

# 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

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**He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:38)**



# Fundamental Pillars — The Law and the Sabbath 1

By Allen Stump

*(This is an extension in the series on the pillars of our faith, a study on their meaning and importance from the Bible. We are excluding from these studies the writings of Ellen White, except for some footnotes, not because they do not support these truths but because we need to be able to give a thus saith the Lord when called into court for our faith or when discussing biblical subjects with those who do not accept Ellen White as a messenger of the Lord. ....Pastor Stump)*

The Spirit of Prophecy defines seven pillars of our faith. They are:

- The Law and the Sabbath (*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, page 30.2)
- The Personalities of God and of Christ (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, page 235.4)
- The Faith of Jesus (*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, page 30.2)
- The Sanctuary (*The Great Controversy*, page 409.1)
- The Three Angels' Messages (*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, page 30.2)
- The Testimony of Jesus (*Testimonies for the Church*, volume 1, page 300.1)
- The Nonimmortality of the Wicked (*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, page 30.2)

In our last issue, we studied the testimony of Jesus. Our current study is the first part on the law and the Sabbath. Of course, the ten-commandment law includes the Sabbath and because it is involved with the seal of God and the third angel's message, it has a very special place in the study of the law.

## First the footnotes

There are some guiding principles from the *Testimonies for the Church* which can be of a help to us as we study the scriptures for enlightenment as to the nature, purpose, and goal of the law of God.

*We must preach Christ in the law, and there will be sap and nourishment in the preaching that will be as food to the famishing flock of God. (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, March 11, 1890, par. 13; all emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted)*

The law cannot be preached effectually apart from Christ in the law. The one who gave the law and died to save those who broke its precepts must be the center of the presentation.

Separate the Sabbath from the [three angels'] messages, and it loses its power; but when connected with the message of the third angel, a power attends it which convicts unbelievers and infidels, and brings them out with strength to stand, to live, grow, and flourish in the Lord. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 337.1)

The Sabbath must be presented within the presentation of the three angels' messages, including the mark of the beast issue and the seal of God. Outside of this, the presentation of the Sabbath comes down to basically an argument of if one day is inherently better than another.

Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "It is the third angel's message in verity." (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, April 1, 1890, par. 8)

The third angel's message, including the seventh-day Sabbath, is the message of justification by faith. It brings a revelation that only a day blessed and sanctified by God can represent justification by faith in contradistinction to a day that has no higher authority than the fiat of humanity, symbolic of righteousness by works.

## The binding claims of the law of God

Today many within professed Christianity claim that the Ten Commandments have been done away with, even nailed to the cross of Christ. It is claimed that Jesus nailed the Ten

Commandments to the cross and that humanity now lives under grace, and, therefore, the law is not applicable. But does the Bible teach this? Paul, writing to the Romans, stated:

<sup>30</sup> Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we then make void the law through faith? **God forbid: yea, we establish the law.** (Romans 3:30–31)

<sup>7</sup> What shall we say then? **Is the law sin? God forbid.** Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. (Romans 7:7)

James, also, is in perfect agreement with Paul:

<sup>10</sup> For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. <sup>11</sup> For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. (James 2:10–12)

In the Old Testament we read from both David and Solomon:

<sup>160</sup> Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. (Psalm 119:160)

<sup>13</sup> Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup> For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14)

To say that anything is the whole duty of man gives a very strong summation to one's duties. Humanity is to fear God and to show him respect in every degree, including by keeping his commandments.

The law is the standard in the judgment. If it is not that, what could it be? But not one person can stand in the judgment on their own record. We have all sinned:

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. . . . <sup>23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Romans 3:19, 23)

The law is the standard in the judgment, but because of the judgment, we need grace. You see, if there is no law, there can be no judgment, and if there is no judgment, then there is no condemnation. Then if there is no condemnation, there will be no need of grace! Oh how clever a foe we face, and how he tried to remove grace in this way.

## God's law of love

While God's law is comprehensive, it is so simple that it can be summarized in two simple statements. Jesus taught us they are love to God and love to man.

<sup>29</sup> And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: <sup>30</sup> And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:29–31)

This is why Paul could write that “love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10)

Paul also wrote about this in his epistle to the Galatians when he noted that “all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Galatians 5:14).

If you love your neighbor, you will not steal from him, or kill him, take his wife, etc. We are further instructed to “follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

We are to seek for peace and holiness. If you *know God*, you will *know peace and holiness*, but if there is *no God* in your life, there will be *no peace and holiness*.

## God's commandments are righteousness.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commanded his followers to “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

That should be simple enough, or is it? Do we know what true righteousness is and, therefore, can find it? Or is righteousness something vague and hard to comprehend? How can you seek something when you do not know what it is you are seeking? If someone asked you to seek for a *bxvxxv*, for what would you be looking? You could not know what to look for because no such thing is so named. But *righteousness* is very real, and we must know what righteous is, if we are seeking for it. Thankfully, the Bible is very clear on this matter. King David writes:

<sup>172</sup> My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. (Psalm 119:172)

God's commandments are his righteousness. David is one witness to this, but Isaiah is another, when he wrote:

<sup>7</sup> Harken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; . . . (Isaiah 51:7)

Those who know righteousness are the people who have God's law in their hearts.

Now would one ever want to get rid of righteousness? Not David, for he wrote: “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:97).

Why should that even be considered? God’s righteousness is pure, holy, just, and good. Would any sane person who values truth want to do that? Of course not. David also says:

<sup>3</sup> His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. (Psalm 111:3)

God’s righteousness endures forever. God’s righteousness is the opposite of sin, and the Bible defines sin as the transgression of his ten-commandment law. John writes:

<sup>4</sup> Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4)

We know this is talking about the ten-commandment law because Paul writes in Romans:

<sup>7</sup> What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. (Romans 7:7)

It is the ten-commandment law that says, “Thou shalt not covet” (Exodus 20:17), so we know he is speaking about that law.

Another way the Bible expressed the relationship between righteousness and obedience to the law is found in 1 John 5:17 which says that “all unrighteousness is sin.” As an equation, we would write unrighteousness = sin. The inverse of this statement would be righteousness = obedience to the law.

## The blood of the New Testament

The New Testament was established and ratified by the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross for humanity. Jesus said: “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28). And Paul wrote, “And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance” (Hebrews 9:15).

Some people, perhaps well-meaning, have tried to say that the ten-commandment law was nailed to the cross and that today Christians should keep Sunday as a holy day, but this could not be.

It should be noted that the Greek word for *testament* is διαθήκη (*diathēkē*). *Diathēkē* is also translated as covenant. In fact, *diathēkē* is translated as *testament* thirteen times and *covenant* twenty times. So, wherever you read *covenant* in the New Testament, it is the same as reading *testament* and vice versa. Now, let us see what Paul says about this in Hebrews:

<sup>16</sup> For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. <sup>17</sup> For a testament is of force

after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. (Hebrews 9:16–17)

Think of a *last will and testament* of a person. One can produce the document, but it is of no force while the testator (the one making the testament) lives. It has no strength or power while the testator lives. It only goes into effect after the testator dies. With this in mind, let us now read Galatians 3:15:

<sup>15</sup> Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

When a person dies, their testament at that time goes into effect. It cannot be changed at that point. Nothing can be added to it nor subtracted from it. The same is true about the new covenant of Christ. After his death ratifying the testament, nothing can be added.

That is why Jesus instituted what is called *The Lord’s Supper* before he died. The night before Jesus died, he said: “This is my body, which is broken for you” (1 Corinthians 11:24), but his body had not been broken yet. But he had to do this before his death to be a part of the new covenant experience.

Now concerning the idea of keeping Sunday holy, we must ask even the most ardent Sunday-keeper when did Sunday-keeping begin? For even if it was to begin the first Sunday after the resurrection, it was too late to be a part of the new covenant experience! Yes, the disciples were gathered together that Sunday, but not to worship. John writes that “the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews” (John 20:19), not for worship.

## Jesus expanded the meaning of the law.

We are sinful and need righteousness. The law is not only a revealer of our sin, but a reflection of the character of God, for Paul says that “the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good” (Romans 7:12).

Again, why would one get rid of something holy, just, and good? Jesus did not come to destroy or get rid of the law. He said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17). The Greek word we translate *fulfil* comes from πληρόω (*plēroō*). It means “to give the true or complete meaning to something” (Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*)

Jesus came to give the true and complete meaning of the law. For example, he said:

<sup>27</sup> Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: <sup>28</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. (Matthew 5:27–28)

He expanded the understanding of the seventh commandment to be more than just a physical action but showed how the law is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

<sup>19</sup> For *out of the heart* proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: (Matthew 15:19)

## Clarification of a text

There is a biblical text that has caused some to scratch their heads trying to resolve what would be considered by some to be a contradiction with other texts that speak of salvation by grace. That text is Romans 2:13, which says: “For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.” At first this sounds like we must do the law, or be obedient to it, for the purpose of justification. The Greek word we translate *justified* is from δικαιώω (*dikaioō*), but in Romans 2:13 this verb (δικαιωθήσονται) is in the future, passive, indicative, third person, plural mode. It is not active but passive, indicating that the action is upon the hearer of the law, not performed upon the hearer of the law.

We see the same form of *dikaioō* also used in the LXX version of Isaiah 45:25: “In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified (δικαιωθήσονται), and shall glory.”

It is important that we do not read into the text what is not there. A careful reading of the text reveals that the text does not say *how* one is justified but, rather, who shall be justified. Those who are justified by the blood of Jesus and are saved by grace through faith are saved to serve, and their obedience by the empowerment of Jesus Christ is the fruit of their faith.

We cannot be justified by the deeds of the law. “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20), but according to the same author, those who are truly justified will be keepers of the law.

Since the law is “just,” it cannot justify a person who violates its principles. In other words, a just law cannot declare that the one who violates it is innocent.

## Our natural hearts

Our natural hearts are in need of a higher power to aid us, for we read:

<sup>9</sup> The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

<sup>8</sup> So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:7–8)

<sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf;

and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6)

Apart from the help of heaven, mankind would be doomed to eternal failure, but I am glad that Jesus knows our hearts! He knows the struggles we face with temptations, for he took upon his sinless nature our sinful nature. John writes:

<sup>24</sup> But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, <sup>25</sup> And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man. (John 2:24–25)

Did Jesus know what was in all men because he had super-human knowledge? Not according to Luke 2:52. Rather, he understood the drives and temptations of humanity because “he took on him the seed of Abraham” (Hebrews 2:16).

That is good. Praise the Lord for the incarnation. Because Jesus fully understands us, he can help us in our time of trouble (v. 18).

Works done by a sinful person have no effect to make that person righteous. Man must first be made righteous by Christ before he can do the goodness that is required of him.

## God’s law is not unreasonable.

Have you heard the charge that you can’t obey God’s law? That is absolutely true outside of and apart from the grace of Christ, but that does not mean that Jesus is not able to help us to overcome all sin. If not, was he talking tongue-in-cheek when he commanded “be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48)?

Did Jesus speak an unattainable truth when he commanded us to “be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:36)?

Was Paul speaking only of a unreachable goal when he wrote: “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children” (Ephesians 5:1)?

Peter tells us that “the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer” (1 Peter 4:7).

## God’s perfect plan

Beloved, God has a plan to perfect a people through his Son’s mediation. The Bible states that God will have a righteous people who keep his commandments. In fact, at the end of the second commandment he says he will show “mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Exodus 20:6).

Isaiah writes: “Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings” (Isaiah 3:10). Isaiah boldly declares that there will be a righteous person, but that is not all he says. He does not limit this to a single person here or there but declares that God will have a righteous nation who keep the truth that will enter into the city of God!

<sup>1</sup> In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. <sup>2</sup> Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth *the truth* may enter in. (Isaiah 26:1–2)

What constitutes *the truth* which the righteous nation keeps? David again has the answer when he writes: “Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth” (Psalm 119:142). This righteousness, as we have seen, cannot be accomplished in our own strength. Nothing, however, is impossible through the power and grace of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote:

<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:13)

<sup>19</sup> But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8, 10)

<sup>13</sup> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

And Jude added:

<sup>24</sup> Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, (Jude 24)

Similar to Paul, Jesus stated that those who enter the kingdom of God will be those who are obedient:

<sup>21</sup> 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)

Love is the life of the believer. Jesus said: “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). And John writes:

<sup>22</sup> And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. (1 John 3:22)

## The wages of sin

Romans 6:23 states that “the wages of sin is death.”

Calvary proves the perpetuity of God’s law. If the law could have been set aside, then Jesus did not need to die.

<sup>13</sup> Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: (Galatians 3:13)

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

If the law had demanded more of us than it ought to have done, would the Lord Jesus have rendered to it the penalty which resulted from its too severe demands? I am sure he would not. But because the law asked only what it ought to ask—namely perfect obedience; and exacted of the transgressor only what it ought to exact, namely, death, as the penalty for sin—death under divine wrath, therefore the Savior went to the tree, and there bore our sins and purged them once for all. He was crushed beneath the load of our guilt, and cried, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death,” and at last when he had borne—

“All that incarnate God could bear, With strength enough, but none to spare,”

he bowed his head and said, “It is finished.” Our Lord Jesus Christ gave a greater vindication to the law by dying, because it had been broken . . . (Charles Spurgeon, “The Perpetuity of the Law of God”; <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-perpetuity-of-the-law-of-god/#flipbook/>)

<sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

But what is the standard or method by which sanctification can be understood or measured? Suppose, for a moment, that it were possible to temper and tone down the law. What would be the consequences? If something is completely holy, how can it ever be changed except by becoming imperfect? Would you want that? Could you worship a God who has imperfect laws? Is it ever possible that God, by being kind to us, has put us under imperfect laws? Would that be a good thing or a bad thing? Some people say that humans can’t keep a perfect law, and God doesn’t expect them to.

But the Scripture states that God has not issued an imperfect law! If it were so admitted, it would be the first and only imperfect thing he ever made.

Brethren, the law of the Lord must stand, for it is perfect, and therefore has in it no element of decay or change. The divine law is not more than what God might justly demand of us. If God were to introduce a more tolerant law, it would imply that he initially placed an excessive burden upon us.

So let us be glad that we have a high, holy, but through Christ an, attainable standard. The Ten Commandments are like a great mirror which we can look into and see our sins revealed. But just as a mirror cannot cleanse a dirty face, neither can the law cleanse us. That is not its job. It is to show us what true righteousness is and to reveal to us our need of Jesus Christ who can cleanse us from our sins.



# Hid in My Heart

By Sheri Stump

The purpose of the Hid-in-My-Heart series is to meditate on and memorize scriptures that define the fundamentals of our faith so that we will be ready to give an answer for the faith that is in us. These biblical teachings are taken from the 1889 Fundamental Beliefs.

So far, we have memorized or at least familiarized ourselves with scriptures that support the Father, the Son, the Holy Scripture, baptism, the new birth, prophecy, the fulfillment of prophecy, the truth about a temporal millennium, the prophetic correction of 1844, the prophetic ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, the immutable Law of God, and the Sabbath. In this article, we will look at 1889 Fundamental Belief number thirteen, which says:

XIII – That as the man of sin, the papacy, has thought to change times and laws (the law of God, Dan. 7:25), and has misled almost all Christendom in regard to the fourth commandment, we find a prophecy of a reform in this respect to be wrought among believers just before the coming of Christ. Isa. 56:1, 2; 1 Peter 1:5; Rev. 14:12, etc.

As we wait for the return of our Lord Jesus, we must understand the identity of the man of sin. We find from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy clear teachings on who this is and how to prepare to stand in the end times. The Sabbath will be the final test.

Hallowed by the Creator's rest and blessing, the Sabbath was kept by Adam in his innocence in holy Eden and by Adam, fallen yet repentant, when he was driven from his happy estate. It was kept by all the patriarchs, from Abel to righteous Noah, to Abraham, to Jacob. When the chosen people were in bondage in Egypt, many, in the midst of prevailing idolatry, lost their knowledge of God's law; but when the Lord delivered Israel, he proclaimed his law in awful grandeur to the assembled multitude, that they might know his will, and fear and obey him forever.

From that day to the present, the knowledge of God's law has been preserved in the earth, and the Sabbath of the fourth commandment has been kept. Though the "man of sin" succeeded in trampling under foot God's holy day, yet even in the period of his supremacy there were, hidden in secret places, faithful souls who paid it honor. Since the Reformation, there have been some in every generation to maintain its observance. Though often in the midst of reproach and persecution, a constant testimony has been borne to the perpetuity of the law of God, and the sacred obligation of the creation Sab-

bath. (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, 1888 ed., p. 453.1, .2)

If you would like a complete biblical explanation on this Fundamental Principal, here is the link of a sermon Pastor Allen Stump gave on Fundamental Principle number thirteen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K m T L 6 V P - N R I & l i s t = P L S E - 5 c 9 1 8 f Z E d G x P n q r O 6 m m k y P e 7 0 8 o w A & i n d e x = 1 6 & p p = g A Q B i A Q B>



Following are five verses for you to memorize/meditate upon.

I have included the first letter of each word in each verse. Memorizing the verse with this help will assure that you do not miss a word while reciting it, and since each letter represents one word, it will be a help to prompt you on what the next word in the verse is.

Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: For my salvation is near to come, And my righteousness to be revealed. 2. Blessed is the man that doeth this, And the son of man that layeth hold on it; That keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, And keepeth his hand from doing any evil. Isaiah 56:1-2

TstL, Kyj, adj: Fmsintc, Amrtbr. Bitmtdt, Atsomtlhoi; Tktsfpi, Akhhfdae. I 56:1-2

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he

as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Lnmdybam: ftdsnc, etcafaf, atmosbr, tsop; WoaehaaticG, otiw; sthaGsittoG, shthiG 2 T 2:3-4

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12

Hitpots: hattkcoG, atfoJ. R 14:12

May God bless you as you meditate on these verses is my prayer for each of you!

Build a wall of scriptures around you, and you will see that the world cannot break it down. Commit the scriptures to memory, and then throw them right back upon Satan when he comes with his temptations, 'it is written.' This is the way that our Lord met the temptations of Satan, and resisted them. (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, April 10, 1888, par. 9)



# Youth's Corner—Suffer the Children to Come

By Ellen G. White

When the Saviour was on earth, he took little children in his arms, and blessed them. On one occasion the disciples would have sent these little ones away, but Jesus heard their words of rebuke, and he said to them, "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

In the children who were brought in contact with him, Jesus saw the men and women who should be the heirs of his grace and subjects of his kingdom, and some of whom would become martyrs for his sake. He knew that these children would listen to him, and accept him as their Redeemer far more readily than would grown-up people, many of whom were worldly wise and hard-hearted. In his teaching he came down to their level. He, the Majesty of heaven, did not disdain to answer their questions, and simplify his important lessons to meet their childish understanding. He planted in their minds the seeds of truth, which in after-years would spring up and bear fruit unto eternal life.

It is still true that children are most susceptible to the teachings of the gospel; their hearts are open to divine influences, and strong to retain the lessons received. The little children may be Christians, having an experience in accordance with their years.

It has been my privilege to see many of the young converted and baptized, some in their early childhood. In one church where I labored with my husband in our early experiences in the message, there were about fourteen children nearly of an age, who wished to be baptized. A father came to Elder White and said, "What are you going to do with these children? They say they are converted to God; but they are too young to be baptized." "No, indeed, they are not," my husband responded. "My wife can tell you a story of what a child can experience in spiritual things, if you care to hear." Then I related my own experience in conversion.

I was eleven years old when the light broke into my heart. I had pious parents, who in every way tried to make their children acquainted with their Heavenly Father. We sang the praises of God in our household. Every morning and evening we had family prayer. There were eight children in the family, and every opportunity was improved by our parents to lead us to give our hearts to Jesus.

I was not unmindful of the voice of prayer daily going up to God. These influences were working on my heart; and in my earlier years I had often sought for the peace that there is

in Christ; but I could not seem to find the freedom that I desired. A terrible feeling of sadness and despair rested upon my heart. I did not think of anything that I had done to cause me to feel sad; but it seemed that I was not good enough ever to enter heaven. Such a thing seemed altogether too much for me to expect.

The mental anguish I passed through at this time was very great. I believed in an eternally burning hell; and as I thought of the wretched state of the sinner before God, I was in deep despair. I feared that I should be lost, and that I should live through eternity suffering a living death. But I learned better than this. I learned that I had a God who is altogether too merciful to perpetuate throughout eternity the lives of the beings whom he created for his glory, but who, instead of accepting the Saviour, had died unrepentant, unforgiven, and unsaved. I learned that the wicked shall be consumed as stubble, and that they shall be as ashes under our feet in the new earth; they shall be as though they had not been. There is no eternally burning hell; there are no living bodies suffering eternal torment.

But for a long time not one ray of light pierced the dark cloud of distress and despondency that was surrounding me. My sufferings were very great. Night after night, while my twin sister was sleeping, I would arise, and bow by the bedside before the Lord, and plead with him for mercy. All the words that I had any confidence to utter were, "Lord, have mercy." Such complete hopelessness would seize me that I would  
**A youthful Ellen Harmon praying**  
fall on my face with an agony of feeling that can not be described. Like the poor publican, I dared not so much as lift my eyes toward heaven.



Finally I had a dream which gave me a faint hope that I might be saved. Soon afterward I attended a prayer-meeting,

and when others knelt to pray, I bowed with them tremblingly; and after two or three had prayed, I began to pray. Then the promises of God appeared to me like so many precious pearls that were to be received only by asking for them. As I prayed, the burden and agony of soul, that I had felt so long, left me, and the blessing of God came upon me like gentle dew, and I gave glory to God for what I felt. Everything was shut out from me but Jesus and glory, and I did not know what was going on around me. It seemed as if I was at the feet of Jesus, and that the light of his countenance was shining upon me in all its brightness.

Everything appeared glorious and new, and as if smiling and praising God. I seemed to be shut in with God. I was then willing to confess Jesus everywhere. The sacrifice that my Redeemer had made to save me from death and sin seemed very great. I could not dwell upon it without weeping. I experienced the peace of Christ, which the world could not give nor take away. Although I expected to live but a few months because of feeble health, my life was peaceful and happy. I clung in faith to the Lord, and he took control of me and healed me.

From this time I felt that I was the happiest being on the earth. I could see Jesus in everything. How I loved him! How precious he was to me! I felt that I must reveal his loveliness to my companions, and I began at once to work for the young.

I arranged meetings with my young friends, some of whom were considerably older than myself, and a few were married persons. A number of them were vain and thoughtless; my experience sounded to them like an idle tale, and they did not heed my entreaties. But I determined that my efforts should never cease till these dear souls, for whom I had so great an interest, yielded to God. Several entire nights were spent by me in earnest prayer for those for whom I was so earnestly laboring.

Some of these attended from curiosity to know what I had to say; others thought me beside myself to be so persistent in my efforts, especially when they felt no concern on their part. But at every one of our little meetings I continued to exhort, and to pray for one and then another, until every one had yielded to Jesus, acknowledging the merits of his pardoning love.

Night after night in my dreams I seemed to be laboring for the salvation of souls. At such times special cases were presented to my mind; these I afterward sought out and prayed with.

Some of our more formal brethren feared that I was too zealous for the conversion of souls; but time seemed to me

so short that it behooved all who had a hope of blessed immortality, and looked for the soon coming of Christ, to labor without ceasing for those who were still in their sins and standing on the awful brink of ruin.

Though I was very young, I felt that it was my duty to continue my efforts for the salvation of precious souls, and to pray, and confess Christ at every opportunity. My entire being was offered to the service of my Master. Let come what would, I determined to please God, and live as one who expected the Lord to come and reward the faithful. I felt like a little child coming to God as to my father, and asking him what he would have me to do. Then as my duty was made plain to me, it was my greatest happiness to perform it. Peculiar trials sometimes beset me. Those older in experience than myself endeavored to hold me back, and cool the ardor of my faith; but with the smiles of Jesus brightening my life, and the love of God in my heart, I went on my way with a joyful spirit.

The children and youth who give themselves to God can do a similar work of service for him. It is your privilege to lead your companions and associates to Christ. You cannot tell what an influence you may have with the young of your own age. You can give them an example, and the older ones can help the children who want to give their hearts to God. You can have little prayer-meetings. I remember how in my childhood I used to go a mile to attend a little prayer-meeting in a family, and then another day we would go to another, and then to still another family. In these little meetings we used to read the Bible, sing a hymn, pray, and then speak to one another, relating experiences, and telling how we could love and serve God.

I know that if we had such experiences now, we would have happier homes. We would see of the salvation of God, and the light of his countenance would shine upon us. Begin to say that you love the Lord, and that you will give yourselves to him. In doing this, you will begin to have new courage and faith to believe that your hearts are converted, that your souls are saved.

God can not make you good, unless you condescend to be good. You must condescend to be good, and then God will co-operate with you, and he will help you to do good, and to keep from sinful ways. Shall we not together, young and old, get ready for the kingdom of heaven? Before we can enter the gates of the city of God, we must have the spirit that the heavenly beings possess; and we can never have this spirit until we bow in humility before God and accept the cross of Christ. "Whosoever will come after me," the Saviour said, "let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (*The Youth's Instructor*, November 3, 1908)



# A Sleeping Giant Awakened

By Allen Stump

Pope John Paul II visited the White House on October 6, 1979, becoming the first pope to do so. He was welcomed by President Jimmy Carter and the First Lady Rosalynn Carter, and met with the

President privately in the Oval Office. After this meeting, one Adventist evangelist declared, “This president and this pope.” By this he meant that the final events, including the mark of the beast, were upon humanity and that the second coming of Christ was imminent, within the term of President Carter and the reign of Pope John Paul II, but soon Ronald Reagan was president, and the prediction failed.



**President Carter with Pope John Paul II at the White House**

Since I became a follower of the three angels’ messages almost fifty years ago, Adventists have been looking for some cataclysmic event to trigger “the final movements [which] will be rapid ones” (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 11.2). Carter’s presidency came and went. Ronald Reagan, with his friendship to the churches and his appointment of William Wilson as the first official United States ambassador to the Vatican, was to many the one who would strike the eventful blow against the seal of God. But Reagan came and went, followed by President George Bush’s New World Order. It, too, seemingly came and went.

It would be about a quarter of a century from the time

John Paul II visited the White House until on September 11, 2001, the stage seemed to have been set again, as the United States was attacked with commercial jet airliners, with two



**UA 175 crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center.**

striking the World Trade Center buildings in New York and one striking the Pentagon. The next day, then Senator Hillary Clinton declared that Americans might have to give up some of their freedoms to be safe, and forty-five days later the USA PATRIOT Act was signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 26, 2001. But the end did not come.

Almost another quarter century has passed, and with the assassination of Turning Point USA leader Charlie Kirk on September 10 in Utah, the stage has been set again. Will the winds of strife be held back one more time?

Charlie Kirk was a prominent conservative activist, commentator, and media figure in the United States. He rose to national attention as the founder of Turning Point USA in 2012, when he was just eighteen years old, with a mission to organize and mobilize conservative young people, especially on college campuses.

Kirk was known for his willingness to discuss issues in a polite and open manner with those who opposed his views. He had an influential podcast and radio program, and frequently appeared on television, using social media for spreading his views.

Kirk became closely aligned with President Donald Trump’s political movement, using Turning Point USA and its affiliated initiatives, like TPUSA Faith and Students for Trump, to build grassroots support among young conservatives.

Kirk was falsely criticized by the far left of promoting misinformation, particularly on issues of race, religion, free speech, and equality.

Arguably, since the beginning of Adventism, nothing has galvanized evangelical Protestant, Catholic, and right-wing



**Erika Kirk and President Trump at the end of Charlie Kirk’s memorial service**

Official White House Photo by Daniel Torok

political forces like Kirk's killing. Within eleven days, things in the United States have gone from status quo to a movement to return the United States to God and religion.

The over five hour memorial service held for Charlie Kirk drew almost a quarter million people who wished to attend in person at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. Millions more watched on television and the Internet. The list of speakers included a who's who of the United States government, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Kennedy Jr., Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, Vice President J. D. Vance, and President Trump, among others, such as Tucker Carlson. In one way or another, almost all of the speakers, except for Adventist Ben Carson, spoke of Charlie being in heaven or even spoke to him directly, looking upward. The speeches of Marco Rubio, Pete Hegseth, and J. D. Vance could have passed for ministers giving a homily. The name of Jesus Christ was declared aloud without any hesitation. That may sound good, but the Jesus Christ these people know is NOT the Jesus Christ of the Bible! President Trump also stated:

And we have to bring back religion to America, because without borders, law and order and religion, you really don't have a country anymore. We want religion brought back to America. We want to bring God back into our beautiful USA like never before. We want God back. Charlie would have been so pleased to hear his friends and colleagues today giving testimony and giving glory to God. (<https://www.livenowfox.com/news/donald-trumps-full-speech-charlie-kirks-funeral>; accessed September 21, 2025)



**Tucker Carlson speaking at the memorial**

Official White House Photo by Daniel Torok

The evangelical Protestant, Catholic, and right-wing political forces are polarizing. The far left, ultra liberal forces are not on board yet, but remember that “the final movements will be rapid ones” and that they will be brought on quickly. While we can only speculate what might need to happen yet, it appears that the final events are just before us.

The stage has been set for spiritualism to take many captive. Along with the political leaders, Erika Kirk, the widow of Charlie Kirk, spoke passionately to Charlie, as if he were in heaven and could hear her. Despite the biblical truth that “the dead know not any thing” (Ecclesiastes 9:5) and “his breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish” (Psalm 146:4).

As many know, Charlie Kirk recently began advocating the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath as a rest day. In fact Charlie had just finished a book before he was killed, which will be released this winter, entitled *Stop, in the Name of God: Why Honoring the Sabbath Will Transform Your Life*.

Charlie believed that the Sabbath helps one to “unplug, recharge, and reconnect with God, family, and yourself in a way that nurtures your soul” (Amazon advertisement for his book). Charlie also believed that “honoring the Sabbath restores balance, reduces anxiety, and nourishes your soul. It's not just a day of rest—it's a lifeline to reclaiming what truly matters” (Ibid.).

Kirk still attended church services on Sunday. His Sabbath-keeping was one primarily for rest and not for worship. Though he had some connections with Seventh-day Adventists, he seemed to have had no understanding of how the Sabbath connected to the three angels' messages and end-time events.

If there was ever a time to share the Sabbath truth, it is today. We have prepared a new Sabbath tract entitled “Remembering” which begins by sharing Charlie's appreciation for the Sabbath and then goes beyond Charlie's simple rest day to sharing that the Sabbath is to be a

day of worship, remembering God as the Creator and then also as the Redeemer who sanctifies us. These tracts are available upon request. The suggestion donation is \$10 per 100.

## “REMEMBER”

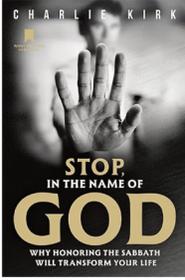
Charlie Kirk was tragically killed September 10, 2025, by an assassin's bullet, stopping a great voice for free speech, morality, and liberty. While his death has brought sadness to millions, believers trust the truth of the Bible when it declares that “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Since his death, many have picked up the torch of principles for which Charlie stood and have begun to fight the good fight of faith.



Charlie Kirk

One of the Christian principles Charlie came to embrace recently was the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath. In fact, Charlie had finished just before he was killed a book which will be released this winter, entitled *Stop, in the Name of God: Why Honoring the Sabbath Will Transform Your Life*.

Charlie believed that the Sabbath helps one to “unplug, recharge, and reconnect with God, family, and yourself in a way that nurtures your soul” (Amazon advertisement for his book). Charlie also believed that “honoring the Sabbath restores balance, reduces anxiety, and nourishes your soul. It's not just



**Remember tract**



# Health Matters

By Sheri Stump

*(This is an edited version of a talk given at the 1889 HSDA camp meeting this last August..... Editor)*

## Medical Missionary Work

There are some questions that I have asked many, many times in my life, especially when I was a teen or in my twenties. And those questions are:

What is the true meaning of life? Why am I here? Does God have a plan for my life?

Have any of you ever asked those questions? Even in our adult years, we come to forks in the road where we must make a decision. What is the right way? Where do you want me to go, Lord? I want to be in the center of God's will, don't you?

Those questions are hard, but the answers are profoundly simple, and there are two more questions we may consider as well:

Do you long for happiness and contentment in your life? Would you like to know where, on this earth, the safest place to be is when the time of tribulation comes?

May I begin by sharing my personal testimony with you? It will help you understand why I have such a passion for this subject.

For twenty years I was a hairstylist, and in 1993, at only thirty-seven years of age, I became very sick. It was later determined that chemicals from the beauty salon had damaged my lungs. The doctors could not figure out what was wrong. I was bedridden for four months with chills, fever, and aching.

My Adventist sister told me about Uchee Pines Lifestyle Center in Seale, Alabama. I went there as a patient and placed myself under their wonderful care where they use natural treatments. At Uchee Pines patients are fed nutritious vegan meals, encouraged to perform daily exercise, experience sunshine each day, rest at appropriate times, practice temperance, use abundance of water inside and out (hydrotherapy), and breathe plenty of fresh air, while trusting in God. Pharmaceutical medicines were not prescribed for me.

Within one week, practicing the natural remedies, along with hydrotherapy, I went from being bedridden and not able to walk, to walking one mile without pain. Natural remedies are powerful when we cooperate with God and his plan.

Prayer was a vital part of my recovery. Twice each day, when the doctor walked into my room to see how I was, he began and ended my patient consult with prayer. Prayer was

also offered with each hydrotherapy treatment. Prayer was the key.

Uchee Pines was founded by the late Dr. Agatha Thrash, with her husband, the late Dr. Calvin Thrash. Dr. Agatha personally told me that when she looks back at when they started Uchee Pines and the remedies they used in the beginning, she knows that those early treatments never should have worked. She told me she is convinced that the only reason the people had health recovery was because God answered prayer.

When I follow the healthy lifestyle I learned at Uchee Pines, I can live a healthy and even a vibrant life. When I stray from those principles, I suffer with poor health.

Since my health recovery, I have been privileged to live in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for six years, where I helped start a church. I moved to Costa Rica and helped start a church there. I then moved to Alabama and was able to work with Dr. Agatha Thrash, which was a huge blessing to me.

Dr. Thrash had the most beautiful personality, a character that was so godly. I was blessed to work with her to start Living Springs Lifestyle Center, in Roanoke, Alabama. I was on the grounds of Living Springs after the construction of the lifestyle center building was begun but not completed. I helped complete that building and started the first health recovery programs with the help of several volunteers, Uchee Pines, and Dr. Thrash. It was such a privilege.

From Living Springs, I went to Ecuador for eight years doing missionary work. Now I am in West Virginia, and like other places, there are many opportunities here, too.

Now, I would like you to consider the questions we started with:

What is the meaning of life? Why am I here? Does God have a plan for my life? What is the true object or purpose of life on this earth? Inspiration notes:

Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service—service to God and to their fellow men. Here Christ has presented to the world a higher conception of life than they had ever known. *By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ.* The law of service becomes the connecting link which binds us to God and to our fellow men. (Ellen White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 326.3)

This inspired quote teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ himself was a worker, and we are supposed to be Christlike.

Please notice this segment from the previous quote: "To all his followers, he gives the law of service, the law of service to God and service to their fellow men." Here, Christ has presented to believers, a higher conception of life than they had ever known. You can have that, too.

By living to minister for others, humanity is brought into connection with Christ. Would you like to get closer to Christ? This is one very important way to develop that close relationship we desire through service for others.

Ministry opportunities remind me of shopping with my sister. I used to say that the clothes need to jump off the rack into my arms and then I might look at them. I just did not have that typical female desire to paw through clothes on racks. Just like the clothes that did not leap off the clothing racks into my arms, ministry opportunities are not going to jump into your lap either. You must decide that you want to minister to others and intentionally look for opportunities and prepare for service. Have tracts in your car, or purse, or truck, ready to hand out when the opportunity arises. You need to pray for opportunities and divine appointments.

Ministry to others is vitally important to your spiritual growth. The law of service becomes the connecting link which connects us to God and to our fellow men. We need this connection.

Throughout our life's journey we are preparing for heaven. To attain eternal life, we must cultivate godly character. This quote encapsulates the essence of godly character:

The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall. (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 57.3)

It says, here, men who will not be bought or sold. What does this mean? The process may go something like this: You need a job, knowing the commandment of God which says, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Obeying the commandment of God means you will not work on Saturday, which is the Sabbath, because the Bible says to do no work on that day. The Bible is always our standard.

Will you be bought or sold for a job? Will you sacrifice your convictions for a pay check? Will you trust God and choose to obey God, no matter what the sacrifice? Will you keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy? Are you going to trust God and not sell your spiritual commitment to God for a job?

We must not be bought or sold for relationships, even to our dear family members. Even if they do not believe like we do, we have to stand on the truth, speak the truth in love, no matter what. When you have a godly character nothing could entice you to be bought or sold.

In our inmost souls we must be pure and honest. We do not tell lies. We do not misrepresent the truth in any way. We live exactly in church as we do at our home. Otherwise, we are lying. We are putting on a false front. We must be true and honest in our hearts.

A person with a godly character does not fear to call sin by its right name. This world is full of sin. Can we be silent when we see sin? There is a right time to boldly speak the truth in love. When God prompts us that something is wrong, we are not to condone it by our silence or our presence. Inspired writings tell us that we must not attend meetings where error is being preached, and we do not condone sin by smiling when a bad joke or foul language is used. We are to call sin by its right name.

What does it mean to be a person whose conscience is as true to duty as a needle to the pole? The person with godly character is going to show up on time for church, work, or appointments. As a matter of fact, you are going to be early because your conscience is as true to duty as the needle is to the pole. You will keep your conscience pure and spotless. When you know what time an appointment starts, you will be there early, sitting at your desk or in your pew or in the waiting room for our appointments because you are a person of integrity. You represent the King of the universe! God will be pleased for you to be the best representative of his kingdom to your employer, fellow workers, or to those with whom you have a meeting.

If you live like this, you will stand for the right, no matter if the heavens fall, no matter if you lose your job, no matter if you lose your family, and no matter if you are ostracized from friends and even from church friends you love dearly. You stand for the right though the heavens fall. This is godly character in action.

The quotation from *Education*, page 57.3, is a really good quote, but the next paragraph tells us how to accomplish the first part, how we develop godly character.

But such a character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. A noble character is the result of self-discipline, of the subjection of the lower to the higher nature—the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man. (Ibid., p. 57.4)

Godly character is not inherited. It is developed by making right choices everyday. Having godly character is a decision and a discipline. Most people today lack self-discipline. Every generation seems to have less and less self-discipline. We must know what is right and do it no matter what. That is self-discipline.

We need less self esteem taught in schools. It is leading people to narcissism which is prevalent in our young people today. What we need, instead, is more self-discipline!

The fruits of the Spirit are the higher nature. That is the nature we need to develop. Satan's character is the lower nature. That is the base desires, the desires of the flesh, "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2 15). We must put down the lower nature and exalt and obey the higher nature which is God's standards.

And the last phrase of the quotation from *Education* has been my motto for thirty years: “the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man.”

Ask yourself: “Am I serving God and man? Am I representing the kingdom of heaven now?” Some people live to eat. Some people live for vacation, but believers live to minister to others. It is a noble and biblical goal.

With this quote in mind, we should begin each day with a prayer like: “Heavenly Father, What would you have me do today? Where would you have me go?” Now, what if God nudges you to leave your comfortable, temperature controlled living room and go visit your neighbor because they have a need? Even though it is often not convenient nor comfortable being a missionary, an ambassador for the heavenly kingdom, we are called by God for service, and we have read in *Christ’s Object Lessons* that by serving God “*man is brought into connection with Christ.*” I propose to you that being connected to Christ through service and developing godly character to fit us for eternity with God in heaven are worth it all. Humanity will experience its greatest joy in service.

It matters not what our position may be or how limited our capacities, we have a work to do for the Master. Our graces are developed and matured by exercise. With the truth of God burning in the soul, we cannot be idle. The happiness we shall experience in doing will compensate even in this life for every effort. *Those only who have experienced happiness resulting from self-denying effort in the service of Christ can speak of the matter understandingly. It is indeed joy so pure, so deep, that language cannot express it.* (Ellen White, *Our High Calling*, p. 186.)

Let us look at some of the scriptures that give an overview of what God thinks about this world, what is happening around us, and what our part is.

Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

We are surrounded by people who need to know the gospel. We must open our mouths and share, even if it is uncomfortable. We share the truth in love. We are to work as Jesus worked. He “made Himself familiar with their interests and occupations, that He might gain access to their hearts, and reveal to them the imperishable riches” (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 24.2)

It is vital to know people so we can share the truth in a way that will speak to their heart.

Matthew 18:11 says: “For the Son of Man is come to save that which is lost.” We are Christ’s followers, and we are called to live as he did which is to work to save that which is lost. Jesus wants to make us “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

Jesus also told his disciples shortly before his return to heaven that as his Father had sent him, even so he sent them (John 20:21). He also sends us. We are called by God.

Jesus said “likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth” (Luke 15:7). Would you love to make those angels rejoice? We can have a part in making the angels in heaven rejoice. We can share the gospel message and bring souls to the foot of the cross. Jesus also said in parting from his disciples, “Go ye therefore and teach all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

We are called to GO! We are not to stay home sitting on our couch watching the Internet all day. We go and share the precious truths we have learned. We are not stagnant pools. We are flowing water. We move. We go. We share, for “we are ambassadors for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20). That is who we are. The verse continues, “as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

What does it mean to be an ambassador? An ambassador is an official representative from the home country (heaven, in this case) to a foreign country (Earth). An ambassador represents the laws of heaven to this earth we live in. We represent what the kingdom of heaven looks like in the way we live, the way we dress, our countenances, our joy, and our peace. In all these ways, we reflect the kingdom of heaven to others on this earth.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

It is God’s will for the human race that all should come to repentance.

Second Timothy 3:1 says: “This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come.” We are living in those times today. The ancient prophet, Daniel, noted:

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. (Daniel 12:1)

At what time? At the time when it is a very bad time of trouble, worse than ever. At that time this is your hope, and this is a promise for you. If you are found written in the book of life, do you need to fear the great time of trouble? No, for God is with you. He is never going to leave you because you are his servant. You are his ambassador. He loves you, and his promise is sure.

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)

Our entire life here on this earth and everything we do here are for the great purposes of developing characters fit for heaven, of leading others to Christ, and of glorifying God, among others. God forbid we mistake believing in God for fire insurance, for it is not!

We do not trust in Jesus just to avoid suffering the penalty that Satan will suffer—hell’s fire. The desire to be a Christian is not just for following rules so that one can spend eternity in a heavenly vacation in bliss and comfort. No, that is not it. And if that is your purpose, you will not make it to heaven. I, I, I. That is selfishness, and you will not make it.

You make it to heaven by serving others, by giving to others, and by seeking to lead others to the Master, by practicing unselfishness. That is how you make it. That is how you develop godly character. Yes, I want to be with God in heaven, of course, I do, for all eternity, but I want to take as many people with me as I can.

Everything we have studied thus far is to build a foundation for medical missionary work. Medical missionary work will fulfill this high calling in our life.

The medical missionary work has two parts—the medical side and the missionary side. The missionary side is the goal of medical missionary work. We minister to the health needs of others to develop an opportunity to share Jesus with them. We are not trying to help people regain their health to simply live in health on this earth for a few years. We want to show them how to prepare to live for eternity in heaven. That is the great goal.

We can learn to pray like the workers at Uchee Pines did for me. We can learn some simple natural remedies. The medical side is to befriend the people and minister to their health needs so we will understand how to share the gospel with them in a way that they will understand and accept. It is not a one-time, quick encounter to say, “Hey, Jesus loves you” and to hand them a tract. There is nothing wrong with that, but there is so much more that we need to do.

What is the true missionary spirit? In a quote from Ellen White we see that it is the spirit of Christ. Do you want to have Christ’s spirit dwelling in you? Jesus had a true missionary spirit. The world’s Redeemer was the great model missionary.

The true missionary spirit is the spirit of Christ. The world’s Redeemer was the great model missionary. Many of His followers have labored earnestly and unselfishly in the cause of human salvation; but no man’s labor can bear comparison with the self-denial, the sacrifice, the benevolence, of our Exemplar. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 385.1)

If we would have the true missionary spirit we must be imbued with the love of Christ; we must look to the Author and Finisher of our faith, study His character, culti-

vate His spirit of meekness and humility, and walk in His footsteps. (Ibid., p. 385.3)

Every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. It is what we are all called to do. We may be the pastor, we may be the treasurer, we may be the deacon or the deaconess, or we may have no office at all, but we are all called to be his ambassadors.

We have come to a time when *every member* of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. The world is a lazar house filled with victims of both physical and spiritual disease. *Everywhere people are perishing for lack of a knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us.* The members of the church are in need of an awakening, that they may realize their responsibility to impart these truths. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 62.1)

This says that the members of the church, God’s people on this earth, are in need of an awakening. I believe we need to have a revival like never before and receive the latter rain, a downpour of rain. We need to wake up to our need for God, to the great call upon our lives to share truth with all those around us. We have a responsibility. You have the responsibility resting on your shoulders, just as I have that same responsibility on my shoulders. Our responsibility here is to impart these truths to others.

So, how can we fulfill our responsibility? In today’s world it is hard to get into the homes. It is not like it was years ago. Colporteurs encounter gated communities and people living in high-rise apartment complexes where one needs a code to enter the parking lot.

Think about the evangelistic series. They are not as popular now as they were a few decades ago. They are not well attended as they used to be. Our world has changed. How are we going to do this work? How are we going to get to the people?

God will give you ways that you can reach your neighbors, your friends, your co-workers, your church members. You probably all have some good friends that are in the corporate church that need information, and we have the information. Let’s share it.

The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration; physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished. (Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.2)

Even though the world and its culture has changed, the great need of the people has not changed. They need a revelation of Christ. If we have a revelation of Christ, our characters will reflect it to others, and they will want to know what it is. Jesus showed us how to accomplish this great task:

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." (Ibid., p. 143.3)

I have memorized this quote and have lived in two foreign countries as a missionary. I did not have a big group with me. I simply prayed and asked God, "What would you have me do?"

According to the pen of Inspiration, there is no other method that works. Only Christ's method will bring true success.

How did the Saviour connect with the people? How did he, the greatest missionary that ever lived, accomplish the great commission? The Savior showed us the pattern.

He mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed his sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence, and then, after he mingled with them, he showed them in actions that he had a desire for their good. He showed sympathy to them and won their confidence. He gave unselfish service and time to others. He built a base of trust and then invited them to follow him.

He got to know them. He befriended them. He won the confidence of the person. He showed them sympathy and care and love. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

It is an unselfish, self-sacrificing effort that we are called to do. This takes time. It will mean that we do not live to please ourselves. We mingle, we sympathize, we minister, we win people's confidence, and then we invite them to study the Bible and teach them the way to eternal life. This is how we win precious souls to the truth. And remember, the angels in heaven sing and rejoice over each soul that accepts Christ.

The medical missionary work is a door through which the truth is to find entrance to many homes in the cities. In every city will be found those who will appreciate the truths of the third angel's message. The judgments of God are impending. Why do we not awaken to the peril threatening the men and women living in the great cities of America? Our people do not realize as keenly as they should the responsibility resting upon them to proclaim the truth to the millions dwelling in these unwarned cities. (Ellen White, *Counsels on Health*, p. 556.1)

I emphasize, here, that medical missionary work is a door through which the truth is to find entrance to many homes in the cities, and *in every city will be found those who will appreciate the truths of the third angel's message.*

The judgments of God are impending. Do you see them coming? Why do we not awaken to the peril threatening men and women living in the great cities of America?

Enoch lived in the country, and he went into the city to minister for others and to share truth. That is our calling, too.

It is that thirsting souls may be led to the living water that we plead for sanitariums, not expensive, mammoth sanitariums, but homelike institutions, in pleasant places. (Ibid., p. 211. 3)

Every one of us is called to do this work. We need many lights all over the world. We need local places that can be easily reached by those in need of help because if a pandemic happens again, the government can shut down the big institutions. So, people need to be within driving distance, just hours or less from a place where one can get help, but there cannot be many various places unless we are all trained to do this work.

So great are the world's needs, that not all who are called to be medical missionary evangelists can afford to spend years in preparation before beginning to do actual field work. Soon doors now open to the gospel messenger will be forever closed. *God calls upon many who are prepared to do acceptable service, to carry the message now, not waiting for further preparation; for while some delay, the enemy may take possession of fields now open.* (Ellen White, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 469.1; emphasis supplied)

God's calling is his enabling. We need a basic knowledge. We can pray and ask God for wisdom, and we can learn along the way and apply what we have learned as we do the work. I remind you of how Dr Agatha Thrash and her husband started Uchee Pines and grew in their knowledge of what worked. The key to their success was prayer. We can do the same—simple remedies, revealing our love for others through service to them, and most importantly, prayer.

I wish to say that the medical missionary work is God's work. The Lord wants every one of His ministers to come into line. Take hold of the medical missionary work, and it will give you access to the people. Their hearts will be touched as you minister to their necessities. As you relieve their sufferings, you will find opportunity to speak to them of the love of Jesus. (Ellen White, *Counsels on Health*, p. 533.3)

Doing medical missionary work will make the gospel minister a much more efficient worker.

Some utterly fail to realize the importance of missionaries being also medical missionaries. A gospel minister will be twice as successful in his work if he understands how to treat disease. . . . A minister of the gospel, who is also a medical missionary, who can cure physical ailments, is a much more efficient worker than one who

cannot do this. His work as a minister of the gospel is much more complete. (Ellen White, *Medical Ministry*, p. 245.3)

The truth is that we are all called to be medical missionaries and help others.

*All gospel workers* should know how to give the simple treatments that do so much to relieve pain and remove disease. (White, *Councils on Health*, p. 389.1)

The Lord wants every one of his ministers to come into line.

To my ministering brethren I would say, Prosecute this work with tact and ability. Set to work the young men and the young women in our churches. Combine the medical missionary work with the proclamation of the third angel's message. Make regular, organized efforts to lift the churches out of the dead level into which they have fallen, and have remained for years. Send into the church workers who will set the principles of health reform in their connection with the third angel's message before every family and individual. Encourage all to take a part in work for their fellow men, and see if the breath of life will not quickly return to these churches. (Ellen White, *Welfare Ministry*, p. 124.2)

You might not be a preacher, but you minister the gospel every time you open your mouth and share Jesus.

We are all called to do medical missionary work which will give us access to the people, and that is what we need—access to the people.

Their hearts will be touched as you minister to their necessities. As you relieve their sufferings, you will find opportunities to speak to them of the love of Jesus as you minister to their necessities, as you relieve their sufferings, and as you pray for and with them. This is how you find opportunity to speak to them of the love of God. Personal Bible studies will result.

In gospel work knowing how to treat disease and understanding simple remedies is vital to success. For example, as you are caring for someone while doing a hot foot bath or even tucking them into a restful bed, you can explain to them what you are doing, why the treatment has benefits, and show them care and love. Love begets love, and this is effective in melting hardened hearts.

I want to encourage you to dress clean and neat when you interact with others. Our personalities need to be attractive to people. I am not talking about physical attraction but of the warmth we show toward them. When we genuinely love people, godly love shows in our facial expressions, the tone of our voices, in our actions, and in our willingness to give to them of our time and means. When we show them we love them, they will listen.

To my ministering brethren I would say, Prosecute this work with tact and ability. Set to work the young men and the young women in our churches. Combine the medical missionary work with the proclamation of the third angel's message. Make regular, organized effort to lift the churches out of the dead level into which they have fallen and have remained for years. Send into the churches workers who will set the principles of health reform in their connection with the third angel's message before every family and individual. Encourage all to take a part in work for their fellowmen, and see if the breath of life will not quickly return to these churches. (Ellen White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 415.2)

Now we will consider the questions that I asked at the beginning. What is the true meaning of life? Why am I here? Does God have a plan for my life? Where can we find true happiness and contentment? And where is the safest place on earth when the time of trouble comes?

It is all the same answer. Living in the center of God's will, doing what he has called you to do, and living where he wants you to live is the basic answer to all of the questions. When you are in the center of God's will for you, all these questions are answered, and no matter how bad the time of trouble is, God is with you.

How do you find God's will? There are three things God uses. Firstly, through the inspired counsels of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Secondly, through prayer and God speaking to your heart, but that direction will never be contrary to the word of God. Thirdly, through godly counsel of believers who have the gift of wisdom.

You may find yourself right in the heart of the enemy's city, but if you are in God's will, he will not forsake you.

We are not called to be hidden, secluded hermits. No, we are here as ambassadors of heaven. We must be visible. We must go to the world. We must seek and save that which is lost. This is our call. Fearlessly and unselfishly ministering to others develops godly character.

To move forward, we need medical missionary training. We need to learn the basics of ministering to other.

Here at Smyrna Gospel Ministries we are planning a training for medical missionary work soon. We are communicating with Pastor David Sims, who is the director of the Waldensian Center in the Philippines. He is willing to record and post medical missionary training videos online. Plus, we plan to have a one or two week hands-on training as well.

We will be including details in future *Old Paths* as training plans develop. In the meanwhile, there are ways you can prepare to do what God has called you to do. There are books that explain hydrotherapy and simple natural remedies that are very effective. I encourage you to do what you can to fol-

low the natural health lifestyle yourself, so you can be a strong soldier in God's army.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. (2 Timothy 2:3-4)

I encourage you to study the word and be ready to give biblical studies and to give an answer for the faith that is in you.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15)

And most importantly, pray! Stay close to God and listen to his dear voice speaking to your heart, We need to recognize the voice of God. We will accomplish this by staying in the word. We can identify the voice of God when we know the Bible. God will never speak contrary to his word. The word is our foundation. The word is truth.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (John 17:17)

Finally,

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)



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## Parenting Principles Parenting God's Way

By Sheri Stump

What kind of parent are you?

From a book by Dr. Kevin Leman, entitled *Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours*, I recently read about three parenting styles. Dr. Leman identified these as:

### The Authoritarian Parent

- Makes all decisions for the child
- Uses reward and punishment to control the child's behavior
- Sees himself as better than the child
- Runs the home with an iron hand and grants little freedom to the child

### The Permissive Parent

- Is a slave to the child
- Places priority on the child, not on his or her spouse (if married)

- Robs the child of self-respect and self-esteem by doing things for him that the child can do for himself
- Provides the child with "Disneyland" experience and makes things as easy as possible (doing homework for her, answering for her, etc.)
- Invites rebellion with inconsistent parenting

### The Authoritative Parent

- Gives the child choices and formulates guidelines with her
- Provides the child with decision-making opportunities
- Develops consistent, loving discipline
- Holds the child accountable
- Lets reality be the teacher
- Conveys respect, self-worth, and love to the child therefore enhancing his self-worth

My parenting style was developed on the job from reading books and asking for help from other parents I respected. I did not know of the book, *The Adventist Home*, where we find a rich treasure of knowledge on parenting.

This quote from *The Adventist Home* defines the permissive parent:

Daughters are not taught self-denial and self-control. They are petted, and their pride is fostered. They are allowed to have their own way, until they become headstrong and self-willed, and you are put to your wits' end to know what course to pursue to save them from ruin. Satan is leading them on to be a proverb in the mouth of unbelievers because of their boldness, their lack of reserve and womanly modesty. The young boys are likewise left to have their own way. They have scarcely entered their teens before they are by the side of little girls of their own age, accompanying them home and making love to them. And the parents are so completely in bondage through their own indulgence and mistaken love for their children that they dare not pursue a decided course to make a change and restrain their too-fast children in this fast age. (Ellen White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 52.2)

The Bible is faithful to show us the good results of guiding our children in the way of the Lord. Abraham is a good example; whereas, Eli is the example of parental failure which resulted in very bad consequences. The following verses show Abraham's parenting method and Eli's:

<sup>19</sup> For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. (Genesis 18:19)

<sup>12</sup> Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord. (1 Samuel 2:12)

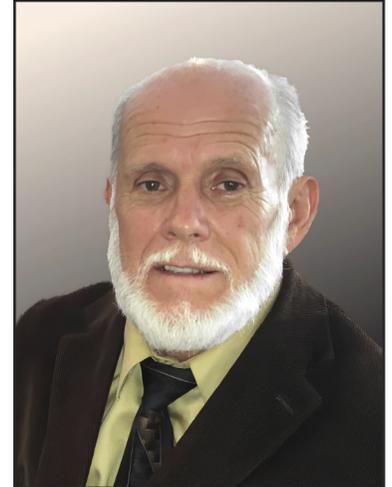
# Obituary for Leon Holt

By Allen Stump

We are sad to note the death of a truly beloved brother, Leon Holt.

Leon was born on April 21, 1941 and died September 23, 2025. Leon grew up and lived in New England for the first part of his life and moved to West Virginia in the later 1970s.

He grew up within a large family with many siblings. They had a father and mother who showed them love and care and taught them about God and the things of God. Leon especially loved listening to his father read books about horses and dogs and about biblical stories of faith.



Leon taught church school for several years and loved to work with youth.

Leon was an outdoors type of person and was able to spend most of his later years working on his small farm on Stroud's Creek in the Camden on Gauley area of West Virginia, where for several years he bred German shepherd and Siberian husky dogs.

Leon had a gift for singing. He sang a lot in church before his last sickness and often at camp meetings in duets, quartets, choirs, and solos. He was so brave that he even sang a duet with me one time! That took courage and humility.

Leon learned the truth about God and Christ over thirty years ago. He was a seeker of truth and always wanted to know new truth as well as old truth that had been buried by man's traditions and ways.

It was because of his love of truth and his willingness to examine it that many in his family learned to know about Jesus as being truly the only begotten Son of God, and when he was no longer welcomed in his local home church because of his biblical views of truth, his devotion made it easy to make the four-hour round trip to Smyrna each Sabbath to worship and fellowship with other like believers.

About five years ago Leon had a stroke and had been bed-fast since. We are thankful for the promise, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13).

<sup>22</sup> Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

<sup>23</sup> And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. <sup>24</sup> Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord's people to transgress. (1 Samuel 2:22-24)

Eli understood that his sons are sinning while serving as priests. He addressed those sins to his sons, but it was too late. His sons were adults. Early training had been neglected. The consequences were inevitable.

<sup>12</sup> In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. <sup>13</sup> For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. (1 Samuel 3:12-13)

Eli's promiscuous parenting style resulted in heartache and death for his sons.

I saw that great responsibility rests upon parents. They must not be led by their children, but must lead them. I was referred to Abraham. He was faithful in his house. He commanded his household after him, and it was remembered of God. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 118.2)

I was then referred to the case of Eli. He restrained not his children, and they became wicked and vile, and by their wickedness led Israel astray. When God had made known to Samuel their sins, and the heavy curse that was to follow because Eli restrained them not, He said that their sins should not be purged with sacrifice nor offering forever. When told by Samuel what the Lord had shown him, Eli submitted, saying: "It is the Lord: let Him do what seemeth Him good." The curse of God soon followed. Those wicked priests were slain, and thirty thousand of Israel were also slain, and the ark of God was taken by their enemies. And when Eli heard that the ark of God was taken, he fell backward and died. All this evil resulted from Eli's neglect to restrain his sons. I saw that if God was so particular as to notice such things anciently, He will be no less particular in these last days. (Ibid., p. 119.1)

As we consider the three parenting styles from the Dr. Kevin Leman's book—the authoritarian, the permissive, and the authoritative—let us consider carefully where we are and strive to be the authoritative parent. As our previous quote says, "They must not be led by their children, but must lead them."



## 1889 HSDA Camp Meeting Report

About 140 believers gathered at Fall Creek Falls State Park near Spencer, Tennessee, August 19–24 for the church’s annual camp meeting. This was the third camp meeting since reorganizing the believers, and it was the largest and in many ways the most eventful of the meetings.

The theme was “Heaven Bound Upholding the Truth.” Many stirring messages were given. The regular meetings were all recorded and have been uploaded to YouTube and are available by scanning the QR code.



There were four different breakout sessions: The Truth About God, Medical Missionary, Why 1889 HSDA?, and How to Prepare and Preach Sermons. There were five baptisms on Sabbath afternoon. Just as the baptisms were getting started, it began to rain hard, but for some it made the time very special. Sabbath afternoon also had a spirited Question and Answer session.



**Newlyweds Lois and Bill were the camp’s cute couple!**

People are invited to see the beast and ask questions and hear a study and then are offered literature and/or an offer for in-home biblical studies.

During a day at the camp, “The Beast” was taken to a nearby community, and several interests were found quickly. Pray for direction, as Corey has made “The Beast” available to the church, and we plan to use it to raise a church in Florida.

Next year’s camp dates have already been chosen—July 28–August 2. The location is again at the Piney Creek Campground at Fall Creek Falls. There is no charge to attend the camp, and lodging and food are provided. We hope all will come and be blessed.



**Chime choir rehearsing**

One of the special points of interest was “The Beast” which Brother Corey McCain made and brought to the camp. “The Beast” is a ten foot long replica of the nondescript beast of Daniel 7. It was featured on the cover of last month’s *Old Paths*. “The Beast” was made as a witnessing tool to gain the attention and interest of people. Typically it is taken to a Walmart or similar parking lot. People are invited to see the beast and ask questions and hear a study and then are offered literature and/or an offer for in-home biblical studies.

## Marriage Morsel

Affection may be as clear as crystal and beautiful in its purity, yet it may be shallow because it has not been tested and tried. Make Christ first and last and best in everything. Constantly behold Him, and your love for Him will daily become deeper and stronger as it is submitted to the test of trial. And as your love for Him increases, your love for each other will grow deeper and stronger. “We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory.” 2 Corinthians 3:18. You now have duties to perform that before your marriage you did not have. “Put on therefore, . . . kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering.” Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.” Give careful study to the following instruction: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church. . . . Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.” Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 5:2, 22–25. (Ellen White, *Counsels for the Church*, p. 126.5)



**The blessing of God in the home . . . is as the sunshine of heaven. (Ellen White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 102.1**

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