

# Old Paths

Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant. Psalm 25:14

Vol. 8, No. 8

Straight and Narrow

August 1999

## Righteousness

by A. T. Jones

*(The following is a combination of two presentations by Elder A. T. Jones made at the 1889 Topeka, Kansas camp meeting as found in the Topeka Daily Capital. . . . . Editor)*

Matt. 6:33—"Seek ye first . . . his righteousness," is the subject today. We notice first whose righteousness we are to seek. It is God's. We must seek and find it or we will not be saved. Nothing else will avail. We must know, however, where to seek for it and how, because we often seek for it in the wrong place; for instance, as many do, in the law of God, and through keeping it. We will never find it there. That is not the place to seek for it. This is not saying that the righteousness of God is not there. The commandments are the righteousness of God, but we will never find it there.

In Rom. 2:17, 18, we see that the law is clearly pointed out, through which, if we are instructed, we are called of God. Then they, being the will of God, it would be impossible for the Lord himself to be better than the ten commandments require us to be. The Lord's will must be the expression of what he is himself; hence it is impossible he should be better than his law. To keep his commandments, then, means that we shall be as good as God is, so we read in 1 John 3:7: "He that doeth righteousness, is righteous even as he is righteous." Now see Psalms 119:138, Deuteronomy 6:35, Isaiah 59:7—the people who do the law of God are righteous, even as God is righteous, then to keep them means that man must be like God in character. Then the righteousness of God is in his law, but it is not revealed to men by the law. Romans 1:16-17, the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel to men, and not in the law. It is in the law, but it is not re-

vealed there to us because we are sinners, and sin has so darkened our mind that we can not see it there, and therefore our vision has to be enlightened by some other means, which is the gospel, where we must seek for it, Romans 3:21.

The righteousness of God is made known without the law. How? By faith in Jesus Christ, through the gospel, and not by the law. Now read again Romans 1:16,17, and this will be clear. To show this further, Romans 10:4. "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth." Does not this say the same as the others? We have lost often the real point in this text to use it against those who claim the commandments are abolished, who claim Christ ended the law, and we claiming it means "the purpose of" the law, but the point in this text is that Christ is the purpose of the law "for righteousness" to us, as we can not get it by the law, Romans 8:3.

The law was ordained to life, righteousness, holiness, justification, but because of sin it cannot be this to us, so what it cannot do Christ does for us. Then, if we

### Also in this issue:

Satan's Deadliest Lie - David Clayton . . . . .	p. 5
Ouch - Allen Stump . . . . .	p. 7
\$1,000 Reward - Editors . . . . .	p. 11
Youth's Corner . . . . .	p. 12
Camp Meeting - Allen Stump. . . . .	p. 14
Bible Conference - Allen Stump . . . . .	p. 15
Publication Notice . . . . .	p. 16

seek it in the wrong place we lose the righteousness of Christ. Now, righteousness must come from the same source as does life; they are inseparable. Romans 8:3. Moses uses the terms here interchangeably, so also Gal. 3:21 showing that righteousness must come to us from the same source as life, and that is Christ. Romans 6:23: this we have always preached, but he said before this the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life, and so we have always claimed eternal life to be a gift, but we have not claimed the same for righteousness as being a gift through Jesus Christ. Why was it necessary that something was given to have life? Because the wages of sin was death. If a law could give life, it would be by the law. If the law was a secondary form and God could have made another, and better, it would not suffice because if men could not keep an inferior law they could not keep a superior, consequently no law could give life. Therefore Christ came to be the purpose of the law to everyone that believeth. Now we want to see what righteousness there is in the law for us, and we will become convinced it is our own, which is the very best we can ever get out of the law. If I take the highest and most comprehensive view of the law I can, and live up to it, is that a satisfying of the law? No, because it is not a high enough view of it, because the mind is all darkened by sin, and man's comprehension is not broad enough to grasp the height and breadth of it, and so does not meet the requirements of the law. It is our own righteousness then, and not God's we see in the law and we see ourselves (the extent of our vision) and not the face of God.

Often we think we do right and afterwards see it was not so. If it was God's righteousness at that time, God would be imperfect. It is only in Christ that we can ever see the righteousness of God. But God is the gospel and the gospel is Christ, and so by the law can no man be accounted righteous. We must then have something more than the law to enable us to understand God's righteousness and to comprehend the law. That something "is Christ Jesus in whom is the fullness of the Godhead bodily." I read now Romans 10:13; here we have a people seeking earnestly for righteousness. Where? Their own. Did they find it? No. Romans 9:31-32, being ignorant of Christ's righteousness. They would not believe Christ or Paul, but sought it by the works of the law. Now read verse 30; the Gentiles found it having faith, and not being satisfied with their own righteousness, as did the Pharisees who trusted in themselves that they were righteous. This, too, is where the law will bring us if we try to obtain righteousness through it, but when having faith in

Christ, a man sees his sins and longs for the righteousness of God, knowing that it is the goodness, purity and righteousness of Christ that makes him so, he will become righteous.

Philippians 3:4-9: here was a Pharisee who lived up to the broadest view of the law of God he could obtain and was blameless, yet he gave it all up for Christ. Galatians 2:2; if "righteousness come by the law then Christ is dead in vain," our own righteousness is all then we can get out of the law, and that the righteousness of God can come only by Jesus Christ. What is our own righteousness? Isaiah 64:5. Our righteousness is as filthy rags. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. What is sin? When Israel came out of Egypt, they knew not God, remembering only that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had a God, but knew nothing more. To make them understand their condition and what sin was he took one of their own words and applied it to his purpose. He took a word meaning "missed its mark" and used it to express sin.

Now we have all sinned and come short—that is what Paul means—we have "missed the mark." Then the more righteousness of the law a man has the worse he is off—the more ragged is he. Now turn to Zech. 3:1-8. Mrs. White declares this chapter to be a prophecy of this present time. Here we have Joshua standing clothed in his own righteousness and Christ takes it off and clothes him with the righteousness of God. Now Joshua had been doing the best he could, but would he have been saved? No. How often we hear people say "I do the best I can," and believe they will be saved. Joshua was reclothed and was to stand with the angels. If then our righteousness is all taken away and Christ clothes us with God's righteousness, then to walk in his law, we will stand with the angels. So then read Isa. 54:17, first part. Christ, in all his references in the New Testament, repeats only what God had already spoken. Now Isa. 61:10, that is the song we are to sing, therefore righteousness is the gift of God as surely as is life, and if we try to get it in any other way we shall fail. In Rom. 5:12-18, we read that as sin came by one, the righteousness of one brought the free gift of life upon men. So also Rom. 3:21-26, it was to declare God's righteousness that Christ came. Now taking Rom. 5:13-17 we find here a free gift and notice particularly verse 17. Righteousness is the gift of life to everyone who believeth, and Jesus Christ will ever be the purpose of the law to everyone who believeth. It is Christ's obedience that avails and not ours that brings righteousness to us. Well then let us stop trying to do the will of God in our own strength. Stop it all. Put it away from you for ever. Let Christ's

obedience do it all for you and gain the strength to pull the bow so that you can hit the mark. Why did the Saviour come as an infant instead of a man? To die on the cross would have met the penalty. Because he lived a child and met all the temptations a child meets and never sinned—so that any child can stand in his place and resist in his strength; and he lived also as a youth, a man full grown, weaving for us a robe of righteousness to cover us (not to cover our filthy garments as that would be a mixture), takes the filthy garment away and puts his own in their place, so that all may have it if they will. Now if righteousness is the gift of God, and comes by the gospel, then what is the use of the law? There are several, but they may be used wrongfully. The law entered that the offense might abound, Rom. 3:19—the law speaks to sinners that all may become guilty before God to show people their guilt. Now verse 20, the law is to reveal sin to us, unrighteousness, not righteousness—Christ reveals the latter, the law the former. The law of God cannot allow a single sin in any degree whatever. If it did and condoned even a single thought that was not perfect it would sink a soul into perdition. The law is perfect. If it accepts imperfection the Lord must accept it and admit that he is imperfect, because the law is the representation of his character. In the fact that the law demands perfection lies the hope of all mankind, because if it could overlook a sin to a single degree, no one could ever be free from sin, as the law would never make that sin known and it could never be forgiven, by which alone man can be saved.

The day is coming when the law will have revealed the last sin and we will stand perfect before him and be saved with an eternal salvation. The perfection of the law of God is that it will show us all our sins, and then a perfect Saviour stands ready to take them all away. When God makes known all our sins it is not to condemn us, but to save us, so it is a token of his love for us, therefore, whenever a sin is made known to you, it is a token of God's love for you because the Saviour stands ready to take it away. That is why God has given us a Saviour and the gospel. He wants us all to believe in him, come to him and be saved. Read Matthew 5:6. Are there not many here who hunger and thirst for righteousness? Do you want to be filled? Look not then at the law, but the cross of Christ. Read Ephesians 3:14-19: rooted and grounded in faith through his love in our heart. Colossians 2:9-10, for

we will be complete in Christ. There is a completeness, joy, peace, goodness, righteousness forever.

The subject is how to obtain that righteousness of which we read yesterday, the righteousness of God which only will avail. Rom. 3:24, justified means accounted righteous. How? Freely. By what means? Grace. What is grace? Favor. Let us ever believe this text, holding fast to it forever. In regard to grace we read Romans 11:6, which means we are justified freely by his grace without works otherwise it is not grace. Another reference, Ephesians 2:8, 9, 5. Now turn to Romans 4:4 with Romans 11:4. You see then why if it be our works it is no more of grace. If we have to work to obtain grace, then we bring the Lord in debt to us, and if he does not pay he does us injustice. To pay is not a favor, it is paying a debt. We are accounted righteous freely by his grace and that not of works. I read now Romans 9:1-2. Abra-



A. T. Jones

ham was the father of all them that believe—the spiritual father. Can we expect to receive more than he did? If he was justified by works, he gloried in himself. Now put Romans 9:2 with 1 Corinthians 1:27-31. The Lord has arranged it that all should glorify him and not themselves because to glorify a sinner, a rebel, would not be proper for a government, allowing them to come back in harmony with it glorifying themselves. All the woes in the world came through Satan attempting to glorify himself. “I will be like the Most High.” To allow a sinner then to glorify himself would force pardon being extended to Satan also. Now, Christ is made unto us righteousness and sanctification, and we glory in Christ and not ourselves. If we believe on him our faith is counted to us for righteousness. But can the Lord justify the ungodly? Yes, Christ came to justify sinners, so read carefully this verse, Romans 4:5. The first thing then to learn is that we are ungodly and confess it, and God will count him righteous. The Lord cannot justify and save any who cannot see their true condition. There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine that need no repentance. The Saviour came not to call righteous but sinners to repentance, then none but sinners will be saved. Now Romans 4:16, “therefore it is of faith.” Why? That it might be by grace, “to the end that it may be sure.”

Faith is the easiest and most natural thing in the world. There is nothing wonderful about faith, as some think, and say “I try to believe and if I can't then

how can I.” But we can believe God with the same faculties we believe others. Don’t try to believe—quit it—and believe. We either believe or don’t believe—then why not believe? Believe as a child, don’t reason it out. Faith goes in advance of reason, knowledge and all else. At school the teacher pointed out a letter and told us “That is A,” and that is all the evidence we have of it. We believed it; now let us receive the kingdom of heaven as we did when a child the words of our teachers. If we reason on faith we can never believe, because to reason faith is unreasonable because the effort of reason always produces doubt. It begins and ends with a “how.” Because faith is the simplest and easiest thing for all, God put his salvation in the surest place, that we might have it and know that he has it. Now, Romans 5:6, 8, 10, Christ died for you because you are ungodly, and he died for the ungodly, and you can be counted righteous right now if you will believe it. Christ’s death reconciled the world unto God but it never saved any or ever can. His death met the penalty of the law, but we are saved by Christ’s life. Read Romans 4:25. By his death then we have reconciliation, by his life justification, and by the second coming we have salvation—all these being necessary to complete the plan of salvation.

The law of God shows a man to be ungodly—and as by the law is the knowledge of sin which is ungodliness (we will call it now sin). So turn to Prov. 28:13 (mercy being treating one better than he deserves). Remember, believe this fully; our habit has been to confess our sins and then doubt the forgiveness and carry them all away with us, obtaining no peace because we doubted. “God never appointed us to wrath.” 1 Thess. 5:9. He shows the laws to save us from them, the knowledge of them being a token of his love, that there is Jesus to take them all from us. He calls us to obtain salvation. So do not take the knowledge of your sins as a token of his wrath. “Whoso confesses his sins shall be saved.”—Rom. 4:6-7. Now 1 John 1:9, 5:17, “If we confess our sins he will forgive and cleanse us from all our sins.” Believe this fully and go free. How many go to the Saviour confessing and never believe they are forgiven? To believe part of the word and not all is infidelity. “Man shall live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord.” To confess a sin and not believe in its forgiveness is infidelity. Don’t wait for feeling—that has nothing to do with faith. How can anyone know how he ought to feel when sins are forgiven? If you trust to feeling you are like a wave of the sea tossed by the winds to and fro.

Often revivalists tell mourners how he felt when he was forgiven, and they try to feel as he did and fail, as no two can ever feel just alike and so no one can tell if they are converted. Faith does not rest on evidence. If it rests on the reasonableness of a thing, it rests on reason and not faith. If it rests on the confidence we have in the person, and that person contradicts himself, then where is faith? If one says, I will do some great thing, and I believe him; if he comes again and says something that uproots all he previously said, what am I to do? Now let me prove this: Abraham was justified by faith and it was counted to him for righteousness. Read the account of it, Gen. 15:5 and onward. Sometime after that Isaac was born and growing up Abraham was told to offer him up, directly against the promise. Where did his faith come in? By believing the promise independent of appearances. That was faith furnishing its own evidence. Abraham believed it until all came right because God had promised it would. Now turn to Romans 4:16-22; Abraham against hope believed in hope, his faith furnishing the hope, confidence and evidence.

Never let our feelings, then, have any control over our faith. Feelings belong to Satan. Relegate them to him. “The just shall live by faith.” Brethren, let us live that way. When we believe it puts Christ in place of the sin and when Satan comes to attack us he finds only Christ, and then we have the victory over Satan, not delivering us from temptation, but giving us power to conquer temptation, and gaining the victory so that particular temptation never comes again. We are conquerors there forever.

If you want feeling about this, praise the Lord because he ever pardons your sin and because you believe his promise, and there will be feeling enough within you to be satisfactory. Look for God, and he will put a song in your mouth. Now, do you believe my opening text, that we are justified freely. Often we sin and feel so ashamed and bad over it we wait a few days to get a little better before we go to the Lord for forgiveness. We try to make ourselves good first. There is a tendency in every soul to this. That is justification by works the same as fasting or punishing oneself first. This is the root of monkery and all the penances in the Catholic church. Then, if we do not want to be papists, let us quit. We have done no better, but the sin has lost the horror before us, and we are better in our own eyes, and then confess only our surface sin, so the Holy Spirit shows us again the sin that was covered up. Now the only way to get rid of it is to

**Continued on page 11.**

# Satan's Deadliest Lie

God's enemy and our enemy, the devil, has been trying to rob us of one of the greatest blessings which we can experience in this life. Our God and heavenly Father has given us blessings which are so wonderful that we can hardly find the words to explain them.

The first great blessing is that our Father loves us so much that He gave His Son to die for our sins. It was His own Son that He gave; His only begotten Son. One who was begotten from the very substance of the Father Himself. The Father and His Son were together for myriads and myriads of years. They were very close to one another, and the Father loved the Son with a very great love (See Proverbs 8:22-31). Yet, God loved fallen humanity so much that instead of condemning humanity to the everlasting death they deserved, He made a covenant with His only begotten Son, the Son of His bosom, the One whom He loved from the days of eternity, to die for us (Romans 8:32). This truly did happen. It was for us that the God of heaven gave His true Son to die.

The second great blessing which the Father has given us, is that He Himself, and His Son, Jesus, have come to live with us. Please think about what I just said. God HIMSELF, the almighty One lives in everyone who is a genuine Christian!! I do not mean that His angels are with us (although they are). I do not mean that His power is with us (although it is). What I mean is that He Himself, the great God, and His Son, live with us, and in us, if we are His. Do you ask HOW this is possible? I do not know how. I know that God does not live in us in His bodily form, but nevertheless, His presence is here. His power, His life, He

Himself is here, even though I cannot see Him. This is what He promises in His word:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:23—See also 1 Corinthians 6:17,19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Acts 17:27, 28.)

Can you see how great these two blessings are which God has given to us?

- He has given His own, only begotten Son to die for us so that we can be saved from the penalty of everlasting death. How wonderful it is that such a person could love us so much. Surely we ought to love and serve Him in return!
- He Himself and His blessed Son will live with us if we choose to give our lives to Him. He will be our best Friend, our close, constant Companion. We can be the friends of the Almighty God. He Himself, personally, will be with us always and forever.

There is no greater blessing in all of Christian experience. I myself have found out that fellowship with God and His Son is the highest joy that I can have in this life. Can you imagine? God, the Almighty One, is my personal Friend!! When I talk with Him, I know He is in charge of my life. I forget my problems because I know that He takes care of them all.

This is what eternal life means. To know and to have personal fellowship with God (who is the Father) and with His Son, Jesus Christ. This is what Jesus Himself said:

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

## The Teaching of Antichrist

Therefore, any false teaching which takes these blessings from me must be one of Satan's most dangerous false doctrines. Yet there is a very popular teaching among Christian churches which destroys these two great blessings. This false teaching says that:

- Jesus was not really the true, begotten Son of God.
- The true Son of God did not really die.
- Jesus and His Father, our God, are not personally present with us, but have sent another person instead.

You can see that this is a very deadly false doctrine. Yet most Christians have accepted this teaching. Maybe even you have accepted this teaching. This doctrine says that Jesus was not truly begotten of the Father in eternity past. It teaches that Christ and God are the same age, that they are equal in power and authority. I ask you, how then could Jesus be the Son of God? Can a son be the same age as his father? This doctrine denies that Jesus is, and always was, the Son of God. The Bible says of this doctrine:

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? **He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.**" (1 John 2:22)

By now you may have realized that I am talking about the doctrine of the *Trinity*. This is the false doctrine which denies that Jesus is the true, begotten Son of God. According to this teaching, Jesus was not really the Son of God, but was actu-

ally one of three Beings who are all God. This doctrine teaches that He was only the Son of God by name, but not in the sense that He was begotten from God. If this were true, then Jesus could not really have died on the cross, because God cannot die, and according to this teaching, Jesus was God Himself!! They say that only the body died, but the spirit was still alive and safe with the Father. If this were true, then what did God suffer when Jesus died? Did only a human body die on Calvary. Could a human body pay for the sins of the world?

As long as you believe this doctrine, you will never be able to realize what God has done for you when He gave His only begotten Son to die for your sins. You will never understand how much He loves you. How can we love and serve Him properly if we don't appreciate how much He loves us?

The second deadly danger of the trinity doctrine is that it pushes God and Jesus far away from us. Jesus has made the following promises:

- *... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)*
- *... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Matthew 28:20)*
- *... If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (John 14:23)*
- *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. (John 14:18)*
- *Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you.... (John 14:28)*
- *... truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)*

He promises that He and His Father PERSONALLY will be with

us. But according to the doctrine of the Trinity, it is not Jesus Himself and the Father Himself who are with us, but it is another person called *The Holy Spirit*. This is the second false teaching of the trinity doctrine.

## *Who Is The Holy Spirit?*

The truth is that there are only two Beings in the godhead, not three. The two beings are God, the Father, and Jesus Christ, His Son. (Please see 1 Corinthians. 8:6; 1 John 1:3; Revelation 5:13; 7:10; etc.) It is true that there is a Holy Spirit, but the question is, "Who, or what is the Holy Spirit?" The Holy Spirit is not a third person, separate from God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit is actually the *spiritual presence* of the Father and the Son, but not in their bodily form.

The Bible teaches that there is only ONE **Lord** (Ephesians 4:5).

The Bible teaches that there is only ONE **Spirit** (Ephesians 4:4).

Who is the one Lord and the one Spirit? Here is the answer from 2 Corinthians 3:17.

**"Now the [one] Lord is that [one] Spirit:** and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Look at how the same truth is brought out in the following texts:

- "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also At that day ye shall know that **I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.**" (John 14:19, 20)
- "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one." (John 17:23)

Do you see? It is the Father in Jesus, and Jesus in us. They are with us in spirit form, not in bodily form.

This is why the presence of them with us is called the Holy Spirit.

Satan wants to take two precious things from you. One is the knowledge of the love of God and His Son. That love which was so wonderfully demonstrated when God gave His Son to die for men (1 John 4:9). The other is the knowledge of the indwelling presence of God and His Son. Without these, what are we left with? Nothing. We are orphans, lost people seeking to find a way to be saved; trying to face life, but helpless and lost.

Thank God for the gospel of His Son! Thank God for a full and perfect salvation. What a joy to know that I have been redeemed, not with gold or silver, but by the precious life-blood of the only begotten Son of the great God of the universe. I am somebody. I am worth something. How wonderful to know that my friends and constant companions are this same God and His Son! This gives me courage and confidence. This makes me know that I am safe, even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. This makes me know that there is nothing too hard for me to face. God lives with me and in me. I have an abiding Friend who will never let me down.

My dear friend, I invite you now, to abandon this false doctrine of the trinity. Accept the truth about God and His Son. Give your life to them forever and determine that from now on you will serve them and walk with them until the day when we shall meet them face to face.

*David Clayton*

*(Brother David Clayton writes from his home in Jamaica. You may write to David at P. O. Box 23, Knockpatrick, Manchester, Jamaica, W. I. David's e-mail address is: david000@cwjamaica.com.)*

# Ouch!

It is commonly said that if you throw a stone down a dark alley and hear an “ouch” you know you hit someone. Recently we have been hearing “ouch” a lot. Many critics are trying to minimize the results of preaching and publishing the message of the gospel that God the Father is the “only true God” and Jesus Christ is his “only begotten Son.” But the reality is that there are many screams being heard not only from the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church but from several independent ministries as well. As our featured article noted last month, the *Adventist Review* published an article attempting to promote the Trinity doctrine. This article has been preceded and followed by published materials coming from several different sources, some outside the corporate church (Steps to Life, Pilgrim’s Rest, etc.) and some connected to the corporate church (Amazing Facts).

It is impractical to respond to all of the current materials being published in the reputable newsletters and tabloids being distributed as was done with the *Review* article last month. However, we would like to look at some basic areas of thought that in principle will help to answer many of the objections raised.

All of these publications are endeavoring to promote the Trinity doctrine or a form of tritheism. Most are based on one of at least three wrong premises and use limited research and traditional lines of interpretation instead of letting the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy explain themselves with sufficient references to make matters clear.

Let us first look at the three assumptions and then we will discuss research and interpretation.

## Basic Assumptions

Three basic *assumptions* that are often voiced or implied are:

- First: The true historic Adventist position downgrades Jesus by teaching that He is a *created* being.
- Second: The true historic Adventist position denies that the Holy Spirit exists.
- Third: Those teaching the truth about God base their beliefs on non-inspired men.

**Assumption (1)** - The truth about God does not downgrade Jesus Christ, but rather exalts Him! One magazine stated, “If Jesus was merely a created superbeing, then His death for man’s redemption is no better than an angel dying for us.” (*Amazing Facts In-*

*side Report*, May 1999, p. 7) While we agree with this statement, it shows that there is a great misunderstanding concerning what is being taught and what is not being taught. Another publication stated that we are teaching that Christ “is a finite being—a created being who is only a little above the angels.” (Tract from Pilgrim’s Rest, “The Divinity of Christ.”)

Nothing could be further from the truth. I challenge the editor of this, and any other ministry, to search our writings or those we fellowship with and find a statement that positively echoes that thought. It cannot be done! (See article, “\$1,000 Reward,” page 11.)

Let me repeat our often stated, but so often misquoted position: Jesus Christ is not a created Being, but rather the “begotten Son of God.” Anyone who has a problem with this must have difficulty with John 3:16. As Ellen White also clearly stated, Jesus is:

“... not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father’s person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (*Signs of the Times*, May 30, 1895)

Sometimes the charge is brought forth that the Adventist pioneers, especially Uriah Smith, believed that Christ was a created being. While it was true that Smith, at one time, had beliefs that expressed such a concept, notice this mature, clear statement from his pen:

“Moreover, he [Jesus] is ‘the beginning of the creation of God.’ *Some attempt by this language to uphold the error that Christ was a created being*, dating his existence anterior to that of any other created being or thing, next to the self-existent and eternal God. But the language does not necessarily imply that he was created; for the words, ‘the beginning of the creation,’ may simply signify that the work of creation, strictly speaking, was begun by him. ‘Without him was not anything made.’ Others, however, and more properly we think, take the word to mean the ‘agent’ or ‘efficient cause,’ which is one of the definitions of the word, understanding that Christ, is the agent through whom God has created all things, but that the Son came into existence in a different manner, as he is called ‘the only begotten’ of the Father.” (*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 400, 1897 edition-emphasis supplied.)

**Assumption (2)** - The second assumption is that we do not believe in the Holy Spirit. We boldly declare that the Bible does not teach that the Holy Spirit is a separate being like, but apart from, the Father and the Son. Yet we also boldly declare that the personality of

God's spirit is clearly taught in the Scriptures. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 3:17 plainly declares, "The Lord is that Spirit." Jesus told His disciples on the night before his death, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18)

There is a great emphasis given by "historic Adventists" on Christ accepting the fallen nature of man in the incarnation. One of the great issues is declared to be the need for Him to be able to understand first-hand all of our needs. Paul is quoted in Hebrews 2:17: "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." This is an important point that is correct and must not be overlooked. The paradox of those who accept the Holy Spirit as a separate, co-equal, co-eternal being like God and Christ is that instead of the man Christ Jesus who comforts and aids them in their struggle with sin, God sends another who has never personally experienced fallen human flesh to comfort and help them!

**Assumption (3)** - We are accused of believing doctrines merely because they were the beliefs of a certain group of men. We boldly reject this claim also! ***The Bible and the Bible alone is to be our guide.*** This was the theme of the early Adventists and while we have republished their writings, it has not been for any *authority* they possess. We never quote any early Adventist as authoritative. The reason for publishing their writings is as follows:

- These men were students of the Scriptures and in the study of their research we find strong Biblical arguments for the truth.
- Ellen White stated that we should reprint their writings because of their strong Biblical arguments. (See *Manuscript Release*, vol. 1, p. 55–Ms 62, 1905, p. 6.)
- To document the teachings of the Adventist pioneers since Ellen White declared that God had given them the truth. (See *The Foundation of Our Faith*, chapter 1.)

## Honesty and Research

A tract currently being circulated by Pilgrim's Rest entitled "The Divinity of Christ" summarizes a statement from the church historian Newman discussing Arius, a Christian leader of Alexandria about 310 A.D. The tract notes, "Christ was created out of nothing before anything else was created. Therefore He was a finite being, since He did not earlier exist. Through Him, God created everything. But, although

not God, He could be worshiped since He was such a high-ranking angel. (*Summarized from The Manual of Church History, Vol. 1 327, by Albert Henry Newman.*)"

The tract writer then says, "Well, that is exactly what the traveling Adventist are preaching!" As the facts reveal, this is neither "exactly" nor near what is being preached. We may talk all we wish about exalting Jesus, but when we stoop to falsehood and deceit we defraud Christ, not exalt Him! For the record, the teachings of Arius are not clearly understood as his original works were destroyed by the Papacy. Not all researchers agree on what Arius believed, but even *if* the summary of Newman is correct, it is nothing like what is being taught today by this ministry or those associated with it.

The writer from Pilgrim's Rest lists quotations from spiritualists claiming they are the same teachings as the teachings of men such as Bill Stringfellow, Edward Edstrom, and others. However, the only thing that the writings of the spiritualists somewhat resemble are the false assumptions made by the writer from Pilgrim's Rest. Notice this statement made by the late Marty Wold, quoted by Pilgrim's Rest and described as "devastating." "My purpose has been...to establish the Bible truth of One God, the Father." (ellipsis supplied by Pilgrim's Rest) It is very easy to compare this with the Bible to see if it is teaching truth or not. Paul, writing in 1 Corinthians 8:6 says, "But to us there is but ***one God, the Father***, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

Now friends, was Brother Wold teaching Bible truth? Of course it is easy to see that Wold's statement, not even quoted in context, perfectly agrees with the Bible. In fact, the part in question is an ***exact quotation from the Bible***. However, if you deny the inspiration of Paul and wish to claim he was a spiritualist, you may consider this statement "devastating!"

There are other incorrect statements used in the tract in question that could be discussed, but I will deal with only two Bible texts mentioned to illustrate the extent that manipulation is practiced. Notice the following quotation from Scripture used at least twice in the tract:

"Jesus Christ ... who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality.—1 Timothy 6:14-16."

The ellipsis leaves out important portions of Scripture. The actual text, in context, reads:



That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:14-16)

When read in context and in connection with other Scriptures it is clear that Christ will show the Father to be the “only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see.” The Bible says that “no man hath seen” this Being spoken of here, but Christ was seen of many. (See also John 1:18 and 1 Timothy 1:17)

Another text in the Pilgrim’s Rest tract that is referenced without quoting is John 5:26. The following point is made concerning it: “He [Jesus] has life in Himself.” This is true and undeniable! But, in the tract it does not quote the whole verse to get the context. The actual verse says: “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath *he given to the Son* to have life in himself.” (John 5:26) Notice that it says that the Son has this life because the Father hath “given” it to Him!

Fearful should be the warning God has given in Revelation which in principle applies to all Scripture:

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

God says that “there shall in no wise enter into it [The New Jerusalem] any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” (Revelation 21:27)

At this time, an important point must be made concerning the exaltation of Christ and His divinity. It was because the early Adventist pioneers accepted Christ’s divinity that they could appreciate the atonement. They clearly understood that had Christ been in any manner less than divine, then an atonement between God and man was impossible. E. J. Waggoner, of 1888 fame wrote,

Indeed, the fact that Christ is a part of the Godhead, possessing all the attributes of Divinity, being the equal

of the Father in all respects, as Creator and Lawgiver, is the only force there is in the atonement. It is this alone which makes redemption a possibility. *Christ died “that he might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18), but if He lacked one iota of being equal to God, He could not bring us to Him. Divinity means having the attributes of Deity. If Christ were not Divine, then we should have only a human sacrifice.* It matters not, even if it be granted that Christ was the highest created intelligence in the universe; in that case He would be a subject, owing allegiance to the law, without ability to do any more than His own duty. He could have no righteousness to impart to others. There is an infinite distance between the highest angel ever created and God; therefore, the highest angel could not lift fallen man up and make him partaker of the Divine nature. Angels can minister; God only can redeem. Thanks be to God that we are saved “through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” in whom dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and who is, therefore, able to save to the uttermost them that come unto God by Him. (*Christ and His Righteousness*, pp. 43, 44—emphasis supplied.)

From an early *Review and Herald* we read the following plain testimony in an article entitled, “Christ our Passover,”

“FOR even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.” 1Cor.v,7. What was the dignity of the sacrifice that was offered for our race? Was it human or divine? Says the Scripture, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Jon.iii,16. Again: “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son.” &c. Gal.iv,4. “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many.” Heb.ix,28. We need not quote more testimony to show that it was no less a being than the Son of God who gave himself to reconcile man to his Father, and bring back a revolted province into allegiance to its Maker.

Did Christ exist before his mission to this earth? He did. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jon.i,1. “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” Id.viii,58. And he speaks of the glory which he had with the Father before the world was. Id.xvii,5. (*Review and Herald*, October 13, 1859)

Many theologians really think that the Atonement, in respect to its dignity and efficacy, rests upon the doctrine of a trinity. But we fail to see any connection between the two. To the contrary, the advocates of that doctrine really fall into the difficulty which they seem anxious to avoid. Their difficulty consists in this: They take the denial of a trinity to be equivalent to a denial of the divinity of Christ. Were that the case, we should

cling to the doctrine of a trinity as tenaciously as any can; but it is not the case. They who have read our remarks on the death of the Son of God know that we firmly believe in the divinity of Christ; but we cannot accept the idea of a trinity, as it is held by Trinitarians, without giving up our claim on the dignity of the sacrifice made for our redemption. (J. H. Waggoner - *The Atonement*, pp. 165, 166)

Clearly an unbiased investigation of our published works or spoken statements will show that they are in agreement with the Adventist pioneers on the belief that Christ is the divine Son of the Father.

## Questions and Answers

The July 1999 issue of *Landmarks* magazine published a series of questions on the Godhead and used only Ellen White quotations to answer the questions. While this source is informative and helpful, why not use the Bible for our answers since it must be “the Bible and the Bible alone” that even Ellen White states we must base our faith upon? (See *The Review and Herald*, December 15, 1885.) Let us also state that the question and answer method is a good tool when used properly. Yet even the Bible can be used in an improper manner to teach falsehood when statements are taken out of context or the weight of evidence is ignored. Let us notice what can be done with the nature of man and the teaching about hell.

**Question:** Do Christians go to heaven as soon as they die?

**Answer:** “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.” (Philippians 1:23)

**Question:** Is there more proof that the righteous go to heaven at death and that the wicked go to hell as soon as they die?

**Answer:** “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.” (Luke 16:22, 23)

**Question:** Is hell really for all eternity?

**Answer:** “And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” (Revelation 14:11) “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” (Mark 9:44)

**Question:** Will even the devil be in hell for ever and ever?

**Answer:** “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10)

All of these texts are true and can be trusted and believed. However, as used, they do not give a correct perception of the nature of man or hell. The same is done many times with the writings of Ellen White. How careful we should be to thoroughly research our material to make sure that it is Bible based, balanced and presented properly. It is beyond the scope or purpose of this article to respond to each question in the article. However, we do wish to draw attention to the care needed with reading compilations of any nature, regardless of the publisher, for they can easily twist the truth into a lie if not used properly.

## The Gospel will be Spread

The Bible says, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Even when challenges to the truth arise from all corners we are to give thanks for it will help to agitate and spread the truth to those whom would never hear otherwise. Due to the publications that we have mentioned and others, people are beginning to study the truth about God in a manner that they never have before. Many of these are encouraged to learn the truth and rejoicing in the gospel as never before. “For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.” (2 Corinthians 13:8)

Friends, the second coming of Christ is almost upon us. Today is the day of salvation. Soon the reign of sin is to be over and the universe will be complete. Notice what the Bible says will happen at that time:

“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.” (1 Corinthians 15:24-28) With John we say, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:20)

*Allen Stump*

# \$1,000 REWARD

If you were teaching a deadly error, would \$1,000 be too much to pay to have that error corrected? We at Smyrna don't think so. The book we publish compiled by Brother Beachy entitled, *What Did the Pioneers Believe?* has been accused of teaching a doctrine that we, with the accuser, believe is heresy. That heretical teaching is that Christ was a created being. Pilgrim's Rest has published a tract series entitled, "The Divinity of Christ." On page ten, part three of five, of that publication, the author writes:

One book I have here, published by them, is entitled *What Did the Pioneers Believe?* and uses only quotations from a few earlier Adventist church workers as proof that Christ is a created being and the Holy Spirit does not exist.

Seriously now: Having previously founded our faith and doctrines on the Word of God, must we now change foundations—and step onto a different platform? Do you and I dare base our beliefs on what uninspired men, in former decades, have written?

Along with the claim that the book teaches that Christ is a created being is the claim that the pioneers denied the existence of the Holy Spirit. While they did have a different concept of the Holy Spirit than taught by Pilgrim's Rest, they never denied the existence of the Holy Spirit. *What Did the Pioneers Believe?* uses quotations from more than twenty early Adventists to document their fearless stand against the Trinity doctrine. The studies in this book, while denying the Trinity, do not teach that Christ was a created being. In fact, one predominate section of *What Did the Pioneers believe?* taken from E. J. Waggoner's materials teaches the exact opposite! In his book, *Christ and His Righteousness*, Waggoner has a section entitled, "Is Christ a Created Being?" This complete section was published in the October 1998 issue of *Old Paths* and is found on page 33 of *What Did the Pioneers believe?*. That issue was sent to Pilgrim's Rest. It appears that they have not read it any better than the book *What Did the Pioneers Believe?*, which by their own account they possess.

**“A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.” (Proverbs 14:5)**

“Seriously now:” doesn't real Christianity promote honesty? Doesn't the Bible say that the 144,000 have “no guile” or deceit in their mouth? How can such a fabrication be made with clear conscience? The writer of the Pilgrim's Rest tract wrote twenty pages on the subject. Did he or she care to even look at the book's table of contents. I pity and pray for this writer who is either willingly promoting lies, or not careful about the accusations that are published. Neither is acceptable to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We at Smyrna are so sure that the book, *What Did the Pioneers Believe?* does not contain any statement declaring Christ to be “created” that we are willing to put forth the following challenge: The first person who can produce a quotation printed in the book *What Did the Pioneers Believe?* that claims Christ is a created being from a positive viewpoint will receive \$1,000. We qualify this because in the book in question, some of the authors bring up this subject as taught by others, and then it is refuted. We do not believe that Christ was created and we further do not believe that it is stated in a positive manner in *What Did the Pioneers Believe?*. However, if such a statement can be found, it will be well worth \$1,000 for us to be made aware of it so that it may be forever deleted! The same challenge, with the same guidelines, is given for the claim that the book teaches that there is no existence of the Holy Spirit. Beloved, let us not “change foundations—and step onto a different platform.” God did raise this movement in truth and the Spirit of Prophecy assures us that our early leaders studied the Bible carefully and received truth at the hand of God. (See *The Foundation of Our Faith*, chapter 1.) All letters can be sent in care of the editor. We will be waiting along with the Maytag repairman!

*Editors*

## Righteousness - continued from page 4

confess it at once, because the Lord shows us a sin just as it is, and right then, so that he can forgive it fully and completely. When we try to catch up our sin by doing better, we are putting on more and more of the filthy rags spoken of by Isaiah, which is our own righteousness. Let us read Revelation 3:11-18. Let us trust the Lord and believe his promises.

*A. J. Jones*

# Danger of Reading Fictitious and Infidel Books.

Every Christian, whether old or young, will be assailed by temptations; and our only safety is in carefully studying our duty, and then doing it at any cost to ourselves. Everything has been done for us to secure our salvation, and we must be not only willing but anxious to learn the will of God, and do all things to his glory. This is the Christian's life-work. He will not try to see how far he can venture in the path of indifference and unbelief, and yet be called a child of God; but he will study to see how closely he can imitate the life and character of Christ.

Young friends, a knowledge of the Bible will help you to resist temptation. If you have been in the habit of reading story books, will you consider whether it is right to spend your time with these books, which merely occupy your time and amuse you, but give you no mental or moral strength? If you are reading them, and find that they create a morbid craving for exciting novels, if they lead you to dislike the Bible, and cast it aside, if they involve you in darkness and backsliding from God,—if this is the influence they have over you, stop right where you are. Do not pursue this course of reading until your imagination is fired, and you become unfitted for the study of the Bible, and the practical duties of real life.

Cheap works of fiction do not profit. They impart no real knowledge; they inspire no great and good purpose; they kindle in the heart no earnest desires for purity; they excite no soul hunger for righteousness. On the contrary, they take time which should be given to

the practical duties of life and to the service of God,—time which should be devoted to prayer, to visiting the sick, caring for the needy, and educating yourself for a useful life. When you commence reading a story book, how frequently the imagination is so excited that you are betrayed into sin. You disobey your parents, and bring confusion into the domestic circle by neglecting the simple duties developing upon you. And worse than this, prayer is forgotten, and the Bible is read with indifference or entirely neglected.

There is another class of books that you should avoid,—the productions of such infidel writers as Paine and Ingersoll. These are often urged upon you with the taunt that you are a coward, and afraid to read them. Frankly tell these enemies who would tempt you—for enemies they are, however much they may profess to be your friends—that you will obey God, and take the Bible as your guide. Tell them that you are afraid to read these books; that your faith in the word of God is now altogether too weak, and you want it increased and strengthened instead of diminished; and that you do not want to come in such close contact with the father of lies.

I warn you to stand firm, and never do a wrong action rather than be called a coward. Allow no taunts, no threats, no sneering remarks, to induce you to violate your conscience in the least particular, and thus open a door whereby Satan can come in and control the mind.

Suffer not yourselves to open the lids of a book that is questionable.

There is a hellish fascination in the literature of Satan. It is the powerful battery by which he tears down a simple religious faith. Never feel that you are strong enough to read infidel books; for they contain a poison like that of asps. They can do you no good, and will assuredly do you harm. In reading them, you are inhaling the miasmas of hell. They will be to your soul like a corrupt stream of water, defiling the mind, keeping it in the mazes of skepticism, and making it earthly and sensual. These books are written by men whom Satan employs as his agents; and by this means he designs to confuse the mind, withdraw the affections from God, and rob your Creator of the reverence and gratitude which his works demand.

The mind needs to be trained, and its desires controlled and brought into subjection to the will of God.

Instead of being dwarfed and deformed by feeding on the vile trash which Satan provides, it should have wholesome food, which will give strength and vigor.

Young Christian, you have everything to learn. You must be an interested student of the Bible you must search it, comparing scripture with scripture. If you would do your Master good and acceptable service, you must know what he requires. His word is a sure guide; if it is carefully studied, there is no danger of falling under the power of the temptations that surround the youth, and crowd in upon them. (E. G. White, *Youth's Instructor*, September 10, 1884)

## JUDGE ME BY THE FOOTPRINTS I LEAVE BEHIND

*(The following story has been shared over the Internet and is worth repeating..... Editor)*

A story is told about a soldier who was finally coming home after having fought in Vietnam. He called his parents from San Francisco. "Mom and Dad, I'm coming home, but I've got a favor to ask. I have a friend I'd like to bring with me." "Sure," they replied, "we'd love to meet him."

"There's something you should know," the son continued, "he was hurt pretty badly in the fighting. He stepped on a land mine and lost an arm and a leg. He has nowhere else to go, and I want him to come live with us."

"I'm sorry to hear that, son. Maybe we can help him find somewhere to live."

"No, Mom and Dad, I want him to live with us."

"Son," said the father, "you don't know what you're asking. Someone with such a handicap would be a terrible burden on us. We have our own lives to live, and we can't let something like this interfere with our lives. I think you should just come home and forget about this guy. He'll find a way to live on his own."

At that point, the son hung up the phone. The parents heard nothing more from him. A few days later, however, they received a call from the San Francisco police. Their son had died after falling from a build-

ing, they were told. The police believed it was suicide. The grief-stricken parents flew to San Francisco and were taken to the city morgue to identify the body of their son. They recognized him, but to their horror they also discovered something they didn't know. Their son had only one arm and one leg.

The parents in this story are like many of us. We find it easy to love those who are good-looking or fun to have around, but we don't like people who inconvenience us or make us feel uncomfortable. We would rather stay away from people who aren't as healthy, beautiful, or smart as we are.

Thankfully, there's someone who won't treat us that way. Someone who loves us with an unconditional love that welcomes us into the forever family, regardless of how messed up we are.

Tonight, before you tuck yourself in for the night, say a little prayer that God will give you the strength you need to accept people as they are, and to help us all be more understanding of those who are different from us!

There's a miracle called-Friendship that dwells in the heart. You don't know how it happens or when it gets started. But you know the special lift it always brings and you realize that Friendship is one of God's most precious gifts!

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us. Show your friends how much you care..... ✍

## Books of the Bible Search

I ONCE MADE SOME REMARKS ABOUT HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE. IT WAS A LULU; KEPT SOME PEOPLE LOOKING SO HARD FOR FACTS, AND TO OTHERS IT WAS A REVELATION. SOME WERE IN A JAM, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE LETTERS WERE CAPITALIZED. BUT THE TRUTH FINALLY STRUCK HOME TO NUMBERS OF READERS. TO OTHERS IT WAS A REAL JOB. WE WANT IT TO BE A MOST FASCINATING FEW MOMENTS FOR YOU. YES THERE WILL BE SOME REALLY EASY ONES TO SPOT. OTHERS MIGHT REQUIRE JUDGES TO DETERMINE. WE WILL QUICKLY ADMIT IT USUALLY TAKES A PASTOR TO FIND ONE, AND THERE WILL BE SOME BAD LAMENTATIONS WHEN YOU SEE HOW SIMPLE IT IS. A LITTLE LADY SAYS THAT IF SHE BREWS TEA SHE CAN CONCENTRATE BETTER. SEE HOW WELL YOU CAN COMPETE. RELAX NOW! THERE ARE SIXTEEN IN THIS PARAGRAPH.\*

\* There are no abbreviations.

# CAMP MEETING

Now is the time to make final preparations for the fall camp meeting being held September 15–19th, in southern Illinois. As previously announced, the camp meeting will be held at Brother Randall Mercer’s place near New Burnside, Illinois.

## What to Bring

A willing heart ready to fellowship and learn God’s Word, Bibles, notebooks, and study reference books such as concordances, Spirit of Prophecy books, etc., tents, bedding, flashlight, food, toiletries, modest casual and Sabbath clothes, etc.

## Schedule

The final speaker schedule has not been completed but the chart below outlines the basic agenda. Some of the speakers include; David Clayton, Lynnford Beachy, Randall Mercer, Joe Harricharian, Richard Stratton, and others. Ample time has been allowed for visiting and fellowship among campers between the meetings. The nature program was planned so that the whole family could participate. The Elijah message is to draw the hearts of the children to the parents and the parents to the children. Since the families are to be drawn to each other, we believe that the studies and activities should be planned in such a manner that as far as possible, the whole family may participate together.

## Theme

The theme for the camp meeting will be, “I’d Rather have Jesus—Revival and Reformation.” For a great while God has been working to revive His people. It is time to go on to perfection and allow God to bring the reformation in our lives that is needed. Please come with the heart prayer, “Lord, help me to be willing to be made willing.” Let us be able to say as Jesus did, “... I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” (John 5:30) Jesus also said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)

The character of our God stands on trial and we should demonstrate to the universe what an appreciation of God’s love can do for sinners. We should demonstrate that the truth as it is in Jesus does not leave the sinner where God finds them, but rather brings a total reformation into their life. Preaching and teaching is not always enough. Paul stated to the Corinthians, “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.” (2 Corinthians 3:2)

The theme for this year’s camp meeting has been chosen with the desire that the final generation will soon give the witness God desires.

With the soon coming events almost upon us and the world’s plans for the next year just months away, I want to personally encourage you to attend this camp meeting as it is possible that it *may* be the last camp meeting you have the opportunity to attend.

## Illinois Camp Meeting Schedule

	Wednesday 15th	Thursday 16th	Friday 17th	Sabbath 18th	Sunday 19th
6:30–7:30	Individual Testimony	Individual Testimony	Individual Testimony	Individual Testimony	Individual Testimony
9:30–10:30	Bible Study	Bible Study	Bible Study	Sabbath School	Camp breakdown
11:00–12:00	Bible Study	Bible Study	Bible Study	Worship	
2:30–3:30	Bible Study	Family Nature Program	Sabbath Preparation	Baptism/Testimony Service	
7:00–8:30	Bible Study	Bible Study	Communion	Bible Study	

## Directions To New Burnside:

**Traveling from the South**, go North on I-24 into Illinois, get off on exit 14, which is St. Rt. 45. Turn Right (Northeast) and go about 12 miles to St. Rt. 166 in New Burnside. Turn Left and go to the second street on the Left, which is 2nd Street.

**If you are traveling from the East**, come into Illinois on I-64. Get off on the first exit (exit 132), which is St. Rt. 1. Turn Left, and head South 25 miles until St. Rt. 1 turns into Rt. 45. Continue on Rt. 45 for another 30 miles to St. Rt. 166. Turn Right and go to the second street on the Left, which is 2nd Street.

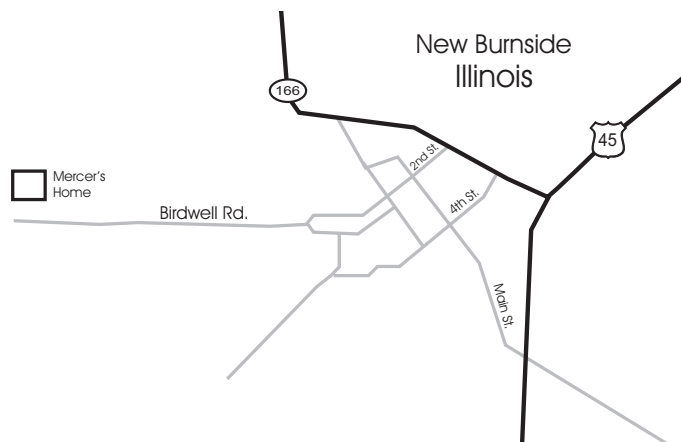
**If you are traveling from the North or West**, come down I-57 to exit 54 in Marion, which is St. Rt. 13. Turn left, and follow 13 East about 6 miles to St. Rt. 166. Turn Right and follow 166 South for 15 miles to New Burnside. Turn Right on 2nd Street.

**From New Burnside to the Mercer's:** Follow 2nd Street about two miles out of town. The Mercer's place will be on the right. If you need further information call (618) 996-2525 and ask for Crystal. New Burnside is about three hours from Nashville, Tennessee, and four hours from Louisville, Kentucky.

## Accommodations:

There will be plenty of room for camping at Brother Mercer's. RV's are welcome, but must be self con-

tained as there will be no hookups available. There are also several motels within 25 miles. Some of the phone numbers are, *Best Inns* in Marion 1-800-237-8466, *Hospitality House* in Vienna (618) 658-2722, *Super 8 Motel* in Marion 1-800-800-8000, *Budget Inn* in Vienna (618) 658-2802, *Comfort Inn* in Marion 1-800-221-2222, *Dixon Motel* in Vienna (618) 658-3831, *Holiday Inn* in Marion (618) 997-2326, *Motel 6* in Marion (618) 993-2631. *Plaza Motel* in Harrisburg 1-800-416-6835.



---

## Bible Conference

The Bible conference schedule for September 10–14 is currently being planned and we are still in need of input from those wishing to make presentations. Some of the topics that are currently under consideration include:

- What is God's Participation in the Destruction of Sinners? (Does God destroy?)
- Feast Days
- Proper Christian Music
- The usage of God's Name (sacred name)
- Bible Prophecy

Responsible persons who wish to make presentations must notify us soon. You may call us at (304) 732-9204 or e-mail us at: [info@smyrna.org](mailto:info@smyrna.org). The importance of having a proper understanding of the truth cannot be underestimated. Jesus said, "And this is life

eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3) It is through the truth that we are sanctified, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17)

Anyone who tries to say it is not important what you believe and teach as long as you are sincere is not teaching the truth. 1 Peter 3:10 states, "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." Of the 144,000 it is written, "And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." (Revelation 14:5)

As noted before, the Bible conference will precede the Illinois camp meeting. Directions and accommodations are the same as for the camp meeting. All are invited to attend to make presentations, to listen to the presentations, and participate in the discussions following the presentations. . . . . *Editors*

Bulk Rate  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Welch WV  
Permit No. 35

Address Correction Requested

**SMYRNA GOSPEL MINISTRIES**  
HC 64 BOX 128 B  
WELCH WV 24801-9606 U.S.A.

## PUBLICATION NOTICE:

The following are some publications of interest that have just recently been finished. The suggested donations include shipping and handling.

**Reprints of July 1999 *Old Paths*:** Due to the heavy request for extra copies of the July 1999 *Old Paths*, we have reprinted several hundred more to facilitate the demand. Those needing more issues for sharing may contact us by phone, postal mail, or e-mail.

***A Time to Choose* by David Clayton:** This thirty-two page booklet gives a short, but comprehensive study on the subject of the mark of the beast and the seal of God. It is a great tool for witnessing to your non-Adventist friends. The suggested donation is \$1.80 for one copy or \$12.00 for ten copies.

***The Spirit of Antichrist* by David Clayton.** We now have these books completed and ready for shipment. This powerful booklet lays out the evil nature of the

harlot's central doctrine. The suggested donation is \$1.80 for one copy or \$12.00 for ten copies.

***The Formulation of the Trinity* by Lynnford Beachy:** This booklet gives the historical development of the Trinity doctrine with emphasis on the council of Nicea. The suggested donation is \$1.80 for one copy or \$12.00 for ten copies.

***The Omega of Apostasy* by Allen Stump:** This twenty-eight page booklet traces the development of the omega of deadly heresies from the Kellogg pantheism crisis to the current doctrinal apostasy today. The suggested donation is \$1.80 for one copy or \$12.00 for ten copies.

---

*Old Paths* is published monthly by Smyrna Gospel Ministries, HC 64 Box 128-B, Welch, WV 24801-9606. It is sent free upon request. E-mail address - Stump: editor@smyrna.org; Beachy: berean@smyrna.org. Phone: (304) 732-9204. Our web site URL is: <http://www.smyrna.org>.

Editor . . . . . Allen Stump  
Associate Editor . . . . . Lynnford Beachy