and that is why they cannot allow a "Divine Foot in the door."

The battle lines are very distinct between the creationist and naturalistic views on origins. Thomas Huxley, who is famous for championing Darwin's cause, and even received the nickname 'Darwin's bulldog' for his efforts, put the issue in a nutshell when he asserted that no man could be "both a true son of the Church and a loyal soldier of science."⁴

Richard Dawkins, England's preeminent Darwinist, writes in *The Blind Watchmaker*:

"Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose."⁵

He then sets out to convince his readers that this appearance is deceptive and that there is no need for a designer. Scott C. Todd, of the Department of Biology at Kansas State University, states it even more boldly:

Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such an hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic.⁶

Clearly this worldview is atheistic. As for me personally, I considered myself an atheist, but thinking about it in retrospect I was probably more like an agnostic. I did not believe in God, but there was room in my thinking for esoteric views on the elevated status of man, though I did not practice them nor belonged to any group that did. I grew up in a Christian home but had never studied the Bible as such. At best I considered it a book of allegorical stories and myths with per-

THE GENESIS CONFLICT - 2nd Edition



Revised & updated!

A powerful exposé of the truth concerning the evolution-creation question, the origin of life, archaeology and the validity of the Bible and the creation account. Enjoy the clear and logical presentation of these popular and vital issues. Two full chapters of photos

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haps some valuable moral teachings. When I was confronted for the first time in my life with a more intense study of the Bible, I was astonished at some of the amazing insights that I gained not only in the realms of morality, but also in the fields of history and prophecy. Since that initial start, I came to accept the Word of God as the most trustworthy book I have ever read. This Word has power to change lives, to lift people up and to give hope in the face of human hopelessness. It challenges one to test its trustworthiness: "Come let us reason together," says the Word. My change of heart regarding the question of origins and evolution was not instantaneous - no blinding flash shifted my paradigms - it was also not emotional. It was the result of a long and often hard road in search of truth. It is my intention to share the evidence I discovered with others, and to invite the readers to sift the evidence for themselves. If it is truth, then it will stand.

The reaction of my colleagues to my change of heart stunned me. For the first time I experienced the fervor of united opposition from the other side of the battle line. The conflict has convinced me, that we are not just dealing with scientific paradigms where opposing scientific views and theories are discussed in the spirit of congeniality, but this is a spiritual war. **Evolution versus creation is a religious battle, and compromise is impossible.**

The first time that I presented a lecture in support of origin by design, the reaction was overwhelming. A young female post graduate student rose up and asked why in the light of all the evidence in favor of creation as presented, had it been necessary to rob her of her religious convictions which she had prior to her university career. Indeed such is the power of evolutionary training. Students are trained to disregard the teachings of the Bible in favor of the evolutionary model. The prominent evolutionist E.O. Wilson confirms this loss of faith so aptly, writing:

As were many persons from Alabama, I was a born-again Christian. When I was fifteen, I entered the Southern Baptist Church with great fervor and interest in the fundamentalist religion: I left at seventeen when I got to the University of Alabama and heard about evolutionary theory.⁷

The young student's boldness in our evolution discussion class caused a major furor. For the first time I witnessed the raw anger of those whose evolutionary views are challenged and from that day onward I was treated like a man with leprosy. I was senior lecturer at the time, with numerous graduate stu-

dents working under my supervision, but the tide of bitter opposition and the cold war which I experienced made it impossible for me to continue my work unaffected and I offered to resign. This led to an interesting cycle of events and discussions, which finally ended in the office of the rector of the university. Surely a compromise was possible. Surely I could teach within the evolutionary paradigm without rocking the boat and keep my convictions to myself. Prosperity lay before me with academic advancement, but the price was too high and I left the university convinced that the days of my university career as Zoologist were numbered. After all, which university would appoint a Zoologist with creationist views? I had spent my life studying Biology. It was in my blood and I had worked tirelessly to get where I was. It was indeed an empty feeling that flooded through me as I left the gates of my alma mater.

Amazingly, it was not long after this event that I was approached by other universities to teach courses related to my physiological training, where my views on origins would not impact on the students. However, the topic would never quite go to rest because I was constantly invited to act as speaker on the subject of origins and to take part in panel discussions. I am grateful for the tolerance which I did find among some scientists, and for the fact that the doors of my university career did not close altogether. I was how ever very surprised when I was eventually appointed as professor and chair in Zoology at one of the large universities in South Africa. This position held many challenges, particularly since my position was known to all involved. In fairness to all parties, I chose not to interfere with the teaching of the evolutionary theory by my colleagues or invited guest speakers that taught courses on evolutionary theory to our graduates. However, if asked to deliver a discourse, during extra-curricular hours, I would consent to such requests. Needless to say, this led to much unhappiness on the part of some, particularly since many of the students would change their views when confronted with the other side of the story. How can students choose between paradigms if they are not exposed to the different views whatever they may be?

After endless sparring over this issue, the final conclusion was to be expected. An investigation with outside adjudicators was conducted in an attempt to diffuse the largely underground conflict. It was amazing to hear the accusations leveled at me and to see how closely they echoed the sentiments expressed in this chapter. One of my colleagues bluntly stated that one could not conduct science if one believed in a literal creation. This statement, however, brought about considerable debate. The constitution of South Africa guarantees religious freedom, but sadly it appears that this freedom does not address the real issues since it apparently cannot grant one the right to believe

what God says on the question of origins. In order to diffuse the situation I again offered to resign, but the university graciously declined my offer. My alternative request for transfer out of the Zoological firing line was however granted, and since my research is largely physiological in nature I could readily move to a more medically inclined department.

Many scientists have come to realize how immensely improbable it is that life could have developed out of non-life. Many scientists are embracing the creationist paradigm, including many graduate students and scientists from all walks of life; even eminent zoologists have come to me personally and have admitted that they also believe in a literal creation. Some have done it secretly and some have dared to defend creationism openly. It is only to the degree that knowledge is made available, that people will be empowered to make choices. Those who are not prepared to even listen to the evidence are not reflecting the true spirit that should actuate all true scientists:

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

1 Thessalonians 5:21

This article is an excerpt from Dr. Veith's book, *The Genesis Conflict*. This book covers the creationist standpoint as researched by Dr. Veith in great detail. It is an excellent resource for every Adventist as well as homeschoolers and university students. Check out our website for excellent articles to support the creation stand point:

www.amazingdiscoveries.org.

¹ 1999, In six days, why 50 scientists choose to believe in creation, Edited by John, F. Ashton Ph.D, New Holland Publishers, Australia.

² Darwin, Charles (1963) *The Origin of Species*, Heritage Press (reprint), York.

³ Richard Lewontin, 1977. Billions and billions of Demons, *The New York Review of Books*, January 9, 1997, p 31.

⁴ Huxley TH, 1893. *Darwiniana: essays*, New York and London: D. Appleton and Co., p.149.

⁵ Dawkins, Richard (1986) *The Blind Watchmaker*; p.1, Penguin Books, London.

⁶ Todd, Scott C. (1999) letter to the editor, *Nature*, volume 401, Sept. 30.

⁷ Wilson, E.O. (1982) Towards a Humanistic Biology. *The Humanist*, September/October, p.40.

Walter Veith



Professor Walter J. Veith has traveled widely throughout the world presenting his visually documented "Amazing Discoveries Seminar", to large enthusiastic crowds. The information presented is based on his in-depth research in the areas of evolution/creation, health/diet, and Bible prophecy. More information about Prof. Veith is available online at www.amazingdiscoveries.org. He will be returning to North America in early 2004. If you would like to consider booking him in your general area, please contact our office.

From the Editor

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ness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent." *Rev 3:14-19*

Soon the three angel's messages will be sounding for the last time across this old planet. We can, by God's grace, be overcomers and experience the privilege of being a small part of this most sacred and solemn calling. Whom will He choose for this noble work? "The Lord will call young men (and women) from the humble walks of life into His service, just as He did when living in person on this earth. He passed by the learned rabbis, to choose as His first disciples humble, unlearned fishermen. He has workers whom He will call forth from poverty and obscurity. Engaged in the common duties of life, and clothed with coarse raiment, they are looked upon by men as of little worth. But they will become precious jewels, to shine brightly for the Lord. "They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels." *RH. 1903-05-05*

"In this fearful time, just before Christ is to come the second time, God's faithful preachers will have to bear a still more pointed testimony than was born by John the Baptist. A responsible, important work is before them; and those who speak smooth things, God will not acknowledge as His shepherds. A fearful woe is upon them." *Testimonies for the Church vol. 1, p. 321*

How applicable John's message is to today's time. God can still save. He can quicken lifeless stones of the desert (people) to do His will and receive the fulfillment of His promise. Let us not put our trust in names, creeds, or membership, thinking this will save us. It is by our fruits that we are to be known, and if no fruit is produced, we will be cut down! "Not by its name, but by its fruit, is the value of a tree determined. If the fruit is worthless, the name cannot save the tree from destruction....Profession [is] worthless. If [our] life and character [is] not in harmony with God's law, [we are] not His people....The followers of Christ will give evidence of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. In the daily life, justice, mercy, and the love of God will be seen." *DA 107*

"For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." *Eccl 12:13,14* Let us submit to the power of the Holy Spirit so that God can "purge away our dross" and consume all sin. *Isaiah 1:25*

"Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him that overcometh, I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." *Rev 3:20,21,22*

Wendy Penner



"To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord

when champions are few - this will be our test. At this time, we must

Pastor Gill to Conduct Evangelistic Crusade in Ukraine

Pastor Victor Gill will be leaving on September 16th to October 17th, 2003 for the city of Simferopol, capital of Crimea, in the Ukraine. The city has a population of 350,000 and is located on the Black Sea. Here he will be conducting his 19th evangelistic series, preaching every night along with twice every Sabbath. He and his team will also be visiting orphanages and bringing toys and clothing, along with financial support. They plan on conducting VBS in these orphanages to bring the gospel to the often neglected children.

.....
Your tax-deductible gift will help raise churches in Ukraine where brothers and sisters can worship and where people may be invited to hear the truths for this time. Your financial support will be more than appreciated, for in doing this you will be fulfilling Matthew 25:40, ".... Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me," and God will richly bless you!

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

God's Love Revealed in Signs & Judgments

By Victor Gill



will arouse them to their peril...quite a thought. The text in Proverbs shows us that God is reaching out even to the hardened sinners, to try to arrange circumstances in such a way so as to get their attention in some way. Isn't it a wonderful God we serve? "...for when judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." *Isaiah 26:9* They wouldn't learn it any other way. They would not give it another thought unless it was a severe judgment that was passed on the earth.

After 9/11, we were told, that the churches were full of people on Sunday. People that hadn't gone to church for years turned their hearts back to God. "With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I see thee early..." *Isaiah 26:9* So when God sends his judgments upon the earth, people will seek the Lord like never before.

I remember the story of my uncle in 1929. They had a major title wave that hit the shores of Newfoundland on the Southern shore. A mighty earthquake occurred on the island. My step-uncle was coming back from the grocery store, when the earth beneath him began to shake and tremble. He began to shake and tremble, it was a terrible ordeal for this hardened sinner, this drunkard. He dropped his groceries in the middle of the road. He prayed that God would save him and that he would dedicate his life to Him if he did. It wasn't long after that, that he forgot about what happened and went back to his old ways, but praise the Lord that before he died I had the opportunity to bring him to the foot of the cross. I believe

**If you live in the Seattle,
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Discoveries' broadcast
featuring Victor Gill
and Brian Neumann.**

In the councils of heaven (*Zechariah 6:13*), before this world was created, when the plan of salvation was put in place, among other things that were decided was that God would use signs in the heavens and judgments in the earth to convict men and women. I don't know about you, but ever since 9/11 people ask me questions, "Where was God when this happened?" "Where is the love of God in all of this?" It has concerned me so much that I've begun to search for answers. In *Genesis 1:14*, the Bible tells us that when God put the sun and the moon and the stars in the heavens, in the last part of verse 14, He wanted them to "be for 'signs', and for seasons, and for days, and years." Now we know that they are for seasons, for days, and years, but have you thought that when God put them in the heavens He put them there for signs? In *Luke 21:26, 27*, we read, "And there shall be 'signs' in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars..."

It seems that the unconverted or worldly people are not affected by these kinds of signs; as they effect little lasting change in their lives. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." *1 Corinthians 2:14* Only the wise, the spiritual minded are going to interpret these signs. "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." *Daniel 12:10* The judgments of God are prepared for the scorner, the unconverted person. "Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools." *Proverbs 19:29* This is specifically referring to the judgments of God in the earth.

From the Bible Commentary (SDA BC 4: 203, 204) we read: "Whether men realize it or not, the inner cravings of the heart can be supplied only by a knowledge of, and a communion with, God. Without God there is always something lacking in the heart and life that nothing in this world can fully supply. The judgments of God impress all but the hardened sinners." There are a lot of sinners in the world, but they are not hardened sinners. When the judgment of God is brought upon the land, these sinners are impressed. And by the judgments of God, many will be turned away from the path of evil into the way of righteousness. This helps us to see another facet of God's love that maybe we did not understand before. There are those that become so engrossed with the things of this world that nothing but the judgments of heaven

that one day I will see him in heaven. You see, it's that type of experience that brings people to their knees that otherwise wouldn't. I'm sure he never ever forgot that experience he had in 1929, and it was in 1972, when I led him to the Lord. I believe that, one day, by the grace of God, I will see him on the sea of glass. He loved the Lord, the last thing he did before he died was read his Bible at the table. He went to bed and never woke up again.

Because of the judgments of God, people will turn to the Lord. David said, "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word." *Psalms 119:67* "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." *Verse 71* "I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me." *Verse 75* You see, sometimes by His grace, God sends affliction our way so that He can save us and help us, and that's exactly what *Isaiah 26:9* is telling us, "With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." The next verse says, "Let favor be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord."

Some think "as long as things are going well, why do I need God?" But when the earth begins to shake beneath our feet and the judgments of God are seen in the land then something will get our attention if anything can. Judgments are therefore merciful in that they force recognition to God from impenitence and they pave the way for the renunciation of sin. He wants the world to know He is the Sovereign Lord. "That men may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth." *Psalms 83:18* God wants us to recognize that He is the sovereign God, that He is who He says He is. The Bible is clear, "For the powers of heaven shall be shaken," Why? "And they shall see the Son of God coming in the clouds with power and great glory." *Luke 21:26,27* Sometimes God has to do something drastic to get people's attention (especially in this part of the world it seems). And I don't know what He's going to have to do, but I fear He's going to have to do something drastic in North America. *Haggai 2:6,7* says, "For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts." Of course we know that this prophecy speaks primarily of the first com-

ing of Christ and the glory that filled the house when Christ came to the second temple. I believe we can also give this end time application as well. I believe the time will come when a lot of people are going to turn to God like never before. "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth,

blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come." *Joel 2:30, 31* We say that that's already happened, but maybe it'll happen again. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." *2 Peter 3:10* We know the things of this world are going to be burned up, but a lot of people don't. They think this world is going to go on

forever. The people of God in the various religious denominations that are out there are now becoming so closely allied to the world and drifting further away from grace and salvation. They are to be called out and united with this company that will be waiting for the Lord to come. There are many Christians out there today in other churches that love the Lord as much as we do. If they were to die today, they would have salvation. But let me say this, that the last generation to live in this world has got to be a different generation. Because if these dear Christians are living when the closing scenes of this world's history are taking place (I'm talking about implementation of Sunday laws) and if they don't know the truth about the message of the three angels they will accept the mark of the beast thinking they are doing God's will and they will receive the seven last plagues and eternal damnation. God has entrusted this church, with special understanding of eternal truth for these last days to help these people see what's coming and be prepared. They need to be watching and waiting as well. They need to understand what we take for granted, but they don't know. Who's telling them?

They have to be called out from the world and worldly assemblies. We as a people need to cry with a loud voice, "And show my people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins." Transgression is not necessarily wilful sin. You see, in this case I believe, it is more a "sin of ignorance"

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God's people in these churches are unknowingly trampling on His holy day. And their attention has to be called to it because their loyalty has to be tested before they can receive the Spirit of God, which they will receive without measure. They are going to be tested as just how loyal and faithful they are to Jesus. That's the bottom line.

Compassion

By Richard O'Fill



There is, to some important degree, an identity crisis in the hearts of many in our church these days. We used to have a clear sense of mission and purpose. We actually believed that the message that God gave this church was not an option, but actually a matter of life and death to both Christians of other communions and non-Christians alike.

Part of our unique message has been our preaching of last day events. We taught that there would be an ecumenical movement or a union of churches, and this union would then be utilized by the great deceiver in precipitating the last great deception.

Did you ever consider that we ourselves might conceivably be caught up in this great ecumenical emphasis? I never thought so. But I am beginning to get nervous.

I believe we tended to see the ecumenical movement as a union or merging of organizations—that one denomination would join another. And, indeed, some have. That there would be essentially a physical union of denominations was our idea. It seems highly unlikely that this will happen. What seems to be the essence of the ecumenical movement would be that it would be a union of ideas and concepts—if you please, an agreement over the issues.

If the union of churches is an ideological union rather than an organized union, I could see some of us getting caught up in it.

Let me show you how this might happen. It starts by us saying that God's people are not only the members of our church, which is true. Next we say that many people of other denominations are better Christians than we are, which is true.

In the meantime, like anybody in their right mind, we try to show the other denominations that we are as Christian as they are. In fact, to prove it, we begin to call ourselves Seventh-day Adventist Christians—just to prove we are part of the family. Of course, numerically we are a fraction of the rest, so we didn't get to draw up the rules.

First-day churches, which teach eternal torment, eternal security, the doctrines of the rapture, the immortality of the soul to name a few, have drawn up the guidelines as to who are insiders and who are outsiders. Of course, nobody in his right mind wants to be an outsider, especially when the rule-

book says that everyone who is not one of the mainstreams is a cult. So we are in recent years trying to bridge the gap or to gloss over the differences so we would not be branded a cult. We used to threaten them with the Mark of the Beast. Now they threaten us with the "Mark of the Cult." Brothers and sisters, don't forget, though man may stamp you with the mark of a cult, it is God who ultimately decides who is what. What I am saying is, man has set up his own criteria for who is a cult and who isn't, and we need not be afraid of what man can do to us. What we need to fear is what God can do to us. And for this reason the last message is not "fear *man* and give glory to him," but "fear *God* and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment is come."

We are on the defensive. We are in certain quarters bobbing, weaving, and back-peddaling. Friends, we have nothing to lose by being called names. We still have the message, and I might say, the only message that will prepare this generation to meet the great deception and meet a Holy God. It is time that we stopped worrying about our image and how others perceive us, and begin to be as were the apostles—filled with the boldness of the Holy Spirit.

The gospel that is being preached in the first-day churches is riddled with error, and will not bear the weight of testing in the time of final events. I am not condemning anybody, you know, but a person who doesn't know right from wrong or truth from error in the 21st century is in big trouble.

The gospel, as preached by the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the real truth for this time. Our message does not differ from the other churches in the details but in the fundamentals.

It is not just a matter of which day is the Sabbath. The basic issue is what happens to a person when they get saved. The real debate is not around salvation by faith versus salvation by works, but how does salvation work and what are the works of righteousness.

The great danger is that we step down and step back from the task that God has called upon us to do. We can safely say that there are wonderful Christians out there who have salvation in Christ, but make no mistake, we must never lose sight of the fact that God is calling them to come out lest they become deceived and lose their salvation.

The Seventh-day Adventist church, in case you forget, has a life and death message for the world in the 21st century. This message is not an option...it is a must. It is not a message of condemnation, but of salvation. In the final hours of this earth's history, all of God's true children in every denomination will accept this message.

So let's stop worrying about ourselves and start worrying about the lost. Though others may think otherwise, the Seventh-day Adventist church is not a sheep-stealing church, but a sheep-saving church!

...we need not be afraid of what man can do to us. What we need to fear is what God can do to us. And for this reason the last message is not "fear *man* and give glory to him," but "fear *God* and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment is come."

Remember, the largest Christian church in the world is a true cult, but nobody dares to call them that. You are going to find our church being called a cult these days, and even more so in the future. Being called a member of a cult doesn't make a person one. Remember, it is human nature that, when we can't answer a person, we tend to start calling them names.

Just in case you wonder where we are headed, check the words of Jesus. He said before it is over His true followers would be hated by all nations for His name's sake. But this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

The majority of those who decide to leave the fellowship before this is over will be those who simply couldn't put up with, as we might say, all the negative P.R.

Please forgive the prologue to the sermon. I don't mean to sound like a prophet of doom. But it is time now that we fastened our spiritual seat belts, that we close our tray tables, and that we put our chairs in their original upright position. Our redemption is nearer than when we first believed.

I have been presenting this series which is entitled, "Back to Basics." These sermons are based on the premise that language tends to reflect current culture and lifestyle and, we might say, correct political thinking.

As darkness continues to cover the earth and gross darkness the people, the words that were traditionally used to reflect light and truth will begin to take on new shades of meaning.

As darkness continues to cover the earth and gross darkness the people, the words that were traditionally used to reflect light and truth will begin to take on new shades of meaning.

In spiritual matters we used to speak of light and darkness. The Bible, by the way, speaks of nothing else. Now, however, gray is in, even in speaking of faith and morals.

I am calling your attention to words that I feel are especially at risk of being misrepresented and misunderstood. The continued decline of lifestyle and morals are giving a potentially deadly taint to words that were originally meant to convey truth and purity. In this sermon I want us to think about "compassion."

We should be careful when we address one extreme point of view to also address the other extreme. Because we generally fail to do this, we have tended to go from one extreme to another.

There are two sides to every coin. We should always look at both sides of a particular issue. I have said it before and I will say it again, that fanaticism is often emphasizing one truth at the expense of other truths.

In matters of faith and morals it is important that we get the whole picture. Not so that we will compromise on the principles or compromise with evil, but so that we will have a balanced view.

We say often that God hates sin but loves sinners, and that

COME HEAR PASTOR RICHARD O'FILL

Time:

Friday, September 19, 2003

@ 7:00 pm

Saturday, September 20, 2003

@ 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, and 4:00 pm

Place:

Westminster SDA Church:
7925 10th Ave, Burnaby, BC

Topic:

As For Me and My House

1. It Is Not Just Who You Know
2. Don't Just Stand There, Do Something
3. There's No Place Like Home
4. To Love, Honor and Cherish
5. Raise Up a Child

"The structures that once helped to stabilize our homes, our church, and the society have to a large extent crumbled. If we would survive as families, as a church, or as a society, we must re-do and renew from the ground up. This series will open your eyes. It is hoped that it will wake you up, inform you, and inspire you to take measures that will enable you and your family to endure and stand firm against the onslaught of the devil in these last days."

this should be our position. For us this is easier said than done. This is so for two reasons: One, because our natural instinct is to love sin. And two, we are prone to dislike anyone who disagrees with our point of view. So in the matter of hating sin and loving sinners, we are more likely to be doing one and not the other.

Let me explain. The people who hate sin tend to hate sinners, and the people who love sinners are often soft on sin. It may sound strange, but I believe in the 21st century sin is actually advancing under the protection of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

But it has always been this way. The devil has always used the compassion and mercy of God as shields to advance his cause. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights of the United States and similar provisions in other countries were never intended to be vehicles to protect and promote evil. But on the contrary, they were to protect truth and righteousness in the society. In the 21st century the great principles of righteousness are being raped by the evil forces in society.

As evil continues to gain ground in fulfillment of scripture, which says that darkness would cover the earth and gross darkness the people—instead of reacting like scripture has told us to react, when it says that when the devil comes in like a flood, the Lord will raise up a standard against him—the hue and cry that is going out from many pulpits in this nation is a call for compassion. I believe that if we do not put compassion in the context of its true meaning, this call to compassion in the Christian community may, in fact, facilitate the spread of evil and the corruption of society.

It is interesting to study history in this respect. In other times of moral darkness the prophets and preachers who brought revival and reformation were not preaching compassion. In fact, these messengers were often interpreted by the majority of their listeners as being closed-minded and bigoted. You see, in times like these we must be careful of putting out conflicting signals.

I believe that if we had only one message to preach today that would apply to the majority of listeners, the message should not be about compassion, but around the issue of shall we be in favor of institutionalizing sin in our own lives and in our society.

Many of us in our churches don't feel comfortable about talking about the problems of society. We are saying that we should not try to legislate morality. This really confuses me, because civilized societies have always legislated morals in respect to a person's relationship to others and to the society.

I guess that many of us are sensitive about religious liberty issues. We, of course, do not believe that the laws of the land should in any case interfere with a person's relationship with God, but we seem to have somehow forgotten that the last six

commandments are social issues.

If God had created only one person on this planet and left them there to live happily ever after, that person wouldn't have needed the last six commandments. The last six commandments are divinely given social legislation, and a society cannot remain viable for long without them. But you may say, "We are the church; we are not the society." Please think again. The church is not only a part of society, it is in itself a micro-society.

Wherever you have more than one person you have society. A husband and wife form the basis of a society. To be a church doesn't remove us from society or make us exempt from being members of society. In fact, the church itself is probably one of the most intense examples of community.

So then, when we preach that we should not legislate the last six commandments in secular soci-

ety, this mind-set is immediately reflected in the morals and standards of the church society. In fact, we are presently practically at a standoff in regards to the matter of standards in the church.

For some strange reason I cannot figure out, standards are somehow seen by many these days as being in conflict with the true spirit of the gospel. As if a person cannot believe in standards and be truly compassionate. The problem may have been the result of the approach and reaction, which we have traditionally taken in regards to standards.

Conclusion

The call for compassion in the 21st century can very well be the smoke screen behind which the forces of evil make a grab to neutralize and disarm the forces of righteousness. I mentioned something not long ago in a sermon about my concern that society ought not legitimize what God has declared is illegitimate and accept what God has cursed, namely the practice of sodomy. After the service, a person expressed that I didn't sound compassionate. Compassion is being used in some quarters like a club to beat down the voices that would call for morality and protection of family values. The person who said I didn't sound compassionate asked me if I had homophobia. I said, yes, I do. I also have murder-phobia, thief-phobia and adultery-phobia.

Compassion was never meant to be an emotion that would stand by and watch a person suffer, be it physically or with a spiritually fatal malady. Compassion was to be the emotion which doesn't watch a neighbor's house burn, but fights to put it out. Compassion doesn't watch a person starving to

...Continued on Page 19

The Language of Music

By Brian Neumann



Possibly no issue has created more controversy in God's Church than the topic of music, especially in the area of praise and worship. For many people, music itself, apart from the lyrics, is basically a neutral medium. The belief is that the listener subjectively imposes any meaning attached to musical communication. This would mean that the music only reminds you of events and atmospheres that you have learned to associate with. Your whole response to music is based purely on that which you have already experienced in the past. This would include one's personal life's experience as related to culture or upbringing. Thus it is assumed, that because each person's experience is different, it becomes merely a matter of taste as to the mode of music one may enjoy for personal consumption or the worship of God. In a nutshell, this means that musical standards, secular and religious, can only be individually or culturally determined. It would also suggest that man and not God would determine the standard, for music in worship.

The different arguments, for or against whatever mode of music and worship style, have been tugging backwards and forwards for decades and decades, still there seems to be no clear-cut solution. Is this because Scripture is really silent on key principles attached to this issue, or that the spirit of prophecy is either vague or out of date in this area? The answers must be found; they are there, if only we will open our eyes and look more deeply than just the surface of our own personal preferences. This is the purpose for our search into the arena of music. To firstly understand music as a language, and then to build our argument, stone by stone, into an impregnable fortress of historical, biblical, spirit of prophecy and present day evidence. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. *1 Corinthians 3:16, 17*

Paul is clear about the body temple principle as expressed here in his first letter to the Corinthians. On a basic level, all true Christians recognize that there are indeed things that can be damaging to the body temple – the individual and the collective temple. Adventists, in particular, would agree that smoking, drinking alcohol, taking drugs, eating certain kinds of foods and watching and listening to questionable material, can have serious effects on this human dwelling place of God's

Spirit. The question is, do we take this fact as seriously as we should? Do we recognize that, especially in the area of music, we may be placing too little emphasis on its relation to the body temple principle? Let's take our first steps into clarifying the issues, by destroying the myth that music is a basically neutral medium.

The Ancient View

The understanding that music has a powerful influence on the human psyche is not a new one. The Great philosophers of old experimented with the music and were intensely involved in observing its effect on society. *Plato*, for example, held the opinion that you could assess an individual's spiritual condition by simply knowing what kind of music they listened to.

Music directly imitates the passions or state of the soul . . . when one listens to music that imitates a certain passion, he becomes imbued with the same passion; and if over a long time he habitually listens to the kind of music that rouses ignoble passions, his whole character will be shaped to an ignoble form. (Aristotle, 340 B.C., *The Politics*)

For changing people's manners and altering their customs, there is nothing better than music. (*Shu Ching*, sixth century B.C.)

Music is a part of us, and either innobles or degrades our behaviour. (*Boethius, Roman philosopher, circa 500 A.D., De Institutione Musica*)

Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul, on which they mightily fasten, imparting grace, and making the soul of him who is rightly educated graceful, or of him who is ill-educated ungraceful. (*Socrates, The Republic of Plato, p.88*)

If you would know if a people are well governed, and if its laws are good or bad, examine the music it practices. (*Confucious, circa 500 B.C.*)

When modes of music change, the fundamental laws of the state always change with them. (*Aristotle, The Politics, book 8 section 5, p. 466*)

History records that music has always played a major role in the building up and breaking down of the world's great cultures. When destructive music appears within a civilization, it usually does so very suddenly. It seems to come in, almost as if by a deliberate strategy. Its influence on society is also sudden, bringing about a swift change in philosophy, politics, morals and life-style. It would seem that music not only reflects, but also manipulates and channels, the conscious state of a civilization, thus perpetuating the popular trend – whether good or bad.

Ancient Greece is a supreme example. Greek music began its decline during the era of *Pericles* (444-429 B.C.), when its civilization and arts were at their highest peak. Greek

music became progressively filled with cheap innovation and excessive modulation, replacing the more refined and disciplined styles. Shortly after this musical shift a violent physical revolution and the ultimate downfall of Athens followed. As described by Plato: "Through foolishness they deceived themselves into thinking that there was no right or wrong in music – that it was to be judged good or bad by the pleasure it gave."

Uplifting melodies and disciplined styles were replaced by novelty-ridden, unsubstantial modes of expression; Greek music became trite and effeminate, and the people followed suit. Homosexuality became rampant, and the nation waned as a military force and as a bastion of culture.

In almost every single case, whenever the focal music mode of a civilization has been of a more primitive and abandoned nature, the civilization itself has become barbaric and has usually slipped into decline, ceasing to remain a civilization at all. The classical civilizations of both China and India declined together with a prior decline in their music.

Have we as a modern society, at the start of the 21st century, learned anything from the history of past civilizations? With all our technology and so-called superior, enlightened wisdom we are still repeating history, every second and every moment of every day. As Solomon so aptly said: "There is nothing new under the sun." *Ecclesiastes 1:9* The philosophical opinions of the ancients are not stale, uninformed and naïve. They were firmly based on careful observation and study of history. Great minds, centuries and civilizations apart, came to the same conclusion that, "music is not a neutral medium." Even the Bible, referring to the experience of David playing music to calm a crazed King Saul, tells of the use of music as a means to alter the psychological state of the mind. This goes back to a time well before the ancient philosophers quoted above. Consider these amazing words from the pen of E. G. White, relating to the power of music:

"Satan has no objection to music if he can make it a channel through which to gain access to the minds of the youth. (1 Testimonies, p. 506) Satan knows what organs to excite to animate engross, and charm the mind. (Ibid., p. 497) The natural mind leans toward pleasure and self-gratification. (Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p. 325) When it suits his purpose he (Satan) can impart to men sentiments that are enchanting." (Ibid., p. 27) She was clearly aware that music has the power to set an atmosphere for either light or darkness. She spoke about some of the popular music of her day as being

the way the stimuli suggests it should. Reason is broken down, and the response to the influencing mechanism becomes automatic. Willem Van de Wall, puts it this way.

Much of what we call *irresistible* in music is so because we react on the *sensory-motor level of functioning*. (New York Russell Sage Foundations, 1946, p. 15. *Italics supplied*)

Medical research has shown that the nerves of the ear have more extensive connections than any other nerves of the body. It has also been scientifically revealed that music has a direct effect on the pulse rate, blood pressure, nervous system and glands of the body.

All the scientific and medical research available to us today is of incalculable benefit in helping us understand, not only the various functions of our system, but also how certain external influences have a profound effect on the way we respond physically, mentally and spiritually to these stimuli.

This is why a certain type of music automatically sets a special atmosphere without the person consciously deciding that, "now I choose to feel this way." Music underlines so many forms of communication and almost every type of entertainment. A movie, for example, without music to set the atmosphere would never have the same impact as one with music, setting the tone and suggesting the mood of a particular scene. You will hear music in shops to attract prospective customers, music on the radio to entertain the millions of listeners, music in advertising to sell products, and music in private homes for relaxation, parties, entertainment or any number of uses.

The fact that music creates atmosphere is recognized by nearly everybody who chooses and listens to music, even occasionally. Someone choosing music to create the atmosphere of Italy in his Italian restaurant would not choose music that comes from the Congo. Two lovers sharing a romantic evening together will most certainly not choose military march band music to create that special atmosphere. By the same token, would it be functional to use the soft strains of Richard Clayderman's piano pieces to incite a mob of people to rebellion and anarchy? The answers to these questions are, to say the least, self-evident.

The Study of Human Emotion

Astounding new evidence in the area of music and human emotion has come to light in recent years. The evidence is so profound yet so simple that common sense alone should be enough

frivolous. One can only guess what her response would be to some of the music of today. She said of some music that, "Instead of inciting to holiness and spirituality, has been the means of diverting their minds from the truth." (Ibid., p. 497) When speaking about some of the responses that certain types of music invoke she uses terms such as, "pleasing infatuation" (Ibid., p. 506), "deprave the imagination" (Ibid., vol 4, p. 653), then, referring to a type of inspiration, "abundance of enthusiasm, and a kind of inspiration." (Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p. 339) Again referring to the effect of some music she wrote: "It prepares the participants for unholy thought and action." (Ibid., p. 339)

It can certainly be said that Ellen White agreed with the great minds of old on the question of music and its power to influence the human organism. Does modern research agree, or did these opinions fade into the realm of 'old wives tales' about halfway through this century? Indeed, as we shall see, modern science and medicine agree emphatically with the evidence of the past. In fact, modern research, with the help of technology and communication, prove beyond a doubt, that music is not a neutral medium, that it has the power to change the psychological state of the human mind, and that its interpretation is not restricted to 'cultural bias'.

The Sensory-Motor Level of Functioning

Music is heard in the part of the brain that receives the stimuli of *sensations, emotions and feelings*. It bypasses the brain centers involving reason and conscious decision making. In other words, it does not go via the *master brain* but enters by way of the *thalamus*, which is a relay station for *sensations, emotions and feelings*. When the stimulus reaches the thalamus the master brain is automatically invaded. If the stimulus is continued then the master brain is influenced to react in

to grasp it. The best way to begin this study is to put forward simple questions and then logically answer them.

When a baby of three months old is told, "No!" as it reaches out to grab something it should not, does the baby first understand the word, *no* (the actual language), or does it understand the *tone* of the mother's voice. Of course, the answer is simple enough. Babies first understand *tone* before they understand spoken language. But what is it in someone's *tone* of voice that causes the baby to understand and react appropriately? It is the *emotional content* in the voice. This is not just applicable to the years of babyhood. Even in adulthood, our language is only made meaningful by our use of expression in different ways.

If a man in Europe were to (irrespective of language and culture), say to his wife, "I love you", how would he say it? Would he shout, "I love you!"

and hope that she would believe him? Why not? According to some people's logic, concerning music anyway, it is the words that count. "I love you", are the perfect words for communicating the emotion of love, but they send out a contradictory message when the tone of the voice does not compliment the words. Indeed, it is possible to communicate an expression of love, just with vocal sounds, without saying the words at all.

On the other hand, if someone from local tribal culture in the heart of Africa were to express their love, would they get across the same emotional message and illicit the appropriate response by shouting, "I love you!" No, most definitely not. Emotions are God given capacities implanted in man from the start, and we, the whole of His humanity, irrespective of race or culture, have inherited the same capacity for communicating and understanding emotional expression – in the spoken word, and in music.

The implications of this research are incredible when you apply them to musical communication, as Dr. Manfred Clynes, the world's leading researcher on human emotion (a

Emotions are God given capacities implanted in man from the start, and we, the whole of His humanity, irrespective of race or culture, have inherited the same capacity for communicating and understanding emotional expression – in the spoken word, and in music.

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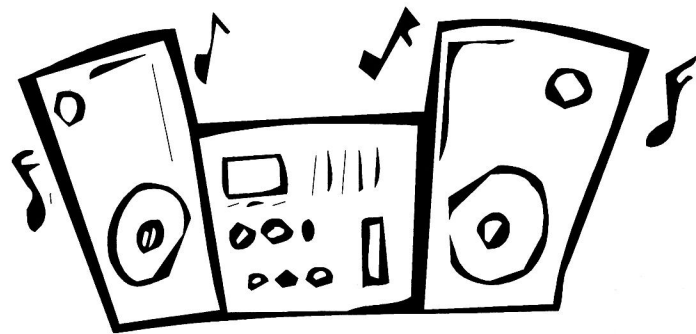
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study called *Sentics*) has done along with leading musicologists, and with amazing results.



Anybody, who understands even an iota of what music is about, knows that music is a form that communicates emotion. In fact, music can be the most eloquent tool for communicating emotion. But there are some aspects of musical understanding that most do not recognize at surface level; so this brings me to our next question.

What aspect of music speaks to the human organism the loudest? Is it the lyrics (the spoken/sung words), or the actual tone or emotion of the music itself? When a band like the Rolling Stones perform live in Russia, where the youth speak practically no English, what is it that is affecting them and speaking most loudly to their mental, physical and spiritual state of being? The music! It does not take a university graduate to figure that one out. This is why it is so naïve to think that, as long as the words are okay, I will be giving the right message. An opinion such as this can only be grounded in ignorance of the real facts. This is why the lead guitarist from the heavy metal band, *Metallica*, could say: *"It is very difficult to sing about flowers and love when you have the drums and bass pounding. . . ."* (Taken from the TV program on Pat Boone and Heavy Metal). Even a heavy metal musician understands the logic of appropriate lyrical and musical communication. Is it not sad that so many Christians, especially in light of the body-temple principle, have no clue at all?

Some insist that in some cultures you cannot possibly expect them to worship God with music in the same way as Westerners do. It is held that their whole response to the language of music is different to that of the Western mind. But, it is not culture that determines the *emotional* content of the music; it is being a human being, created in the image of God that determines the delivery and response. In any culture, these basic principles of 'music emotion' are the same - musical principles that deal with the basic expression of loud, soft, slow, fast, and so on. So, what role does culture play then? It simply defines the flavor that may accompany the actual emotional language of music itself. Let me attempt to make this point a little clearer.

Music is made up of three major categories, *melody*, *harmony* and *rhythm*. Depending on what of these three

elements is accentuated in the music determines on what level you listen and respond.

Melody: We listen to melody with that part of the brain that is more concerned with the aesthetic, emotional and spiritual. (Spiritual, in this context, does not necessarily mean religious).

Harmony: We listen to harmony with the intellectual part of our brain. Harmony is more complex in nature than melody because it is the combining of melody and harmonic interplay that make up this facet of musical communication. Classical music, for example, is a more intellectually based medium, whereas Metal, Rock, Rap, Techno, Rave or rhythmic jungle 'grooves' from Africa would fall into the category of rhythm.

Rhythm: We respond to this aspect on the physical level. This is why people dance to music that puts an emphasis on the beat.

None of this has anything to do with culture. In Africa they dance to music that contains the same musical principle of beat as do people who go to dance halls, raves and discos in Europe, China or the United States. Around the globe people dance to music with the beat accentuated because, humanly, we react to rhythm on the physical level of our functioning. This is pure common sense.

Contrary to popular opinion, natives of Africa do not only use drum or beat music in their cultures. In the cultures of Africa you can find all the elements of musical composition - melody harmony and rhythm. A mother who wants to put her child to sleep does not bring out the drums and start banging on them. She will sing a sweet African lullaby that will gently put the child to sleep. In her primitive way she grasps and understands the principles of communicating emotion via music. The lullaby may have a distinctly 'African favor', but it will retain the principles of fluidity and subtlety that suit the emotion of that occasion.

Have you noticed how children often tease each other in a singsong way? There are a series of very special notes which children use when they do this. (G, E . . . A, G, E) But what is really amazing, is that children all over the world use this same series of notes when they are teasing one another in this way. It is the same on every continent and in every culture. Showing that on a natural level, we are not that dissimilar.

When the movie producer in Hollywood has the music scored and recorded for a movie, do you think he does a different soundtrack for every country where the movie is being released? Of course not, the Hollywood producer knows that he will illicit the same response from movie goers in Uganda, Israel, China, Russia, Brazil, and Germany, as he would from audiences in England, South Africa or the United States. What the producer is concerned about is the atmosphere and what emotional response it will evoke. He knows from experience that the music he chooses will cause the

same response around the globe.

Because of communication being what it is today, it is possible to create, in the homes, via radio, compact disc or television, a musical atmosphere that will have a direct effect on the emotional faculties of those exposed to it. Wherever we go today, we are surrounded by the sound of music, in shops, restaurants, café's, hotels and elevators. Our subconscious brain continually assimilates and records these musical messages. If we fill the mind with that which is potentially destructive, then we will most certainly reap the sad rewards. Indeed, a global musical atmosphere has been set today, in combination with the rest of what the media has to offer that has resulted in this world becoming morally, spiritually, and mentally depraved. That, which was sin yesterday, becomes acceptable practice today, even in the church. A process of desensitization has so numbed us to the reality of our sick condition, that not even the evidences of science, common sense, the spirit of prophecy or the Bible can convince us anymore. We have become spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked, ready to be spewed out of God's mouth.

To Be Continued in next issue...

Brian Neumann



Brian S. Neumann spent more than 16 years in the Rock-Pop industry as a professional musician. He worked as a vocalist, guitarist, composer, performer and session musician in Europe as well as in Africa. Since his return to Jesus, Brian has done extensive research into the language of music, its effects on the human psyche and the spiritual, mental, and physical implications attached to choosing the right or wrong kind of music. Brian has lectured extensively on this topic in countries such as Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Canada, USA, Botswana, Iceland, Namibia and South Africa and is frequently invited to North America through Amazing Discoveries where his lectures are well received by hundreds of people. More information is available online at www.amazingdiscoveries.org.

Brian will be doing a tour of lectures in November 2003 in British Columbia, Washington, and California. In 2004 Brian will be lecturing in Europe, Barbados, Australia, and the United States. A free promotional video is available through Amazing Discoveries presenting the highlights of his music series.

Compassion

Continued From Page 14

death, but feeds him. Compassion is based on a wisdom that knows right from wrong. A person who can't tell the way things were meant to be can never be compassionate in any sense of the word.

A kind of pseudo-compassion may well be driven by the conscious or subconscious desire to cover or rationalize our own sins.

It bears repeating that a person's theology tends to reflect our personal morality. If we are knowingly protecting any sin in our own personal lives, we run the risk of soon not being able to tell the difference between right and wrong, and lose the ability to separate the principles of good and evil.

To protect against this happening in our lives and in order to have compassion in the true sense of the word, we must always be in an attitude of genuine repentance and hatred for sin in our own lives. This will lead us to seek and find forgiveness and healing from God. As we experience forgiveness and healing, we will then have a testimony of hope and victory for others.

Compassion is, after all, not the emotion that closes its eyes to sin. But it is the attitude of Christ, who when He saw the multitude, had compassion on them. Compassion is the attitude that calls sinners to repent, to accept the forgiveness of God, and to leave off sinning.

A person who doesn't understand that cancer is fatal cannot have true compassion for its victims. A person who does not appreciate the suffering and despair that comes from poverty cannot have compassion for the poor. A person who does not accept that the wages of sin is eternal death cannot have true compassion for the sinner.

Richard O'Fill



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Pastor Richard O'Fill is the Revivalist for the Florida Conference in Orlando, Florida. During his more than 40 years of ministry, he has served in Southern Asia, and Latin America, as well as North America. Pastor O'Fill believes that a Holy God, through the Holy Spirit, is developing a holy people for the soon return of Jesus Christ

God's Love Revealed in Signs & Judgements

...Continued From Page 11

than wilful sin. God's people in these churches are unknowingly trampling on His holy day. And their attention has to be called to it because their loyalty has to be tested before they can receive the Spirit of God, which they will receive without measure. They are going to be tested as just how loyal and faithful they are to Jesus. That's the bottom line. They have to be prepared for translation. Jesus is coming soon. They need to be brought to a knowledge of the saving truth. And they need to understand that God has given us the Sabbath as a sign between Him and us. What is it a sign of? *Ezekiel 20:12* says, "Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that "sanctify" them." The Sabbath is a sign of sanctification. That's what the Bible is telling us. And men are saved by the sanctification of the spirit and the belief of the truth, we are told in *2 Thessalonians 2:13*. "...without holiness no man shall see the Lord." *Hebrews 12:14* In His mercy God is sending judgments upon the world to get people to start thinking, to get people to become serious about the Word and about what they need to do, and the changes they need to make to bring their lives into harmony with a thus saith the Lord. Do you not see how important it is, that we need to tell our neighbours, our friends and those around us? Or else we are going to be considered unfaithful stewards!

"With what joy heaven looks upon these blended influences! All heaven is watching those agencies that are a s the hand to work out the purpose of God in the earth, thus doing the will of God in heaven. Such cooperation accomplishes a work that brings honor and glory and majesty to God. Oh, if all would love as Christ has loved, that perishing men might be saved from ruin, what a change would come to our world." *T. Vol. 6 (Pg. 457)*.

"It is no time now for God's people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal Sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. And now, instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Instead of spending our means in self-gratification, we should be studying to economize. Every talent lent of God should be used to His glory in giving the warning to the world. God has a work for His collaborators to do in the cities. Our missions must be sustained; new missions must be opened. To carry forward this work successfully will require no

small outlay. Houses of worship are needed, where the people may be invited to hear the truths for this time. For this very purpose, God has entrusted a capital to His stewards. Let not your property be tied up in worldly enterprises, so that this work shall be hindered. Get your means where you can handle it for the benefit of the cause of God. Send your treasures before you into heaven." *T. Vol. 5 (Pgs. 464-465)* "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." *Revelation 22:14* This is the last and most precious promise found in scripture. I pray that you and I will be there and have many others with us to enjoy that everlasting life that God has granted us. May we not take it for granted or assume that someone else is going to do it for us, but may we let our little lights shine in my prayer in Jesus name.

Victor Gill



Pastor Victor Gill is a retired pastor that frequently travels on mission trips to the Ukraine, and also has appeared on KARI 550 AM radio on Amazing Discoveries broadcasts. He and his wife, Nettie, live in the Okanagan in British Columbia, Canada.

"Batter My Heart"

Batter my heart, three-personed God; for You
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend
Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new.

I, like an usurped town, to another due,
Labor to admit You, but Oh, to no end!
Reason, Your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captived, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly I love You, and would be loved fain.

But am bethrothed unto Your enemy:
Divorce me, untie, or break that knot again,
Take me to You, imprison me, for I,
Except You enthrall me, never shall be free,
Not ever chaste, except You ravish me.

~John Donne 1633

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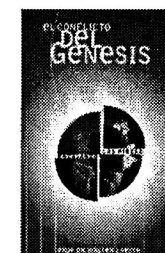
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The Health Message -Food Combining-

By Christine Peck

"It is not well to eat fruit and vegetables at the same meal. If the digestion is feeble, the use of both will often cause distress and inability to put forth mental effort. It is better to have the fruit at one meal and the vegetables at another." — *Ministry of Healing*, p. 299-300

Biblically speaking, "fruit" is the product of plant reproduction involving blossoms and pollination. The seeds are contained within a fleshy or nutty pod.

"And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.'" (*Genesis 1:29*)

Vegetables are the rest of the plant, including the leaves, stems, and roots.

Grains are described in *Genesis 3:18-19*—"Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

For combining purposes, foods can be generally divided into three categories—the "fruits" group, encompassing most of the high-sugar-content fruits we're familiar with; the "vegetables" group, encompassing most common "greens", tubers and stems; and the "neutral" foods which encompass grains, legumes, nuts, and some vegetables and fruits which are compatible with either the fruit or vegetable category—specifically cucumbers, herbs, lettuce, sprouts, tomatoes, watercress, avocados and olives. The Food Combining Chart gives a simple overview of which foods fall into which category.

Most fruits are digested in 1-2 hours. Most vegetables, on the other hand, take 3-4 hours to digest. The neutral foods take between 2-3 hours, making them suitable to combine with either the fruit or vegetable groups.¹

As Ellen White counselled us in *Ministry of Healing*, fruits and vegetables should not be combined in the same meal. Scientists have discovered the reason why. The stomach will not empty its contents into the intestinal system until everything in it has been properly broken down. The stomach cannot select out individual ingredients from your meal and send them on separately. Everything put into the stomach together has to be handled in one package. There is a sensor in the duodenum which tests small samples from the stomach to determine if the meal you just ate has been processed enough to be sent on to the intestines. If it has, digestion proceeds smoothly. If it hasn't, the valve is closed and

the stomach works awhile longer. Fruit will ferment in the time it takes for vegetables to be processed.²

The gas from this fermentation process may contribute to acid reflux, because it can escape up the esophagus. When the stomach valve opens to release the gas, stomach acid can also escape, irritating and eroding the lining of the esophagus. Doctors have discovered that long-term acid reflux can cause permanent damage. We hear enough about this on television commercials offering antacids, pills to reduce stomach acidity, and special medicines to treat acid reflux disease and its resulting esophageal damage.

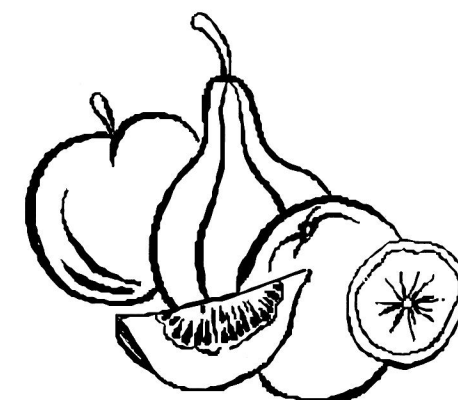
The best antidote is, of course, prevention. Eat the fruits and vegetables in separate meals. Avoid eating animal proteins as well, as very high acid levels are required for proper function of the enzymes necessary to digest these proteins.³ Avoid eating desserts with your meal, since desserts often contain refined sugar which also ferments in the stomach while other meal ingredients are being digested. We should so well to heed the counsel given us in *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, page 336: "if for dessert sweet cake is eaten with milk or cream, fermentation will be created in the stomach, and then the weak points of the human organism will tell the story. The brain will be affected by the disturbance in the stomach. This may be easily cured if people will study from cause to effect, cutting out of their diet that which injures the digestive organs and cause pain in the head. By unwise eating, men and women are unfitted for the work they might do without injury to themselves if they would eat simply." Fruits and neutral foods can be combined in dishes like oatmeal-and-raisins or waldorf salad, while vegetables can be combined with neutral foods in dishes like vegetable stew, lentil soup and lasagna. A nutritious meal can be made of spaghetti with a tomato sauce seasoned with olives, green peppers, onions and culinary herbs, a side salad of lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, sprouts and carrots, and your choice of legumes or soymeat substitute seasoned to taste.

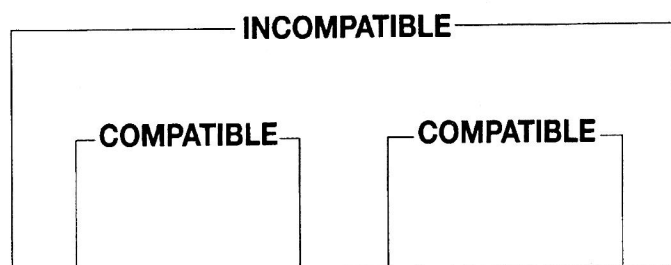
¹ Video Series "Life At Its Best", Video 5: *An Alternative Lifestyle*, by Dr. Walter J. Veith

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

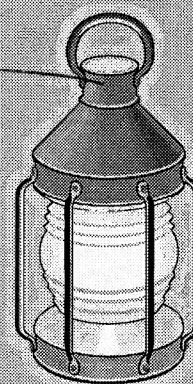


FOOD COMBINING CHART⁴

Fruit	Neutral	Vegetables
Most fruits: Apples Apricots Bananas Blackberries Blueberries Cantaloupe Cherries Cranberries Currants Dates Gooseberries Lemons Limes Loganberries Mango Nectarines Oranges Peach Pear Persimmons Pineapple Plums Raspberries Strawberries Tangerines Watermelons etc.	All grains: Barley, Buckwheat, Bulgur, Corn, Millet, Oats, Rice, Rye, Sorghum, Wheat etc. All legumes: Carob, Chick peas, Kidney beans, Lentils, Lima beans, Mung beans, Peanuts, Soya beans etc. All nuts: Almonds, Brazil, Cashews, Chestnuts, Coconuts, Hazelnuts, Macadamias, Pecans, Walnuts etc. All seeds: Linseed, Poppy seed, Pumpkin seed, Sesame, Sunflower etc. Some vegetables: Cucumber, Herbs, Lettuce, Sprouts, Tomatoes (?), Watercress Some fruits: Avocados, Olives	Most vegetables: Artichokes Asparagus Broccoli Beets Brussels sprouts Cabbage Carrots Cauliflower Celery Eggplant (Brinjal) Green beans Green peppers Kale Kohlrabi Leeks Okra Onions Parsnips Potato Pumpkin Radish Spinach Squash Sweet potato Turnip etc.

Table 7.4. Compatible combinations of plant foods.

Christine Peck



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