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Surely he hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows.

Isaiah 53:4
I want to thank you for sending the Amazing Discoveries newsletter. I enjoy reading them very much, I am sending a check to cover the costs of the news journal and a part donation for the KARI 550 AM radio program. Once again, thank you for the very informative journal.

W.W.

I browsed your site and much appreciated the approach and what a nice site... well done. I am a retired SDA pastor. God bless... B.E.

Heard your program on music on the KARI station. Sounded very knowledgeable and informed. Nice site you have too. S.M.

Praise the Lord for your ministry, Walter Veith. It is a blessing to hear the unct truth, not just of Christ's love for us, but also of the things He has pointed out to us in His word concerning the mother of harlotry, the Papal system, which is of the devil. I too am an SDA (for the last six years), having been a Catholic for 25 years. My wife and I both love the Spirit of Prophecy, and as a result of this gift, I am now a full time literature evangelist. While many SDAs may not appreciate your work, especially those teaching in our seminaries around the world, I say praise God... Tell it like it is, brother, because as it was true in Elijah's day, the same is still true today, seven thousand have not bowed their knee to Baal. God bless you brother. R.P.

Dear Dr. Veith:

I'm 15 and doing year 10 through distance public education in Australia. In science I have to study cosmos, and therefore, there is plenty of wow mixed in with the study. I know evolution is not Biblical or even possible. However, as I don't know very much of the evolutionary theory, I don't know always if what my school is teaching me is right to believe. In my science text, it says that stars have a life cycle. Is this true? I don't think it would be, but I'm not sure. It also tells me that one teaspoon of a neutron star has a mass of about a billion tonnes!! This could be true, but how can anybody prove it?

It is the universe expanding away from earth, with earth in the center, or is it expanding from where "the big bang started"? I would be most thankful if you could answer these questions for me. I would also like to say that we (me and our church group) really enjoy your DVDs on the health message, prophecy, and (I especially like the) lectures on creation evolution. These DVDs have really encouraged me and my friends in the faith. They are really good for one of the families that come to our church, as they have only just started to take hold of the Adventist faith, and you present our church doctrines in such an easy and fact-filled manner. May God bless your work, Regards, C.S.

B.E. & P.E.

I ordered a copy of Truth Matters by Walter Veith... I loved the video series so I had to have the book!! God bless Amazing Discoveries for sharing God's truth to a perishing world!! Makes me real proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist!!

R.J.

Dear C.S.: Firstly, I would like to point out that most scientists are as confused as you are. And are arguing on these issues from all perspectives. There is not even any real hard evidence that the universe is expanding in the first place, as angular momentum (caused by things that go round and round, e.g. planets around stars, stars around galaxies) also causes the red shift which science uses to say that the universe is expanding. Red shift is also caused by linear momentum (things moving away in a straight line). So which of the two is our universe doing? Moving apart in a straight line away from us (that's the evidence for the big bang), or moving round and round - that's what we see, so isn't it logical to assume that the universe is moving round and round too? Everything else with regard to stars and their formation also lies in the realms of theory and there are no absolutes. To dispute one or the other hypothesis is as difficult as to prove it. Therefore, there is no reason for not believing the Word of God, particularly since there is so much other evidence besides cosmology (God says "can you bind the Pleiades or loosen the belt of Orion?"). How come God said these words long before science discovered that the Pleiades was a bound cluster? And that the stars in Orion's belt were shooting apart?

Thank you for asking your questions. Don't lose your faith by the teachings of science.

God Bless, Walter Veith

S.A.

Dear S.A. Thank you. I am a pastor. I try to try to answer your question as clearly and sharply as possible. I am sure that you may not have heard all that I have to say on the topic of harmful music. Here is the gist of that part which you may not have picked up on: Not all music is bad. In all forms of music, there can be found positive and negative elements. Unfortunately, in the jazz, rock, metal, thrash, punk, house music, rap, techno, rave, and other related genres, you find a particular element that consistently runs through them all. This is the repetitive syncopated type of rhythm, which you no doubt have read something on. Certainly, there are elements, even in these styles, that are good. But, unfortunately, it is normally mixed in with those aspects that are in conflict with the natural bio-rhythms of the human organism. In classical music, one can also find some negative elements, but on the whole, it seems to concentrate more on emphasizing the melody and harmony aspects of the music, which normally stimulate us on a more spiritual and intellectual level rather than just a physical level. This pretty much sums it up. Most music that plays an emphasis on melody and harmony, rather than repetitive, hypnotic rhythm, is the type that is most beneficial for our consumption. Hope this helps.

Christian greetings,

Brian Neumann

MUSIC & WORSHIP

I read the article on music and I found it most fascinating. I am a bit confused now though, in your opinion, is pretty much all music harmful, rock, classic and jazz? I see your convincing evidence, but I would like some advice on what is suitable to listen to?

S.A.

Dear S.A. Thank you for the reply. I will try to answer your confusion as clearly and sharply as possible. I am sure that you may not have heard all that I have to say on the topic of harmful music. Here is the gist of that part which you may not have picked up on: Not all music is bad. In all forms of music, there can be found positive and negative elements. Unfortunately, in the jazz, rock, metal, thrash, punk, house music, rap, techno, rave, and other related genres, you find a particular element that consistently runs through them all. This is the repetitive syncopated type of rhythm, which you no doubt have read something on. Certainly, there are elements, even in these styles, that are good. But, unfortunately, it is normally mixed in with those aspects that are in conflict with the natural bio-rhythms of the human organism. In classical music, one can also find some negative elements, but on the whole, it seems to concentrate more on emphasizing the melody and harmony aspects of the music, which normally stimulate us on a more spiritual and intellectual level rather than just a physical level. This pretty much sums it up. Most music that plays an emphasis on melody and harmony, rather than repetitive, hypnotic rhythm, is the type that is most beneficial for our consumption. Hope this helps.

Christian greetings,

Brian Neumann

HEALTH

#1 Many people say that yogurt is a healthy food source. However, it is a dairy product, so I have my reservations. Taking into account that different yogurts can have varying amounts of fat, for example, I've seen some low fat yogurts with as little as 2 grams of fat per 100 grams, compared with some which have 11 grams of fat per 100 grams. I would like to hear any view that you may have on the advantages or disadvantages of eating yogurt.

Regards, T.D.

Dear T.D.: Thank you for your email. Yogurt is a controversial issue, but I believe it is not the best of foods.

1) The fat whether much or little, contains oxidized cholesterol, which is bad for the cardiovascular system.
2) The protein is casein, which is mutagenic, highly acid forming, hard to digest, calciuretic, and needs special circumstances for digestion which are only found in non-weaned infants, and not for human casein only, and not the casein of a cow.
3) The bacteria break down lactose to glucose and galactose that ferment the glucose but do not have the enzyme to convert the galactose and neither do human adults. As this gene complex is shut
down after weaning. Galactose is associated with ovarian cancer, cataracts, and other diseases. A yogurt made from soy would not have these negative consequences. The bacteria in yogurt are not detrimental to the human digestive tract, but being lactic-bacteria, they are not native to it either. Better to grow your own flora by utilizing a diet rich in fruit and vegetables. The bacteria then will be methanogens which are the bacteria of choice to have in the digestive tract.

Kind regards, Walter Veith

#2) Just watched your video "Udderly Amazing" and was surprised, that you show how much more unhealthy milk is in general nowadays. Can you explain, why the Bible speaks of the land where "milk and honey" flows if milk is that unhealthy? Ellen White always wrote, that this and that with a little milk will make the whole food healthy. She also wrote, that the time will come, when we can not eat it anymore, but in her days she seemed to me to find milk very good and healthy (Counsels on Diet and Foods). I thought you would in your video tell, why milk has become unhealthy over the years, but you showed how unhealthy it is in general...that gives me no good reason to be a vegan because I trust Ellen White more than you. Please write me an answer!

With regards, C

Dear Chris,

I am glad to hear that you trust Ellen White more than me. That’s good, because I trust her more than me too. So here are a few quotes for you:

Ellen G. White that might set the matter straight. If she says (as she does) that God’s commandment-keeping people will not use anything that comes from an animal before the Lord comes, then that makes God’s commandment-keeping people vegans. Thank you and God bless,

Walter Veith

Ellen G. White quotes as follows: "Those who live in new countries or in poverty-stricken districts where fruits and nuts are scarce, should not be urged to exclude milk and eggs from their diets. It is true that persons in full flesh and in whom animal passions are strong need to avoid the use of stimulating foods. Especially in families of children who are given to sensual habits, eggs should not be used. But in the case of persons whose blood-making organs are feeble,—especially if other foods to supply the needed elements can not be obtained,—milk and eggs should not be wholly discarded. Great care should be taken, however, to obtain milk from healthy cows and eggs from healthy fowls, that are well fed and well cared for; and the eggs should be so cooked as to be most easily digested.” (TDSP 41:12)

"The Lord would bring His people into a position where they will not touch or taste the flesh of dead animals. Then let not these things be prescribed by any physicians who have a knowledge of the truth for this time. There is no safety in the eating of the flesh of dead animals, and in a short time, the milk of the cows will also be excluded from the diet of God’s commandment-keeping people. In a short time it will not be safe to use anything that comes from the animal creation. Those who take God at His word, and obey His commandments with the whole heart, will be blessed. He will be their shield of protection. But the Lord will not be trifled with. Distraction, disobedience, alienation from God’s will and way, will place the sinner in a position where the Lord cannot give him His divine favor.” (CD 411:3)

"I present the Word of the Lord God of Israel. Because of transgression the curse of God has come upon the earth itself, upon the cattle, and upon all flesh. Human beings are suffering the results of their own course of action in departing from the commandments of God. The beasts also suffer under the curse. Disease in cattle is making meat-eating a dangerous matter. The Lord’s curse is upon the earth, upon man, upon beasts, upon the fish, and as transgression becomes almost universal, the curse will be permitted to become as broad and as deep as the transgression. Disease is contracted by the use of meat. The disease that we call fever is due to the flesh of these dead carcasses is sold in the marketplaces, and disease among men is the sure result. The Lord would bring His people into a position where they will not touch or taste the flesh of dead animals. There is no safety in eating the flesh of dead animals, and in a short time, the milk of the cows will also be excluded from the diet of God’s commandment-keeping people. In a short time it will not be safe to use anything that comes from the animal creation.”—Unpublished Testimony, July 26, 1888. (PUR, November 7, 1901 par 1)

Letter 1, 187-332: “We have always used a little milk and some sugar. This we have never denounced, either in our writings or in our preaching. We believe cattle will become so much diseased that these things will yet be discarded, but the time has not yet come for sugar and milk to be wholly abolished from our tables.” (CD 330:2)

Union Conference Record (Australasian), July 28, 1899-644: “The light given me is that it will not be very long before we shall have to give up using any animal food. Even milk will have to be discarded. Disease is accumulating rapidly. The curse of God is upon the earth, because man has cursed it. The habits and practices of men have brought the earth into such a condition that some other food than animal food must be substituted for the human family. We do not need flesh food at all. God can give us something else.” (CD 384:5)

"Sooner butter will never be recommended, and after a time milk will be entirely discarded; for disease in animals is increasing in proportion to the increase of wickedness among men. The time will come when there will be no safety in using eggs, milk, cream, or butter.”—Letter 14, 1901, p. 3. (To Dr. S. Rand, January 22, 1901.) (SMR 384:2)

"Flesh was never the best food; but its use is now doubly objectionable, since disease in animals is so rapidly increasing. Those who use flesh foods little know what they are eating. Often if they could see the animals when living and know the quality of the meat they eat, they would turn from it with loathing. People are continually eating flesh that is filled with tuberculous and cancerous germs. Tuberculosis, cancer, and other fatal diseases are thus communicated.” (CG 382:3)

"If milk is used, it should be thoroughly sterilized; with this precaution, there is less danger of contracting disease from its use. Butter is less harmful when eaten on cold bread than when used in cooking; but, as a rule, it is better to dispense with it altogether. Cheese is still more objectionable; it is wholly unfit for food.” (MH 302:1)

"Cheese should never be introduced into the stomach.” (CD 368:4)

"Some cannot use milk, while others can subsist upon it. For some, dried beans and peas are wholesome, while others cannot digest them. Some are so sensitive that they cannot make use of the coarser kind of gramin food. So it is impossible to make an unvarying rule by which to regulate every one’s dietetic habits.” (CTFB 37:1)

"The poor say, when health reform, that they cannot afford to eat the nuts. "What shall we eat? We cannot afford to buy the nuts.” As I preach the gospel to the poor, I am instructed to tell them to eat that food which is most nourishing. I cannot say to them: You must not eat eggs, or milk, or cream; you must use no butter in the preparation of food. The gospel must be preached to the poor, and the time has not yet come to prescribe the strictest diet.” (CD 203:4)

"The time will come when we may have to discard some of the articles of diet we now use, such as milk and cream and eggs; but my message is that you must not bring yourself to a time of trouble beforehand, and thus afflict yourself with death. Wait till the Lord prepares the way before you.” (CD 206:1)

"The time will come when we may have to discard some of the articles of diet we now use, such as milk and cream and eggs; but it is not necessary to bring upon ourselves perplexity by premature and extreme restrictions. Wait until the circumstances demand it, and the Lord prepares the way for it.” (CD 208:1)

"Let the food be palatable prepared and nicely served. Many dishes will have to be prepared than would be necessary if flesh meat were served. Other things can be provided, so that meats can be discarded. Milk and cream can be used by some.” (CD 290:4)

"Let the diet reform be progressive. Let the people be taught how to prepare food without the use of milk or butter. Tell them that the time will soon come when there will be no safety in using eggs, milk, cream, or butter, because disease in animals is increasing in proportion to the increase of wickedness among men.”
Faith on the Line

The God of Hope: Hopes for You
by Woody Durans

Was Christ wrong?? How could He say they had kept His word, and that they had continued with Him in His temptations, when they had forgotten His word, swore amongst themselves, and fallen asleep during His most trying hour? What does it mean to us?

Our Lord of Love looks upon us with such loving eyes that He seeks us as we are in our deepest, lowest, holiest moments, in those hours when, like John, we lean upon His bosom. He knows, as no one else can know, the deep longing of our hearts. He knows, as no one else can know how far we fall. "Not as though I had already attained" - He knows that; "but I press on" (Phil 3:12,15) - He knows that too.

The "God of hope" hopes for us, even for us. He never loses hope. The Father of Hope accepts the word of His beloved Son, "They have kept [intently observed] Thy word", in spite of times when they had seemed most grievously to disregard it. The God of Hope saw what they wished to be, what they yet would be. And He looks at us like that. Does this not touch us to the quick? How can we grieve a love like that? Is there not encouragement here too, for the strengthening of our souls?

During Jesus' prayer in Luke 22, He prayed for Peter, that his faith fail not (verse 32). He did not pray that Peter would be delivered from the strain of life in a cruel Roman prison, or from a torturing death. But He did pray that, through all that lay ahead, his faith would not fail. And in the garden of Gethsemane, when our salvation lay in the balance, Christ Himself prayed for endurance to bear the bitter conflict, not to avoid it, but to be brought safely through - to be strengthened to drink the cup.

What do I, in my inmost heart, desire? Is it ease or relief from the undesired, the unexplained? Is it for mere earthly good? Christ ever lived to make intercession for us. (Heb 7:25) He will not pray weaker prayers, easier prayers for us than He prayed for Himself and for His disciples. He will enable us to live the life that makes a prayer of faith possible even through intense conflict.

Throughout the ages, God's people have met tribulation, and have wrestled with principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world. Satan has always hurled his fiercest darts at those who sought to follow the Lord at all costs. And sometimes, it is not the circumstances themselves that are the darts, but it is the pressure - the pressure as of stones that grind wheat or that force juice out of the grape - the ever constant, unrelenting pressure that continues day after day. What is the purpose of such pressure, we ask? - the making of bread and wine - nothing less. He who weighs the wind, measures the force of the pressure. Of this we can be sure. What about our prayers for those who are under pressure? Are they of the earth - earthly?

Maritime Revival Series

On Oct. 25, 2003, Pastor Victor Gull returned to BC from Kiev, Ukraine where he had conducted his 19th evangelistic series in the Ukrainian city of Sinneropol. God blessed as usual in winning precious souls for His kingdom.

The very next morning he caught an early morning flight for Halifax, N.S. to conduct seven weeks of Revival meetings in various churches throughout the Maritimes. His message proved a lot of visiting with the local pastors which included visiting backsliders, shut-ins, new interests, etc., then a public meeting each evening which included good congregational singing, a revival sermon and a call for decisions.

The Lord blessed in remarkable ways as the Holy Spirit moved many to renew their walk with Him, some making a decision for the first time to follow Jesus all the way. The people's personal testimonies were most wonderful. The Pastors, too, were very grateful for his ministry and expressed a desire for him to stay longer.

Since returning home, word has reached that a number of the churches reported an increase in church attendance since the...
We ask: Why? Why did He do this? There is only one answer—LOVE.

"Nothing could have induced Christ to leave His honor and majesty in heaven and come to a sinful world, to be neglected, despised, and rejected by those He came to save, and finally to suffer upon the cross, but eternal, redeeming love which will ever remain a mystery." 2T 207

Just as there is no reason that can be given for sin, so there is no reason that can be given for the love of Jesus.

Love is the only reason. "For Him, heaven was not a place to be desired while we were without hope in the world." Phil 2:6

Thus he stepped down from the throne that He might take our place. For Him, there was no other way. His love called Him that way.

"Love so amazing so divine, Demands my life, my soul, my all!"

Love is a divine principle which will willingly exchange places with the object of its love.

Jesus was willing to exchange places with us. The Apostle Paul faintly reflected that mysterious love when he said:

"I wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren." Romans 9:3

And in the Old Testament, Moses said the same thing in Exodus 32:32

If it could have saved his brethren, Paul would have willingly exchanged places with them. But even Paul's love for his people could but faintly reflect the love that amazed the universe.

JESUS WAS TREATED AS WE DESERVE!

Isaiah 53:3-5: Let us look at these familiar verses. . . .

"Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves." DA 25

But He was laid in a borrowed tomb.

Irrespective of what hardship, trial and imagined abuse we will ever experience in this life, we should never dare to voice the sentiment that we deserve something better.

JESUS WAS TREATED AS WE DESERVE.

To fully understand what we deserve, let us in our imagination follow the footsteps of the Master to that mysterious garden—-the garden of Gethsemane. As He entered it with the little band of disciples, He was overcome by a superhuman sorrow that the disciples could not understand. He began to groin aloud—-to stagger beneath the crushing realization of man's sin. His disciples supported Him from falling. Now He was numbed with the transgressors.

Not wishing His disciples to see His supreme anguish, He stayed there and prayed for them. Like a mighty oak, He had breathed the storms of satanic fury, but now the Savior feared that His human nature was too weak to bear the burden of man's sins. Thus He pleaded, "Pray for me!"

Oh, have you not had someone to you, "Pray for me!" My Dad was dying in the hospital. I had been with him till midnight. I said to him, "Dad, I must go home now and get some sleep. I will be back in the morning." He was dosing and said, "All right, son." At 2 a.m. the phone rang. It was the hospital. The nurse said, "Your Dad wants to see you very badly. Can you come?" I said, "O.K., I will come." When I got to the hospital, I could hear the moans of the patients on the ward, the steam radiators were clattering and making strange noises. It was an old military hospital that my Dad had helped to build during the second world war. There were twenty-five men on that ward, a number of whom were dying. The lights were turned down low, the street lights were shining through the trees which were blowing in the wind and casting their eerie shadows on the wall. I stood beside my Dad's bed and said, "Dad, I'm here, what can I do for you?" He answered and said, I want you to do two things for me my son. First take that cloth and wipe my hands with face. Then pray for me for the devil isn't very far away, and I don't want to be a coward and give up at the last." I said, "Dad before I pray I want to read you a text of scripture." I turned to John 5:12 and read: "He that has the Son hath life, he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I said, "Dad you’ve accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour haven’t you?" He said, "Yes a long time ago." I said, "Then you have eternal life now, its yours as a gift, its free, praise God! let’s pray." Oh how I prayed for my dad that night! I asked Jesus to give him the assurance of salvation, to buoy his spirits up, and drive back the forces of evil that were endeavoring to discount him in his weakness. I prayed that God would send holy angels that excelled in strength to surround his bedside and protect him from further attempts of the enemy, that he would understand that peace that passes all understanding. I could see the change that came over him as he rested all in the tender mercies of a loving God.

After I was through praying he said, "Son, you can go home and tell Mother and Marion (my sister) that everything is all right now." Praise the Lord! It's all because of Jesus, friend.

Then as He stumbled on into the garden alone, and the reality of the weight of sin came before Him, He prayed to His Father, "...If it be possible, let this cup pass from me..." As if to say..."Father, in Thy infinite wisdom, canst Thou not find some other way to save the race? Is there no other way?"

Three times He uttered this prayer. "Father, it is too much! Is there no other way?"

But there was no other way. As Jesus weighed the issue, the price had to be paid for the human soul. The Desire of Ages says that there rose up before Him a vision of a perishing world. He saw the fall of man, if left to himself. Because He had chosen to become our everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6), He made the decision of a true father. "God, let the fall of man be. It means death to them if they are left to bear it."

Having chosen to save us at any cost to Himself, the Savior fell dying to the ground. There He tasted death for every man. An angel came to the suffering Son of God, not to release Him from the anguish, but to strengthen that feeble human nature in order that He might have strength to drain the cup of suffering to the last drop.

THE JUDGE BECOMES THE JUDGED

The Son of God was indeed, by His position of Creator, the Judge of all. But, what a Judge! The Judge of all stooped down to become the "Judged" of all. Instead of judging sinfull man, He stepped down and invited the human race to judge Him. Calvary represents our judgment upon Him, for upon all rests the guilt of crucifying the Savior (Da 7:45)

Man cried, "Away with Him! Let Him be crucified!" "He is not fit to live!" Thus the Judge gave Himself into our hands to be judged. The Judge of all submitted Himself into the hands of those whom He had created. He gave His back to the smiters and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair. He hid not His face from shame and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6) He was judged as One worthy only to be spat upon. He was crowned only with thorns. But His love for man was stronger than...
Paul declares: “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32

Some things? No, that will not satisfy Christ or His Father! All things! Jesus was treated as we deserve that we might be treated as He deserves. This is the gospel!

And the Father has accepted Christ’s sacrifice as sufficient to do all this for us consistent with perfect justice.

“The Lord has accepted this sacrifice in our behalf, as our substitute and surety, on the condition that we receive Christ and believe on Him.” 1 SMpg 215.

“Not only has God accepted this sacrifice, but He bows in reverence in recognition of its infinite value. It is on the basis of the value of this sacrifice that He proposes to treat us with no lesser blessing than He gives His own Son. Now God says to us, “Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering?” 1 Samuel 2:29 1 SMpg 298, 299

Could it be that we could despise the sacrifice that amazes the universe? Could we kick the unspeakable sacrifice of Divine love? That is what we do when we fail to respond to the invitation of the One who died to save us.

“The love of a holy God is an amazing principle, which can stir the universe in our behalf during the hours of our probation and trial. But after the season of our probation, if we are found transgressors of God’s law, the God of love will be found a minister of vengeance. God makes no compromise with sin. The disobedient will be punished. The wrath of God fell upon His beloved Son as Christ hung upon the cross of Calvary in the transgressor’s place. The love of God now reaches out to embrace the lowest, vilest sinner that will come to Christ with contrition. It reaches out to transform the sinner into an obedient faithful child of God; but not a soul can be saved if he continues in sin.” 1 SMp. 313

If God spared not His own Son, He will not, cannot spare the one who continues in known sin. But by faith in Jesus, we can be forgiven, set free and empowered to live the victorious life. (See John 1:12, 2 Peter 1:4; Romans 8:31) The Lord would say to us, “See that magnificent sacrifice. I have accepted it. Now wherefore will ye kick at my sacrifice?” “How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?” Hebrews 2:3

May your walk with Jesus be one of absolute victory in Christ for He has made every provision.

Recommended Resources

STORY OF SALVATION - complete 7 volume series in mini format
By E.G. White 9.5cmW x12.5cmH 80cmD


$49.00 CDN $34.95 US + taxes + shipping & handling
The Temple of the Living God

by Ascension

Our Lord of Love looks upon us with such loving eyes that He sees us as we are in our deepest, lowliest, holiest moments, in those hours when, like John, we lean upon His bosom. He knows, as no one else can know, the deep longing of our hearts. He knows, as no one else can know how far we fall. “Not as though I had already attained” – He knows that; but “I press on” (Phil 3:12,15) – He knows that too.

Abundant Blessings

One of the most wonderful blessings we experience here at Amazing Discoveries is the loving volunteer help of local believers. Deanna Minney is one of those blessings. Deanna comes regularly to Amazing Discoveries, often without any request, to lend a hand wherever help is needed. Every month or so, we send out large shipments of mail to our contacts around the country to help keep them up to date and to stay in touch. Above, Deanna is helping to package a set of audio tapes we shared with our donors. Besides labelling and packaging videos & DVDs, folding letters, and also helps to keep our office clean and tidy and most importantly, brings her our daily and reminds us that someone cares.
past events and deeds of our life, with all the accompanying emotions and feelings. We may not be consciously thinking of these things. They may be forgotten, but they are in our minds and under the right circumstances, they can suddenly be recalled. The sub-conscious mind is the great library of the individual, all the books of which he has written himself. His character is revealed by what is stored in his personal library, because character is the sum total of an individual’s thoughts and feelings with their accompanying actions. See 57310

Besides being a representation of the human temple, the sanctuary also illustrates in a unique way, the process of redemption and restoration from sin and all the damage that it has caused to fallen mankind. The progressive steps to be taken in the Christian experience are symbolized by the ceremonies connected with the various articles of furniture found in the sanctuary. Beginning at the entrance to the outer court, we see the altar of sacrifice. Here is where the repentant sinner brought his sin offering and received pardon and justification. Here is where he was to experience what is described in Romans 12:1; Galatians 2:20: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

"I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Having experienced a death to self at the altar of sacrifice, He was to be washed with the washing of regeneration (Titus 3:5) at the laver which stood between the altar of sacrifice and the door into the first apartment.

In the first apartment, there were three articles of furniture. On the right side was the table of shewbread with its twelve loaves of bread. This represents the Word of God, the bread of life, which the believer needs to partake of daily in order to have spiritual life and growth. Jeremiah wrote: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Jeremiah 15:16. Also see Matthew 4:4 & John 6:51-63. On the left side stood the golden candlestick with its seven lamps of fire. Revelation 4:5 identifies the seven lamps of fire as "the seven Spirits of God." "The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He (Christ) could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail... it is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure." Da 6671

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The Holy Spirit sheds His light on the table of shewbread, the Word of God, and makes it effectual in the life, so the believer will be able to comprehend the mystery of God and be conformed to the image of Christ. He also inspires the prayers of true believers (Romans 8:26,27) represented by the altar of incense, (Rev 8:3,4) which stood just before the veil separating the holy from the most holy place.

The final step in salvation is represented by the most holy place where the Shekinah glory, God’s visible presence, shone out from above the mercy seat located on the ark of the testimony. Here is where the work of atonement is completed by the blotting out of the record of sins, no more to be remembered or come into mind. "Thus will be real-ized the complete fulfillment of the new-covenant promise: ‘I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.’ In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found.” Jeremiah 31:34; 50:20. 'In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even everyone that is written among the living in Jerusalem.' Isaiah 4:2,3 (GC 485)

When this final work is done, the sanctuary will indeed be cleansed. The records in the heavenly sanctuary will be cleansed from all the sins there recorded, and also the record of sins recorded in the inner sanctuary of the soul will be blotted out, no more to be remembered or come into mind: The Great Controversy tells us, ‘Their sins have gone before hand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance.’ GC 620 The personal library of each true believer will be cleansed from everything that is unworthy and impure. In place of the memory of past sins, God will indelibly write His law in the hearts and minds of His redeemed people, and seal them in that state of purity and holiness. Their sins will be placed upon the sarcophag, the originator of sin, who will be held responsible for them. And God has promised that when it is all done, “Affliction shall not rise up the second time.” Nahum 1:9

The divine remedy for sin and sinners has been fully applied. The whole universe is secure from another rebellion. Every intelligent being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, will once again be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator. The Shekinah glory that was lost from the human temple when sin entered will once again be restored as though man had never fallen.

"His church is to be a temple built after the divine similitude, and the angelic architect has brought his golden measuring rod from heaven, that every stone may be heveded and squared by the divine measurement and polished to shine as an emblem of heaven, radiating in all directions the bright, clear beams of the Sun of Righteousness... The gift of His Holy Spirit, rich, full, and abundant, is to be to His church as an encompassing wall of fire, which the powers of hell shall not prevail against. In their united purity and spotless perfection, Christ looks upon His people as the reward of all His suffering, His humiliation, and His love, and the supplement of His glory—Christ, the great center from which radiates all glory. "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."” TM 17-19

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Nothing on this earth remains the same. Seasons change, years change, everything, except God, changes. Malachi 3:6. “I am the Lord, I change not.” Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” Jesus is contrasted here with the sun; with Him there is not even a shadow of turning. His attributes and glory never diminish. Isaiah 59:1: "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save, neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear." Psalms 107:1, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endureth forever." Lamentations 3:22: “…His compassions fail not.” Psalm 103:8. "Thy faithfulness is unto all generations." God is
The Confusion of Culture

by Brian Neece

16 Winter 2004

Many suggest that the worship they have been converted to does not reflect their culture but, rather, reflects the old cultural modes and traditions of European or white worship-culture. Contemporary converts - from Africa, Asia, the Americas, etc., and other indigenous cultures - are today demanding that their worship should not reflect the traditions and customs of Western - European culture, but should reflect their own. Likewise, even in Western-culture, people are demanding that worship and music reflect the modern, youth-culture (the cultures of rave, rap, techno, rock, etc.). Everyone seems to be on the 'culturally-relevant' bandwagon.

This culturally-wedded worship philosophy is based on the assumption that traditional Christian worship does, indeed, solely reflect European or Western culture. The assumption is wrong and only holds an element of truth. The worship culture of 'traditional' Christianity was founded on scriptural injunctions and was carried over from generation to generation. This Bible-based worship doctrine is the one that fewer and fewer are calling for. But, this call is based on the realization that worship is not determined by local or national culture, but is determined by the culture of Christ, which we all become a part of when we choose to leave the world and its temporal demands behind.

It is true that as far as composition (style), much of Christian worship music has reflected European music-culture. This was only because, up until recent times, Christianity was largely centered in this geographical area. The European cultural reflection was manifest in the structure of melody, harmony and basic flavour of the music, but, as far as the essential concepts of reverence, awe, respect and solemnity before God were concerned - and what this constituted in practice (the basic atmosphere/tone that music created in worship), was a reflection of the culture of Christ (Bible culture) and not the prerogatives of cultural traditions. Of course this is a generalization, because there are many exceptions to every rule.

But, on the whole, true Christian worship based its understanding of the atmosphere one created in worship on the heavenly, biblical model. An understanding of this scriptural example elicited reverence and solemnity from the worshippers who recognized the awesomeness, holiness and purity of the One they came to worship. To be sure, all cultures have positive and negative aspects. These are reflected in many areas of the cultural heritage, including the music (of course the assumption that music is neutral, then this manifestation of cultural expression is an exception to the rule). Many cultures have strongly pagan roots, filled with superstition, strange religious rites and worship ceremonies - in which certain approaches to music and the atmosphere it created, was an essential element. Even European culture, until it largely accepted Christianity, had these same religious components. Many of these pagan worship aspects spilled over into the general culture of the people or nation - remnants of these can still be found. For example, when Paul went to preach the gospel to the Greeks, they were a pagan culture. Many of the objectionable aspects of their culture were surrendered and replaced by the positive, purer aspects of the culture of Christ. Things that were put aside included many aspects of pagan worship tradition that threatened to spill over into the early Christian church. Paul had much to say about this and the unique service he gave in this respect are recorded in Scripture.

It is clear that the musical styles of worship that were practiced in secular, traditional Greek culture were not brought into the church when the converted became part of the Christian culture. The historical records show that the early Christian church opposed anything that resembled the Hellenistic culture entering into their worship, to the degree that they only practiced vocal (acappella) forms of music in worship and excluded any instruments or activities, such as dancing, that reflected the aesthetics of secular, pagan culture. True converts gladly conformed to the changes as they recognized the difference that should be reflected in their new adopted Christian culture.

No doubt, aspects of their culture that were not in conflict with the culture of Christ, were retained and, even in the music, one could no doubt hear the elements of the culture and harmonic expressions coming through. But, as far as the tone and atmospheric elements were concerned - which reflected an understanding of God and who He is, and that demonstrated respect, awe and reverence - became a reflection of the Christian culture. These following statements by Ellen White may be worth considering in light of the present worship climate we find ourselves in:

"Everything connected with it [the church] should suggest as perfect a preparation as possible. Every service of the church should be uplifting. They should not be made common or cheap, or placed on a level with common things... Our churches need to be educated to a higher order of reverence and respect for the sacred service of God." Manuscript 76, 1900.

"From the sacredness which was attached to the earthly sanctuary, Christians may learn how they should regard the place where the Lord's work is done. There has been a great change, not for the better, but for the worse, in the habits and customs of the people in reference to religious worship. The precious, the sacred things which connect us with God are fast losing their hold upon our minds and hearts and are being brought down to the level of the common things. The reverence which the people had actively for the sanctuary, where they met with God in sacred service, has largely passed away. Nevertheless, God Himself gave the order of His service, exalting it high above everything of a temporal nature." Child Guidance, p. 540

Strictly speaking, the quality of true Christian worship, has always, in its cultural setting, reflected the timeless qualities of the transcendent culture of Christ - that is, above everything of a temporal or earthly nature. Right from the very beginning it has always been God's purpose to bring people as close to the heavenly standard as possible. Conforming to the dictates of our culture, our passions/emotions, our traditions and national customs, never leads us closer to the heavenly standard, for there is no national, local or cultural generation on earth that reflects God's plan for man - they are all influenced by the dictates of fallen humanity - this is simply the nature of things in our present world. If we allow the present generational cultures to set the tone and standard for our worship, then we will open ourselves to a flood of influences that will lead us away from the Biblical standard.

Since the beginning of time. They only appear to be different because they are packaged in the high-tech wrapping of 21st century technology and media hype. As Solomon so rightly said, "there is nothing new under the sun." It is a dangerous assumption to suppose that by tailoring our worship to suit the secularized mind-set and local customs of the age we will have greater success in converting them to Christ, or that by doing the same, we will be able to keep our young people happy in the church. All we are doing is allowing an outside, worldly cultural bent, to determine the parameters of our religious experience, instead of looking to the true source for our religious standards - God. Ellen White had some interesting words to say regarding the desire of many to blend the culture or customs of the world into their efforts, in order to have more success in winning converts.

"A great work is before us,—to lead men to God's word as the rule of their lives, to make no compromise with tradition and custom, but to walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord." Review and Herald, July 17, 1888.

"The work might be much further advanced in Europe if some of those who have embraced the truth were not so wedded to the ethics and customs of their own nationalities. They plead that the efforts of our ministers must be made to conform to these customs and prejudices, or nothing will be accomplished. This has had a binding influence upon the work from its commencement. Is not the truth one? Are not the teachings of the Bible one? Let God give His messengers the word to speak, and His blessing will not fail to attend their labors." RH Dec. 8, 1885.

"Many urge that by uniting with worldlings and conforming to their customs they might exert a stronger influence over the ungodly. But all who pursue this course thereby separate from the Source of their strength. Becoming the friends of the world, they are the enemies of God." Patriarchs & Prophets p. 607

"What was the origin of the great apostasy? How did the church first depart from the simplicity of the gospel? By conforming to the practices of paganism, to facilitate the acceptance of Christianity by the heathen." Great Controversy, p. 384

"Conformity to the world will never be the means of converting the world to Christ." Review and Herald. Aug. 1892

It would be wrong to suggest that our worship should not at all reflect the development of music in our modern age. We reflect these elements in every generation that would be controlled by the overriding desire to satisfy self - their passions become the standard to control their lives. They speak of being culturally relevant, but if there would be anything in any culture, be it ancient or 'modern,' that would not satisfy their desires, they would reject it just as readily as they reject anything else that does not suit their fallen taste. In fact, all these cultural elements that today, supposedly, reflect a new modern mind-set, are not new or modern at all. They have been found in all apostate cultures.

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aspect of our lives - how we dress, our modes of transport, our communication, architecture and development of new sounds and tones in musical instruments and compositional approaches. The challenge we face regarding music and worship does not have so much to do with trying to bring us back to a 19th Century form of existence (as some may suggest), but, rather, within the context of modern times, to still reflect the essential elements of reverence, awe respect and holiness in the expressions of worship that we bring to God. When we become so fixated on fitting into every cultural bent of the age, in order to be relevant and have success, we lose the simplicity, purity and motive for true worship.

Many of the problems we experience in worship have to do with our desire to please ourselves, rather than pleasing God - the object and a sad fact, but nonetheless true, that we are often more what we can get out of worship (how we can satisfy our emotional demands), rather than considering what God desires bring Him. In other words, the whole concept of worship in become motivated by selfishness instead of being motivated the one we have come to worship - after all, this is what the worship is about. True worship is a totally selfless act of thanks to the One you view as being the center of your life, sustainer of all of creation. To have self-satisfaction as a such an act of adoration is to make blasphemy and mockery of the whole concept of worship.

It is for this reason that we need to come to the not man - with his culture, his human traditions and customs - God is to be worshiped but, it is God who sets the parameters for worship - after all, He is God, and it is God who should best about what the proper approach to worship should be. Once we come to this realization and stop looking to the world to be the trendsetter in our music and worship, then we will experience much deeper and far more satisfying worship than we presently are trying to fabricate. This is not the time to subject the culture of Christ to the culture of the world, rather, it is time to let the culture of Christ determine how we live and relate to the temporal culture of our sinful times.

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, Ireland, 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.

Abundant Blessings continued

Regularly on Wednesday evenings, Denis Lane, Richard Watson, and others come to Amazing Discoveries to lend a hand with similar work. preparation of meals, and even doing of Tabea, Wendy's

UPCOMING Events

BRIAN NEUMANN
2004 TOUR
January/February
Swcellandam, SA
March 1-14
Australia
April 8-13, 2004
Barbados
April 14-20, 2004
Tri City, N. Carolina
April 21-28, 2004
Lakeport, CA
April 29-May 4, 2004
Hollister, CA
May 5-11, 2004
Bismark, N. Dakota
May 12-18, 2004
Las Vegas, NV
June/July
S. Africa

WALTER VEITH
2004 CAMPAIGNS
January 31 - Feb 14
Nurnberg, Germany
March 1-10
Holland
March 11-31
Pretoria, S.Africa
April 18-22
Vancouver, BC
April 23-25
Chehalis, WA
April 30 - May 25
Baton Rouge, LS
June 11-July 26
S. Africa
Aug 1 - Sept 12
Norway
Sept 17 - Nov 16
S. Africa

VICTOR GILL
2004 CAMPAIGNS
March - May 25/April
Lethbridge, Newfoundland
May 27-29
Roaface, OR
June/July
Ukraine
September/October
Bridgewater, NS
November
India

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An Unchangeable God
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glorious in His holiness; His deity cannot cease to be. God can never change from faithfulness to unfaithfulness, from omnipotence, to impotence, from holiness to unholliness, from righteousness to unrighteousness, all things happen according to His unchangeable plans. Hebrews 6:17-18: “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise, the immutability of his council, confirmed it by an oath. That by two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation who have fled for refuge to lay hold unto the hope set before us.” God’s immutability is the same as His blessedness. No council can change God’s plan, God’s providence is like a clock. Psalms 33:11 verifies, “The council of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations.” Proverbs 21:30 again confirms, “There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord.” The purposes of God are always executed, no angels or men have power to frustrate them. Proverbs 19:21: “There are many devices in man’s heart, nevertheless the council of the Lord, that shall stand.” These purposes are unchangeable. Romans 11:29: “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” They are irrevocable. Number 23:19: “God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should repent.” It is man who is unstable as water, but God remains the same. What He promises, He will perform. Psalms 119:89: “Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” His word is irrevocable. Isaiah 31:2: “Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil and will not call back his words.” Psalms 102:27: “But thou art the same and thy years shall have no end.”

Our prayers could never change God’s mind. They do change us though and cause us to do His will. Obedience rests on us as on the martyrs of old. God never changes His righteousness. Our God is omniscient, He is self-existent, He is everywhere, He is omnipotent. He is also angry with the wicked every day. Psalms 7:11: “God judges the righteous and God is angry with the wicked every day.” His immutability suggests His claim on His people and it brings comfort to the human heart. It encourages us to pray to the Father of lights. Since He heard and answered prayers in the past, we can be sure that He will answer them today. In this ever so fast, unsafe, unstable world, it is a blessed treasure to trust in our all-wise, unchangeable Lord. Isaiah 54:10: “For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed saith the Lord that has mercy on thee.”

Maritime Revival Series
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Revival meetings were held. We praise the Lord for this and also look forward to some baptisms in the near future.

As a result of the meetings held, Pastor Gill has been asked to return in September of 2004 to hold evangelistic series in one of the churches, and other churches are working towards this in the future.