

# 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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**For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (2 Corinthians 4:17)**



## Fundamental Pillars — The Law and the Sabbath-3

By Allen Stump

### Has the Sabbath been changed?

Has the Sabbath been changed? This question arises in many minds of many Sunday-keepers when first confronted with the biblical truth of the seventh-day Sabbath. Does history or the records of the so-called ancient church fathers give us insight, and, if so, can they be relied upon?

### Ancient church fathers

**Augustine of Hippo** is considered by many to be the greatest Christian philosopher of antiquity and certainly the one who exerted the deepest and most lasting influence. He is the father of what would be today called *original sin*. He wrote:

Well, now, I should like to be told what there is in these ten commandments, **except the observance of the Sabbath**, which ought not to be kept by a Christian. (*A Treatise on the Spirit and the Letter*, chapter 23 [AD 412]; all emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted)

Augustine stated that Christians should keep all of the Ten Commandments “except the observance of the Sabbath.”

**Ignatius of Antioch** is a famous church father yet nothing is known of Ignatius’ life apart from the words of his letters and later traditions. He wrote:

... those who were brought up in the ancient order of things have come to the possession of a new hope, no longer observing the Sabbath, but living in the observance of the Lord’s Day, on which also our life has sprung up again by Him and by His death. (*The Epistle of Ignatius to the Magnesians*, chapter IX [AD 110])

Remember the term, *Lord’s day*, is only used once in the Bible in Revelation 1:10.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, (Revelation 1:10)

However, in this verse the term, *Lord’s day*, is undefined, and the Bible nowhere calls the first day of the week, or Sunday, the Lord’s day. Instead the seventh-day Sabbath is called God’s holy day in Isaiah 58:13.

**Justin Martyr** claimed many historical Greek philosophers (including Socrates and Plato, in whose works he was well studied), as unknowing Christians. He defended the Holy Spirit as a member of the Trinity. Concerning Sunday, he wrote:

But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Savior on the same day rose from the dead. (Justin Martyr, *The First Apology of Justin*, Chapter 67 [AD 155])

**Origen** is a very famous Catholic father who significantly contributed to the development of the concept of the Trinity. Concerning Sunday, he wrote:

Hence it is not possible that the [day of] rest after the Sabbath should have come into existence from the seventh [day] of our God. On the contrary, it is our Savior who, after the pattern of his own rest, caused us to be made in the likeness of his death, and hence also of his resurrection. (Origen, *Commentary on John 2:28* [AD 229])

**Athanasius**, for whom the famous trinitarian creed is named, wrote this on the Sabbath-Sunday issue:

The Sabbath was the end of the first creation, the Lord’s day was the beginning of the second, in which he renewed and restored the old in the same way as he prescribed that they should formerly observe the Sabbath as a memorial of the end of the first things, so we honor the Lord’s day as being the memorial of the new creation. (Athanasius, *Treatise On the Sabbath and Circumcision*. [AD 345])

**The Council of Laodicea** was a regional Christian synod of approximately thirty clerics from Asia Minor which assembled about mid fourth century in Laodicea, Phrygia Pacatiana. From that Council, we have the following:

Christians should not Judaize and should not be idle on the Sabbath, but should work on that day; they should, however, particularly reverence the Lord's day and, if possible, not work on it, because they were Christians. (Canon 29 [AD 360], quoted from <https://www.catholic.com/tract/sabbath-or-sunday>)

## A biblical church father

Just because professed Christians, even early believers, professed something, does that make it truth? Certainly not, if it is contrary to the biblical fathers or authors of Scripture. Notice what Paul could say:

Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. (Acts 28:17)

It is certain that if Paul had been teaching Sunday observance in the place of the seventh-day Sabbath, he could not have said the above statement. It is also just as certain that he would have been accused of striking down the Ten Commandments, but there is no record of any such accusation.

The fact is that neither the apostle Paul nor any biblical writer can be cited for changing the Sabbath from the seventh-day to the first day of the week. And even if the first generation after Paul began to keep Sunday that would not be an authority for such a change. In fact Paul could write, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: . . . (2 Thessalonians 2:7).

God was not taken by surprise by an attempted change of his holy law. Centuries before Paul, through the prophet Daniel, the papal church was foretold to arise as a beast power which would "think to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25). Do they admit to such an attempt? Yes, they do. The Catholic Church claims no biblical authority for Sunday worship, but, rather, the power of the church is claimed to be the authority.

In the introduction of Peter Geiermann's, *Convert's Catechism*, we read:

The Convert's Catechism aims at presenting Religious Truths in the order of their relative importance to the sincere non-Catholic. It emphasizes controverted points in a special manner, while stating the Catholic doctrine clearly. (Peter Geiermann, Introduction, electronic edition)

So, the points within the catechism are Catholic doctrines clearly stated. Before the actual instruction begins, there is a "Prayer to the Holy Ghost," which states, in part:

Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

Under the teaching about the Ten Commandments, we find the official position on the Sabbath:

What is the Third Commandment?

The Third Commandment is: Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

Which is the Sabbath day?

Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 336), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.

Why did the Catholic Church substitute Sunday for Saturday?

The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday, because Christ rose from the dead on a Sunday, and the Holy Ghost descended upon the Apostles on a Sunday.

By what authority did the Church substitute Sunday for Saturday?

The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday by the plenitude of that divine power which Jesus Christ bestowed upon her. (Ibid.)

Another catechism states:

Question.—Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals or precepts?

Answer.—Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her,—she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.—(REV. STEPHEN KEENAN, *A Doctrinal Catechism*, p. 174. New York: Edward Dunigan and Brothers, 1851.)

## The Bible only is the standard.

While many might wish to rely on church leaders or teachings for truth, the only reliable standard we may live by is the Bible. Notice the clear statements it brings to us:

<sup>1</sup> All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. <sup>2</sup> And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. <sup>3</sup> And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread

only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. (Deuteronomy 8:1-3)

<sup>3</sup> And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. <sup>4</sup> But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:3-4)

<sup>15</sup> And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2 Timothy 3:15-16)

## Did God or Christ change the Sabbath?

If there is no change recorded in the Bible, then God did not change the Sabbath. M. L. Andreasen lays out the logical consequences of God attempting such a change:

A law publicly announced cannot be secretly annulled. If a change in the law is desired, the change should be made by as great authority as the one who first enacted it, and the nature of the change should be made plain. If, as in this case, the observance of one day is to be discontinued and the observance of another day ordered, this change must be made plain beyond the possibility of misunderstanding. Also, if the new day is to be honored with the same reverence as the old, then its institution should be accompanied with the same or greater manifestation of respect and honor.

God Himself led the way in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. He Himself proclaimed it in flaming fire from the mount. He Himself wrote it in enduring stone. Millions of God's people were witnesses and heard the proclamation, and myriads of angels were there.

None of these conditions was present at the time when the first day of the week was supposed to have been instituted. Sunday came in unannounced, unheralded, unnoticed, in every way an anticlimax to the original institution and inauguration of the Sabbath of the Lord. If God had anything to do with the first day of the week, we must draw the conclusion that He wanted the change made in the most secret and inconspicuous way possible; for on that first Sunday *nobody knew that any change had been made, not even the disciples*, who some say are supposed to have made it! They were in as complete ignorance as the rest, having locked themselves in a room for fear of the Jews. John 20:19. (M. L. Andreasen, *The Sabbath*, p. 151; emphasis in original)

God says, "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Malachi 3:6). James proclaims, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

But for God to change his immutable law would be to declare that the God who says he does not change is changing. It would be to say that the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning, has no consistency and changes.

We can see no consistency in God's announcing a law from heaven in the presence of millions of beings from this world and the worlds beyond, a law that is to judge the living and the dead, announcing it with all the glory and majesty at His command, so that the very earthquakes and the mountains tremble, and then abolishing that same law in the most inconspicuous manner, letting men find out years later what He has done. One would almost come to the conclusion that God was ashamed of what He had done. (Ibid., p. 152)

Let us go to Paul again and see what he clearly wrote many years after the resurrection of Christ:

<sup>31</sup> Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. (Romans 3:31)

It was not Paul's desire to declare God's law changed, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

Imagine the consternation of the angels, if the Sabbath had been quietly, secretly changed. Andreasen continues his logic masterfully:

They [the angels] were present at the time of the giving of the law on Sinai. They were present in the Garden of Eden when God rested on that first beautiful Sabbath. They were present when the man in the wilderness went out to gather sticks on the Sabbath, and they saw what happened to him. But now for some reason God has changed. The angels are in perplexity. They have associated and worked with men since the days of creation. They have patiently helped and instructed them; they have warned them not to profane the Sabbath; they have assisted conscience in bringing men back to a realization of their errors; they have been used by the Spirit in convincing men of sin; and again and again they have instructed men in the sacredness of God's holy day. Even the week before the supposed change of the Sabbath took place, they were engaged in teaching men the sacredness of God's holy Sabbath. But now the following week a change has come. The Sabbath is no longer the Sabbath. They will now have to educate men's conscience over again; and they wonder how they will justify God in the sight of men, how they will justify the law. To them this is no small matter. They are perplexed, and do not feel free to go to God for help. Something has happened to God. He has changed, though He claims that He never changes.

Angels, of course, did not reason thus, for God would never put Himself in a position that would call for such reasoning. Whatever God does, He does openly and

above board. If He had thought best to introduce another day than the Sabbath, He would have been as open about it as He was in the introduction of the seventh-day Sabbath. He would not secretly, surreptitiously, almost ashamedly, institute a new, and as its defenders say, a far more glorious day than the first Sabbath. No, a thousand times no! Such a day would deserve a better introduction, as much greater and more glorious as the first day of the week is supposed to be greater and more glorious than the seventh! As God once spoke from heaven telling men their duty, so He would again speak if He changed His requirements. This would seem the only fair way, and would meet the approbation of mankind.

If there was any justification for God's coming down on Mt. Sinai to announce to men the ten commandments, there is the same justification for God's coming down the second time should He wish to change His law. God with His own voice spoke the law and commanded men to keep it. God actually wrote the ten commandments on two tables of stone and gave them to men, that they might know exactly what He said. (Ibid., pp. 155–157)

The prophecy shows that God was not taken by surprise. In his foreknowledge, he could see what would happen and knew Sabbath reform would be needed:

### **God's seal is in the Ten Commandments.**

God's seal is in the Ten Commandments and specifically in the fourth, for it alone has all the essential elements of a seal, including the name of the law giver, his title, and his territory.

<sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: <sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (Exodus 20:8–11)

Here we see God's name. He is "the LORD" (Jehovah). His title is the Creator, or the one who made, and his territory is the "heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is."

Satan's mark, spoken of in Revelation 13, is in contradiction to the seal of God. With the Sabbath being the seal of God, Sunday worship is certainly the mark or identifying characteristic of the beast, which is energized by Satan.

The Bible is clear that God's law includes the Sabbath, and while men, inspired by Satan, have tried to change the observance of the Sabbath, God does not recognize their efforts as holy, just, and good. In fact, God calls it an abomination.

In the book of Ezekiel, the prophet saw four terrible sins called abominations happening in Jerusalem which were an

enacted prophecy of what would happen at the end of time. After the first two sins, or abominations, we read:

<sup>15</sup> Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. <sup>16</sup> And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. (Ezekiel 8:15–16)

God was telling the future thousands of years before it happened and warning against sun (Sunday) worship coming among his people. He called it an abomination then, and the God who does not change still calls it an abomination.

Loyalty and love are mates. It has been said that true love and loyal friends are the hardest things to find, but I say that the love of God has been plainly shown to humanity:

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

<sup>9</sup> In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:9–10)

God has shown his love in the giving of his only begotten Son. When our love to God is true, loyalty will certainly follow in obedience to his commandments.

<sup>19</sup> We love him, because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

<sup>15</sup> If ye love me, keep my commandments. (John 14:15)



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## **Bible and Conflict of the Ages Reading Plan**

We have a revised reading plan for going through the Bible and the Conflict of the Ages books by Ellen White, which systematically allows one to read the Bible with the corresponding sections from the Spirit of Prophecy books, Patriarchs and Prophets, Prophets and Kings, The Desire of Ages, Acts of the Apostles, and The Great Controversy.

The plan spreads the reading over a four-year period, but it can easily be doubled to finish in two years or read to be finished in just one year.

We believe this booklet will be a great blessing to all who wish to study systematically in order to gain all the blessings they can. These booklets are now available upon request, with a suggested donation of just \$2.00, which includes postage.



# Is My Name Written There?

By Sheri Stump

One of my nieces had a horrible experience when she was in her mid twenties. She was a beautiful young lady, with long blonde hair and a trim figure. She had been raised in a conservative Adventist home, and yet she left home and began working at a bar in Detroit, Michigan. I will call her Allie for privacy's sake.

A man who frequented the bar began paying attention to her. It turned out that he was involved in the Mafia. Allie disappeared. Her mother could not contact her. She did not answer her phone, and her apartment was empty. She was reported missing to the police. My sister was desperate and begged me and others to pray for her daughter, Allie. Months later Allie called her mother. Her voice was frantic, and she was obviously in distress. All my sister heard was her daughter crying and yelling into the phone, "Mom, help me. He's going to kill me!" And then her phone went dead. We cried a lot of tears over Allie and prayed fervently for her.

A few months after that phone call, the police called my sister and told her they had her daughter in custody. She was in rough shape. She had been drugged and held against her will, but she was alive. She was in jail, charged with theft, possession and dealing in drugs, and other crimes. The police told my sister that the man and his partners had taken Allie with them and left her drugged in the passenger seat of the car while they broke in and stole items from many homes. There was video footage evidence of Allie sitting in the front seat of the getaway car. The police knew Allie had not committed the crimes and that she was a victim, but in the end the court charged her as an accomplice, and she spent a year in a women's federal penitentiary. She was guilty by association.

At my kidnapping trial in Ecuador, there was a man who was found guilty and served six years in prison because he said one sentence to the mastermind of the kidnapping, Adrian. This man was Adrian's childhood friend. Adrian visited him during the planning stage of my kidnapping and asked him if he knew anyone who would assist him in kidnapping me. The friend was pressed and pressured to give an answer. Finally, in frustration, the man said, "If I were going to commit a crime and needed help I would go to Machala and find \_\_\_\_\_ [criminal's name]." That one sentence cost the man six years of his life! He was an accomplice to the crime of kidnapping and extortion, even though he did not and would not have committed the crime itself.

## Guilt by association

The Bible talks of guilt by association. Achan had taken a "goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of sil-

ver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight" (Joshua 7:21) when it had been forbidden to take any spoil from the city. As a result of this secret sin, thirty-six good men died at the first battle for the city of Ai.

When the sin was revealed, not only did Achan die but the record (vs. 15, 24) says that his family died, too. They knew of the sin but said nothing. So the whole family of Achan suffered, as well as the camp of Israel suffered a humiliating defeat with the death of thirty-six men for the one man's sin.

This clearly teaches that there is an individual responsibility and a corporate accountability. Further, we are told:

God holds His people, as a body, responsible for the sins existing in individuals among them. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 269.2)

Also, in the fourth angel's message of Revelation, we read:

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, That ye be not partakers of her sins, And that ye receive not of her plagues. (Revelation 18:4)

Why does God give this command? Because either those still in Babylon will eventually commit the sins that they are exposed to in Babylon, or they will be, like Achan's family, considered guilty because they were associated and did nothing to correct the wrong or, in the event it could not be corrected, to disassociate themselves from it.

God's people will be held accountable for the sins of any church that is teaching error, if they are members and do not choose to leave that church.

My niece was held responsible for crimes she did not actually commit. The court could not prove that Allie had not taken the drugs voluntarily, so, she was guilty by association. We, as believers, will be held accountable and will even suffer the punishment of the sins committed, when our name is on the membership roll, simply by association.

What would an investigation into your life uncover? Would the investigator find enough evidence to determine that you are a Christian, a true follower of Christ? Would you qualify to be one of the one hundred and forty-four thousand? Is your character spotless?

I become responsible for the things I endorse. I have not participated in voting for government officials since it came to my attention, over thirty years ago, that I become responsible for the actions of the people for whom I vote.

We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political schemes. We cannot labor to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty, and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their fellow men to keep Sunday as the Sabbath. The first day of the week is not a day to be revered. It is a spurious sabbath, and the members of the

Lord's family cannot participate with the men who exalt this day, and violate the law of God by trampling upon His Sabbath. The people of God are not to vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office. (Ellen White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 475.2)

In today's world, evidence is collected from many sources, such as our homes, the books on our bookshelves as well as those books in reading apps on our electronic devices, the contents and sites we visit through our cell phones and computers, our social media posts, and the comments and likes we post in reply to the posts of others. A thorough investigation would include our memberships in churches and clubs and our social involvement in our communities. Would there be enough evidence to identify what we believe, who we love and serve, and our morality?

This should be the question on everyone's minds as we near the final days of this earth's history. Is my character fit for the heavenly Canaan? Do my actions reflect that godly character necessary for entrance into heaven? Is my name written in the book of heaven, the Lamb's book of life?

Every follower of Christ should daily examine himself, that he may become perfectly acquainted with his own conduct. There is with nearly all a neglect of self-examination. (Ellen White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 109.3)

There is a necessity for close self-examination, and to closely investigate in the light of God's Word, Am I sound, or am I rotten, at heart? Am I renewed in Christ, or am I still carnal at heart, with an outside, new dress put on? Rein yourself up to the tribunal of God, and see as in the light of God if there is any secret sin, any iniquity, any idol you have not sacrificed. Pray, yes, pray as you have never prayed before, that you may not be deluded by Satan's devices; that you may not be given up to a heedless, careless, and vain spirit, and attend religious duties to quiet your own conscience. (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, May 11, 1886, par. 4)

We have a wonderful privilege provided for us by our heavenly Father. The gift of salvation is free to us, that precious gift purchased for us at such an infinite cost, the cost of God's own Son! We did not deserve such a gift! Do we value this gift? Do our actions show how much we value this gift? Are we living in such a way that our lives vindicate the character of God before the universe?

But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to *vindicate the character of God* before the universe. (Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 82.2)

The way we live our lives will demonstrate to the our fellow human beings on this earth, as well as to the watching universe, that the Law of God is not impossible to keep, that God's requirements are good and fair and doable with God's help. Oh, how I want to vindicate the character of God to the universe! I choose to examine every aspect of my life to make sure I am pleasing God in every way.

<sup>1</sup> Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

God's eyes are upon us; the angels are watching. Friends, family, and neighbors, even (and especially) our enemies are watching. Our character is on display. We obey God and serve him because we love him! And what a rich reward awaits God's faithful ones!

I saw a very great number of angels bring from the city glorious crowns—a crown for every saint, with his name written thereon. As Jesus called for the crowns, angels presented them to Him, and with His own right hand the lovely Jesus placed the crowns on the heads of the saints. (Ellen White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 537.2)

There is a signature crown for every saint. Jesus has personalized each crown which he will place on the head of each saint. This is a very visible sign of whose we are. We wear the crown of heaven. We are Christ's own special and peculiar people.

<sup>9</sup> But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: (1 Peter 2:9)

Not only will we wear the crown placed on our heads by Jesus himself, but we will also have his name written in our foreheads:

<sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: <sup>4</sup> And they shall see his face; and *his name shall be in their foreheads*. (Revelation 22:3-4)

There is another name written in the forehead which identifies the apostate church:

<sup>4</sup> And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: <sup>5</sup> And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Revelation 17:4-5)

Will you have Jesus' name written in your forehead, or will you be linked with Babylon?

Babylon looks and acts like the world around us. Almost the whole world is dressing and acting like Babylon. But who and what is Babylon? Do you remember the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up in the plain of Dura? The three Hebrew worthies did not bow down to the image when the music played as the vast crowd of people were instructed. And when they were brought before the king to give an answer for their disobedience to the king's command, they boldly answered:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. (Daniel 3:16–18)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego had committed their lives to worship only the true God of heaven. They would not commit spiritual adultery by paying *any form* of homage to the golden image of King Nebuchadnezzar. So serious was their commitment to worship the God of heaven only that they were willing to give their lives to “stand for the right though the heavens fall” (Ellen White, *Education* p. 52).

There were other Jewish people in that vast multitude of people gathered on the plain of Dura. At this time the Jewish captives had lived in Babylon for years. They were assimilating into the Babylonian ways and customs. These Jewish captives bowed their knee to the golden image in direct violation to the God they claimed to worship. They publicly committed spiritual adultery. Since all the leaders of the vassal states had been called in, no doubt Jehoiakim, king of Judah, was also there!

The vast majority of the one true God believers of their day caved to Babylonian pressure. Only three believers were willing to stand for truth and even to give their lives to vindicate God's character. These three lonely worshippers of the one true God could have simply bent over and tied their sandals when the music played. They could have stayed quiet and blended in, but they chose to make their resistance to false worship clear! I pray that God will help us take our stand boldly on the side of truth!

Today, are you walking on the narrow road? Are you willing to stand for truth, even if it means being punished and ridiculed? Will you stand for the right before your friends, co-workers, and family? It is not easy to stand for the right. It is not easy to be unique, peculiar, or even simply different from those around us. Again I am reminded of what Peter said believers were to be—“a peculiar people” who have been “called . . . out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

In the year 1997 I moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I lived for six years and was involved in planting a church and helping to lead Bible studies. I had been called out of doctrinal darkness into God's marvelous light, and I had confirmed that change through baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist church only a year before. I lost many dear friends in the non-Adventist church I had previously attended.

I had been raised a Christian, and one of my earliest childhood memories is sitting on my mother's lap in church looking over her shoulder at the people sitting behind me. I had regularly attended church all my life, but when I was introduced to the teachings of the Adventist church, I was certain I had found the truth for which I had been praying. The Bible came alive and made sense. I was able to understand and even explain the new truths I had been taught through Adventism.

My spiritual journey has been progressive. Although I was so thrilled to be a Seventh-day Adventist, after several years, I came to understand that the corporate Adventist church had been changing the church's doctrines. These doctrinal changes came to my awareness gradually. I totally embrace the teachings of Ellen White, which have not changed, but when I realized that some of the biblical doctrines our founding members had held so dear had been changed at the corporate church level, I could no longer remain a member of the church. This has grieved my heart and separated me from many dear friends in the church.

Removing my name from the Seventh-day Adventist church books was a simple process. I wrote a letter to the clerk where my membership was held and requested that my name be removed from church membership. I also requested a confirmation return letter and sent a self-addressed, stamped envelope with my request to make it convenient for the clerk to reply. With the confirmation letter I could be assured that the removal of my name had been accomplished.

Why was this important to me? I wanted to be pure before God. I wanted to vindicate God's character to the watching universe, before my friends, family, co-laborers, and my fellow believers. I wanted to take a stand for what is right. I wanted a clear witness, and I did not wish to be associated with a corporate apostasy. I did not want in any manner to appear indifferent or neutral, for we read:

Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 280.3)

One of the doctrines of the corporate Adventist Church that I cannot agree with is the doctrine of God. I choose to worship the God of heaven and follow and embrace all the teachings about God in the Bible. Worship is the issue. God

is watching, Jesus is watching, holy angels are watching, friends, family, and co-workers are watching, and the entire universe is watching; Will Sheri Stump stand for the right? God knows where we are counted in membership. When the Bible says, “Come out of her, my people, That ye be not partakers of her sins, And that ye receive not of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4), I chose to obey. I would remove my name from any church roll where error is being taught! They are in confusion, they are teaching the central doctrine of the Catholic Church, and, therefore, to me, they are classified with the confusion of Babylon.

Below is a powerful vision that Ellen White had many years ago which should make us all diligently examine ourselves to see if we are one hundred percent clear in whom we worship and serve. I have italicized and underlined certain areas to emphasize the points I would like you to notice.

In February, 1845, I had a vision of events commencing with the Midnight Cry. I saw a throne and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus’ countenance and admired his lovely person. The Father’s person I could not behold, for a cloud of glorious light covered him. I asked Jesus if his Father had a form like himself. He said he had, but I could not behold it, for said he if you should once behold the glory of his person you would cease to exist. Before the throne I saw the Advent people, the church, and the world. I saw a company, bowed down before the throne, deeply interested, while the most of them stood up disinterested and careless. Those who were bowed before the throne would offer up their prayers and look to Jesus; then he would look to his Father, and appeared to be pleading with Him. A light would come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne. *But few would receive this great light*; many came out from under it and immediately resisted it; others were careless and did not cherish the light, and it moved off from them; some cherished it, and went and bowed down with the little praying company. This company all received the light, and rejoiced in it, as their countenances shone with its glory. *And I saw the Father rise from the throne, and in a flaming Chariot go into the Holy of Holies, within the veil, and did sit*. There I saw thrones that I had never seen before. *Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him*; and I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after he arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. *Those who rose up when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way*.—Then He raised His right arm and we heard his lovely voice saying, “Wait here—I am going to my Father to receive the Kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to myself.” And

I saw a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, and Angels were all around it as it came where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the Holiest where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, as He was standing before the Father, a great High Priest. On the hem of His garment was a bell and pomegranate. Then Jesus shew me the difference between faith and feeling. And I saw those who rose up with Jesus send up their faith to Him in the Holiest, and pray—my Father give us thy Spirit. Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. *In the breath was light, power, and much love, joy and peace*. Then I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it.—Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God; I saw them look up to the throne and pray, my Father give us thy Spirit; then Satan would breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy and peace. Satan’s object was to keep them deceived, and to draw back and deceive God’s children. I saw one after another leave the company who were praying to Jesus in the Holiest, and go and join those before the throne, and they at once received the unholy influence of Satan. (Ellen White, *Broadside*, April 6, 1846, par. 7)

From this inspired quote, we see that many are not aware that they are not worshipping the one true God. They are actually kneeling before Satan!! Deception is rampant in today’s churches. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has changed their doctrines, and they no longer reflect biblical truth in many areas. My brothers and sisters, it is time to leave those churches and make a clear stand against the errors being taught. I encourage you to make your position clear before God, the universe, and your friends and family by removing your name from church records. Please do not ignore the final step of removing your name from the church records. God has warned us to come out from them and be separate. We are responsible and must take action to separate ourselves. I believe he has warned us that staying a member where error is being taught will result in the horrible consequence of receiving the plagues of Babylon (Revelation 18:4).

Is your name written on the church records where they are teaching error? Your stand for biblical truth may be the very testimony needed for other church members who are also being called out. We have friends who are kneeling before the wrong throne and in their ignorance are worshipping Satan.

If you have not taken the vital step in coming out of any church teaching error, I strongly encourage you to take that final step. We must stand for the truth before God, our friends, family, and the watching universe.



# Health Matters

## FIRST ASCERTAIN THE CAUSE

By Carol Lamb

As a new Seventh-day Adventist twenty-five years ago, I discovered the church's health message. I had been baptized less than a year before but had never heard of a health message. This needed investigation. Helping people had been my life, and I needed to learn about this health message. To make a long story short, on Labor Day of 2000 I began my investigation of the health plan God had given to his people. By March 1, 2001, I had quit my job, packed up my house, stuck a for sale sign in the front yard, and left for M.E.E.T. Ministry near Jackson, Tennessee, to learn what the health message was and how I could better help people improve their health.

Was I surprised at all the things I had to learn which I thought had nothing to do with getting well! Generally, people's first question upon learning about natural healing is "What herb can I take for my problem?" This is the wrong question, and it can't be answered at first. Why?

To help people recover their health, you will need information. Without pertinent information about the ill person's health and lifestyle, you will not be able to discern the source, that is to identify the cause of the problem. One must first ascertain the cause of the health struggle.

In the chapter in *Ministry Of Healing* entitled "The Use of Remedies," Ellen G. White writes: "The first thing to be done is to ascertain the true character of the sickness and then go to work intelligently to remove the cause" (p. 236). There are two hundred thirty-five pages of needed information which precede the first step in the use of natural remedies. The point is you cannot reach a goal without having a plan, and you cannot develop a plan without accurate and trustworthy information.

What information do you think you would need to help you understand the problem? The person's name and address will give you some understanding of their environment and valuable contact information. Understanding how long this ailment has been a problem is also important. Another valuable question is: "Has this ailment ever *gone away*?" Since health has many factors, it will be important to find out what other health problems the person has. Family history will help you know if this health issue is possibly a genetic issue, a lifestyle issue, or perhaps both. Knowing what questions to ask and why each question is important is vital to your success in evaluating the cause of the problem and in developing a natural health recovery plan.

Remember, the goal of the questions is to find the answer to *why*. The *why* will be necessary to formulate a plan. Most people who are just beginning to help others find it beneficial to use Ellen White's list of the eight true remedies in

identifying the root of their health problem. Let us see how that works. "Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies" (White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 127.2).

1. Pure Air — When we think of pure air, we usually think of the air we breathe. Today the air we breathe is not the same as the air quality of one hundred years ago. Perhaps it is not the same air quality of twenty years ago. Most of the air is polluted today! Airborne allergens are more abundant now than ever. Poor air quality is due to many factors, including factory waste, military chemicals, chemically based air fresheners and perfumes, and vehicle exhausts, just to name a few. A unique air quality issue that did not exist one hundred years ago is airborne plastics, which can lead to serious health issues, including respiratory problems, endocrine disruption, and cancer. Yet, we are dependent upon air for oxygen. Poor air quality contributes to many of today's health struggles. This deserves further investigation. Another issue we need to understand is the effect of mouth breathing versus nose breathing and how it can lead to compromised functions of all organs due to decreased oxygen.

2. Sunshine — God's purifier. Hanging clothes out to dry kills germs. Sunshine on your body penetrates deeply and assists in healing. The other side of this coin is do you use sunscreen and block the sun while absorbing the chemicals from the sunscreen?

3. Always Temperate — Listen carefully to the answers as you question the person you are helping so you can properly evaluate whether the person is practicing temperance. Temperance is *not* doing the harmful things but, rather, *doing* the beneficial things in moderation.

4. Proper Rest — The body really does need eight hours of sleep. Do you know how many beneficial things happen while you are sleeping? Consider this: If you are asleep between 9:00 pm–3:00 am, your body eliminates wastes and toxins from your brain, but you have to be asleep for this to happen. Our brains are our link with God. He hears and answers prayers, encourages rightful thinking and actions for the improvement of our character. Doing all we can to improve our brain function certainly will improve this vital communication. Do you have a sleep/wake routine? What is it? Does it include the *six power hours* (9:00 pm - 3:00 am)?

5. Daily Exercise — This is a necessity and involves the entire body. How much and what types of exercise are important to know? Even most sick person can do some exercise.

6. Nutrition — How much and what foods are important for optimal health? Another very important aspect of health is when we eat and how much we eat.

7. Lots of Water — Many people carry water bottles with them. Is it really water? Only water is water. We need to know how much water our body needs. How and when you

drink water is also very important. These are all relevant areas you need to know.

8. Godly Trust — Matthew 9:21 says “if I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.” This is an example of trusting God. A discussion sometimes heard is: “Should one trust God or the health missionary who is assisting?” Jesus said in Matthew 9:22 “thy faith hath made thee whole.” I would like you to look at this question from the other direction. If we are not trusting God, we are trusting man (Satan). Worldly health systems are based mostly on man-made drugs which, in my opinion, are not always trustworthy. He who made us and knows the end from the beginning has the answer. That means he can provide the answer, the remedy. God will supply our needs when we ask in faith.

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

Getting the eight health categories in line with God’s plan, as in how God created our bodies to function, can and will assist in the recovery and maintenance of health. If these eight health principles are not carefully practiced, you will not enjoy optimum health. Eating vegan, vegetarian, or taking certain herbs is not, in itself, the complete answer to health restoration and maintenance.

I am certain that just reading through each of these eight remedies has suggested to your minds many relevant questions. Trustworthy information is needed. The more you study God’s health plan for your life, the more you will discover relevant answers. With careful investigation and divine guidance, you will find enough information to start helping yourself and others. This requires patience and persistence. Everyone does not get answers immediately.

We must remember that **disease never comes without a cause.**

The first thing to be done is to ascertain the true character of the sickness and then go to work intelligently to remove the cause. If the harmonious working of the system has become unbalanced by overwork, overeating, or other irregularities, do not endeavor to adjust the difficulties by adding a burden of poisonous medicines. (White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 235.1)

The plan of heaven is outlined as thus:

- 1) First ascertain the cause
- 2) Change unhealthful conditions
- 3) Correct wrong habits
- 4) THEN assist nature in efforts to heal

This procedure may sound familiar. If so, you have probably read its companion:

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)

Notice the plan:

- 1) First, Christ mingled with people.
- 2) He showed sympathy.
- 3) He ministered to their needs.
- 4) He won their confidence.
- 5) THEN he bade them to follow him.

Jesus has the plan and is our guide.

Some simple treatments may seem obvious to some of us, such as the use of charcoal on a bee sting or alternate hot and cold treatments for a cold, but most issues require information even when you know something that may help. More information is better and will assist you with a better plan.

The gospel of health has able advocates, but their work has been made very hard because so many ministers, presidents of conferences, and others in positions of influence have failed to give the question of health reform its proper attention. They have not recognized it in its relation to the work of the message as the right arm of the body. While very little respect has been shown to this department by many of the people, and by some of the ministers, the Lord has shown His regard for it by giving it abundant prosperity. When properly conducted, the health work is an entering wedge, making a way for other truths to reach the heart. When the third angel’s message is received in its fullness, health reform will be given its place in the councils of the conference, in the work of the church, in the home, at the table, and in all the household arrangements. Then the right arm will serve and protect the body. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 327.2)

It is imperative to pray for guidance:

The reason why so many are left to themselves in places of temptation is that they do not set the Lord always before them. When we permit our communion with God to be broken, our defense is departed from us. Not all your good purposes and good intentions will enable you to withstand evil. You must be men and women of prayer. (White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 510.1)

He passed by no human being as worthless, but sought to apply the healing remedy to every soul. In whatever company He found Himself He presented a lesson appropriate to the time and the circumstances. Every neglect or insult shown by men to their fellow men only made Him more conscious of their need of His divine-human sympathy. He sought to inspire with hope the roughest and most unpromising, setting before them the assurance that they might become blameless and harmless, attaining such a character as would make them manifest as the children of God. (Ibid., p. 25.5)



# 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, the Sabbath, Christ's peculiar people, and today we look at how God would have his people dress.

1889 Fundamental Belief number fifteen;

XV – That the Scriptures insist upon plainness and modesty of attire as a prominent mark of discipleship in those who profess to be the followers of Him who was, “meek and lowly in heart,” that the wearing of gold, pearls, and costly array, or anything designed merely to adorn the person and foster the pride of the natural heart, is to be discarded, according to such scriptures as 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Peter 3:3, 4.

This fundamental belief is very sensitive to some. How do we dress in a neat and modest manner and yet, at the same time, not be dowdy or frumpy? We are Christ's ambassadors. We represent the God of the universe. Cleanliness is necessary, of course. Dressing neat and clean does not require expensive attire. When my children were young, I lived on a very tight budget. When I went to visit my friends, parents, and siblings, I would press my children's play clothes to make them look new. Ironing our clothes made a big difference.

Modesty is also mentioned. Modest clothing is not tight-fitting, low-cut, or short in length. The modern style of clothing I see most is the popular stretch pants that hug every curve and crease of the body. While these stretchy clothes are comfortable and do not limit movement, they are **not** modest. In some cases I have thought the person could paint themselves with a thin layer of paint and it would conceal no less of the person's form. I would encourage my sisters who are evaluating their wardrobes to look in the mirror when you wear the garment in question and ask yourself: “Am I causing men to think wrong, lustful thoughts? Am I causing others to sin?” Notice what Jesus said:

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 5:28)

Women who do not dress modestly share in the sin of creating the visual effect that leads to the man lusting and committing the sin of adultery in his heart. I have heard some ladies say that men need to control their thoughts, and they do need to control their thoughts. If women dress modestly, men may lust in their hearts, but their sin will not be laid at her door. Ladies, I wonder what sin is recorded against us in the books of heaven for our passive role in this sin of adultery?

The love of dress endangers the morals and makes woman the opposite of the Christian lady, characterized by modesty and sobriety. Showy, extravagant dress too often encourages lust in the heart of the wearer and awakens base passions in the heart of the beholder. (Ellen White, *Counsels on Health*, p. 602.1)

This subject requires a personal and prayerful evaluation of our wardrobes. I suggest going through each article of clothing and asking God; “Is this garment pleasing to you, Lord? I am still seeking God's counsel for my wardrobe. I want to represent God in everything I wear and everything I do.

The Bible also instructs us to dress with distinction between the male and the female.

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God. (Deuteronomy 22:5)

Are we dressing in a way that is an abomination to God?

The way we clothe ourselves often creates our first and most powerful impression on others. This first impression has the power to either open doors of ministry or close doors. Clean hair, neatly styled is very important. Stain free clothing that is modest and fits well is also very important.

Lest we think modesty of dress only applies to women, all we need do is look around us at the style of dress worn today. Men need to prayerfully consider their wardrobes, as well. Stretch pants that are revealing is unisex. Often I see jeans worn that have huge holes in the knees and upper legs revealing bare skin. I even see men standing in the pulpit of modern churches dressed in jeans (even jeans with holes) and T-shirts.

Ellen White has the following counsel for us in the book *Child Guidance*.

We should seek to make the best of our appearance. In the tabernacle service God specified every detail concerning the garments of those who ministered before Him. Thus we are taught that He has a preference in regard to the dress of those who serve Him. Very specific were the directions given in regard to Aaron's robes, for his dress was symbolic. So the dress of Christ's followers should be symbolic. In all things we are to be representa-

tives of Him. Our appearance in every respect should be characterized by neatness, modesty, and purity. (Ellen White, *Child Guidance*, p. 413.2)

Chaste simplicity in dress, when united with modesty of demeanor, will go far toward surrounding a young woman with that atmosphere of sacred reserve which will be to her a shield from a thousand perils. (Ibid, p. 417.3)

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



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

I have included the first letter of each word following 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.

<sup>9</sup> In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; <sup>10</sup> But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. (1 Timothy 2:9–10)

Ilma, twatima, wsas; nwbh, og, op, oca; Bwbwpgwgw. 1 T 2:9, 10

<sup>3</sup> Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; <sup>4</sup> But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. <sup>5</sup> For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: (1 Peter 3:3–5)

Walintoaoph, aowog, oopooa; Blibthmoth, itwinc, etooamaqs, wiitsoGogp. Fatmitotthwa, wtiG, at, bisutoh: 1 T 3:3–5

<sup>31</sup> Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Wtye,od,owyd,dattgoG 1Cor 10:31

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)



# Thoughts on Christmas from Ellen White

(These thoughts are from the book, *The Adventist Home*, pages 477, 478)

“Christmas is coming,” is the note that is sounded throughout our world from east to west and from north to south. With youth, those of mature age, and even the aged, it is a period of general rejoicing, of great gladness. But what is Christmas, that it should demand so much attention?

The twenty-fifth of December is supposed to be the day of the birth of Jesus Christ, and its observance has become customary and popular. But yet there is no certainty that we are keeping the veritable day of our Saviour's birth. History gives us no certain assurance of this. The Bible does not give us the precise time. Had the Lord deemed this knowledge essential to our salvation, He would have spoken through His prophets and apostles, that we might know all about the matter. But the silence of the Scriptures upon this point evidences to us that it is hidden from us for the wisest purposes.

In His wisdom the Lord concealed the place where He buried Moses. God buried him, and God resurrected him and took him to heaven. This secrecy was to prevent idolatry. He against whom they rebelled while he was in active service, whom they provoked almost beyond human endurance, was almost worshiped as God after his separation from them by death. For the very same purpose He has concealed the precise day of Christ's birth, that the day should not receive the honor that should be given to Christ as the Redeemer of the world—one to be received, to be trusted, to be relied on as He who could save to the uttermost all who come unto Him. The soul's adoration should be given to Jesus as the Son of the infinite God

As the twenty-fifth of December is observed to commemorate the birth of Christ, as the children have been instructed by precept and example that this was indeed a day of gladness and rejoicing, you will find it a difficult matter to pass over this period without giving it some attention. It can be made to serve a very good purpose.

The youth should be treated very carefully. They should not be left on Christmas to find their own amusement in vanity and pleasure seeking, in amusements which will be detrimental to their spirituality. Parents can control this matter by turning the minds and the offerings of their children to God and His cause and the salvation of souls.



# Youth's Corner—On the Trail of the Colporteur Evangelist

(On the Trail of the Colporteur Evangelist was compiled by the General Conference Publishing Department of Seventh-day Adventists. This month's selection is Chapter 17.)

## Our Martyred Colporteur

“He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.”—Jesus.

On May 24, 1922, at the afternoon session of the General Conference which convened in San Francisco, Calif., that vast body of delegates was shocked to hear from the desk the reading of a cablegram sent from Caracas, Venezuela, containing just two words — “Lopez assassinated.”

Elder W. E. Baxter, superintendent of the mission field in which Brother Lopez was laboring, followed the reading of the cablegram by a brief statement of personal sorrow occasioned by the sad news, and of the loss sustained by the cause of God. His exact words, as stenographically reported at that time, are as follows:

“I would say that Brother Lopez was the strongest colporteur we had in the field. He came to us from Porto Rico, and so is an American citizen. We are very sad to learn of the loss of this valuable man. Brother Lopez was really the means, in God's hands, of raising up a church in the interior of Venezuela, where he taught a group of people the truth and established a church. During the month of February, in the part where he was working at the time of his death, he sold ‘Heralds of the Morning’ to the value of more than one thousand dollars (gold). We had urged him, for years, to take up ministerial work; but he did not want to do so, for he felt that he would be of greater service to the cause of God in selling literature. Just before I came to this Conference, he wrote us that his life had been threatened, and asked that we send him an American flag as token of his nationality. But now we receive this sad news that the unexpected has really happened, and he is dead.”

Following Elder Baxter's remarks, the General Conference delegation passed a unanimous vote to send a cable of sympathy to the sorrowing family of Brother Lopez, living in Puerto Rico.

### A FITTING TRIBUTE

As a fitting tribute to the memory of our martyred colporteur, we give the following account of personal experience, written by a Spaniard whose life was transformed through contact with this man of God:

“It was in the year 1920, a year of material prosperity for me. I enjoyed the high esteem and confidence of the people among whom I lived, and it might truly be said that I wasted my substance in riotous living. I had founded a home which recognized no god save that of vice and wickedness, at which shrine we were indeed fervent worshipers. I knew there was a Creator of the universe, but was not conscious of any obligation to obey Him. In the light of the teaching which I had received in the Catholic Church, I lived in unbridled liberty.

“While living in this condition, I am sad to say, I loved neither my wife nor my mother, not even my children, and I scoffed at the God who made me. However, after the dissipation of a night's carousal, when I returned home, I often recognized, during the quiet, impressive silence of those early morning hours, a voice from within pleading with me to repent and lead a different life. In response to this silent voice, often I would lift my eyes to the starry heavens and silently entreat help. But those emotions were as transient as the gusts of wind that fanned my cheeks. Still I prayed that God would answer me and send me the help I needed.

“It was on a beautiful June morning that a man — short of stature, and becomingly attired in black — entered my store. He had a pleasant smile. His face was slightly marred by a defect in one eye, which became more apparent when he removed his hat. I noticed that he was somewhat bald, and I judged him to be about forty years of age. Greeting me with a cordial handclasp, he inquired, in Spanish:

“Are you Mr. Julius Garcie?”

“Yes, sir,” I replied. ‘At your orders!’

“My name is Rafael Lopez,” he said, and immediately began the presentation of a book, which was entitled, ‘Practical Guide to Health,’ for which, in less than ten minutes, I readily subscribed.

“I then ventured to inquire as to his nationality. He told me he was from, Porto Rico, but that he had no home, no country, and that he was a pilgrim in this world. Then, reaching out his hand to me, he said good-by.

“While awaiting the delivery of the book for which I had subscribed, I learned that the ‘little old bookseller’ (as the people styled him) was a Christian. This was welcome news to me, and served to quicken my anxiety for his return, so that I might have an opportunity to learn the way of salvation.

“On the morning of June 28, we accidentally met in the drugstore of Dr. — where he was delivering a book. Later I found him in the posada [lodging house], and, throwing away a recently lighted cigarette, I greeted him, at the same

time explaining that I wished to procure my book. He did not reply immediately, but stood silent for about half a minute. When he spoke, this is what he said:

“Are you in search of more light?”

“Yes,” I replied, lowering my eyes for shame, not because of his question, but because of an invisible Power which made me feel so unworthy before this unknown man. Today I know that my sense of shame and unworthiness on that occasion was the result of thirty seconds’ fervent, effectual prayer in my behalf.

“At three o’clock in the afternoon of the same day — being the time agreed upon — the man came to my home. I introduced him to my wife and children. Without delay, he offered a short, impressive prayer,— the first real prayer I had ever heard. My wife and I bowed our heads in reverent respect. Then he began to lead us in a Bible study, to which we listened in amazement. I learned more in that hour and a half study than in the seven previous years, even with a Bible in my possession. At the close of the study, he asked me if I would not like to pray; whereupon, with a trembling voice I presented my supplication to God in broken phrases. He then went away, but returned in the evening, bringing the boots I had lent him to use while his were being repaired at the shoemaker’s. We then had another profitable Bible study.

“The day following, I was asked by the chief magistrate of the town to represent him at a banquet which was to be celebrated some eight kilometers distant. When the auto came to convey me to the place of the banquet, I instructed my wife to say to ‘the man’ — for so we called him — that I would like to have him wait for me, as it was my intention to return by one o’clock in the afternoon. But I was unavoidably detained until seven o’clock in the evening.

“On coming out to meet me my wife reproved me for my delay, saying she thought it was not right to detain ‘the man,’ who ere now might have been well on his journey. She also told me that they had had a good day together, studying the Scriptures and praying for me. In reply, I told her that I had passed a miserable day, in spite of all that my friends could do to dissipate my sadness. Everything was unavailing. Even the brandy I drank was ineffective to silence the echo of the words which this man had said to me. (Now that I am better able to estimate the worth of time spent in God’s service, oh, how greatly do I regret those hours of detention Oh, how earnestly, since then, have I longed for a meeting with him, so that I might humbly confess to him my sorrow and contrition for that lost day! But I hope to meet him on entering the pearly portals, and there not only make my confession, but tell him of the fruit which those five short hours of study and prayer have borne.)

“At five o’clock the next morning he came to our home to bid us a final good-by; and while he arranged the saddle on the donkey, I received from him counsel and admonitions

which I shall never forget. We parted after a brief but sincere prayer, and following him to the gate, I continued to gaze after him until his form was lost in the distance — lost to be seen by me no more on this earth.

“With his departure there came to me a sense of indefinable loss. It was as if a vacuum had been created in me. But now I know that, instead of having taken away, he had left me filled with the love of God and an ardent desire for the return of Jesus. My wife stood by me weeping, as we realized he had gone beyond our reach, and my own tears flowed freely.

“It was July 3 that we decided to obey God’s commandments, for since the visit of ‘the man’ there had reigned in our house a peace hitherto unknown. The influence of this man of God had impressed many people in the community, and the Spirit of God brought conviction of truth. By October, a company of seventeen precious souls had embraced the holy truth of Jehovah, and a few months later we were visited by Elder Baxter and Elder D. D. Fitch, who helped us in many ways and established us in the faith. A little later, a brother came to labor among us for a short season, and as the result of his labors, twenty-one precious believers followed their Lord in baptism.

“And then came the Sabbath morning when, as we were congregating for service, a telegram came saying that Rafael Lopez had been assassinated in the Andes. This news struck us all like an unexpected avalanche, leaving us bewildered and almost paralyzed from shock. My wife and I retired to our home near by, to mourn in silence the tremendous loss we had sustained. Since that never-to-be-forgotten Sabbath, any mention of our dear Brother Lopez, or any relic of his, occasions a tear from the eye of my wife, because it was this man whom the Lord chose to use in turning the tide of affairs in her life and in our home.

“A few months later, I attended a general meeting at which Elder Fitch exhibited the shoes worn by Brother Lopez at the time of his assassination, and the hat — blood-stained and pierced in five places by bandits’ balls, mute but eloquent witness of his martyrdom. These personal effects of our dear brother seemed to speak with solemn appeal, urging us forth to take up and carry forward diligently the work which he was called to lay down. And why should I not respond? Jesus has done all for me. He has purchased me with the price of His blood; He has drawn me to Him with the cords of His love. Although the Bible says, ‘I will gather you two of a family,’ I praise God that every unit of my family has been gathered in and is rejoicing in the truth that saves and keeps.”

### **“HE BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH”**

The following paragraphs taken from the last letters written by Brother Lopez reveal most vividly the circumstances under which he labored and the undaunted courage and steadfastness of purpose which he exhibited:

“Today I finished my delivery here. Without the help of God it would have been impossible. It is necessary to come here to know these priests. I hear things after the deliveries which cause me to know that angels have liberated me from the hands of wicked men.”

“Tomorrow I will go to the state of to begin my second delivery. I ask you to fast and pray one Sabbath for the great task before me. There are many towns, and the priests are like lions. Pray that the Lord will send an angel to close the priests’ mouths until the books are read. The people are fine, and very religious, but very much deceived.”

“I am leaving for another fanatical town, and I know I must prepare for the priest, as he will be ready to fight. But I cannot leave the country to Satan, for he would laugh at his pleasure.” “I have been swallowing sand because of the priests....I must remain here in the battle. Pray that I may have courage and strength until the last moment. I am ever yours for service in the colporteur work.

“Your brother, (Signed) “Rafael Lopez.”

Shortly before his death, Brother Lopez was heard to pray the following prayer:

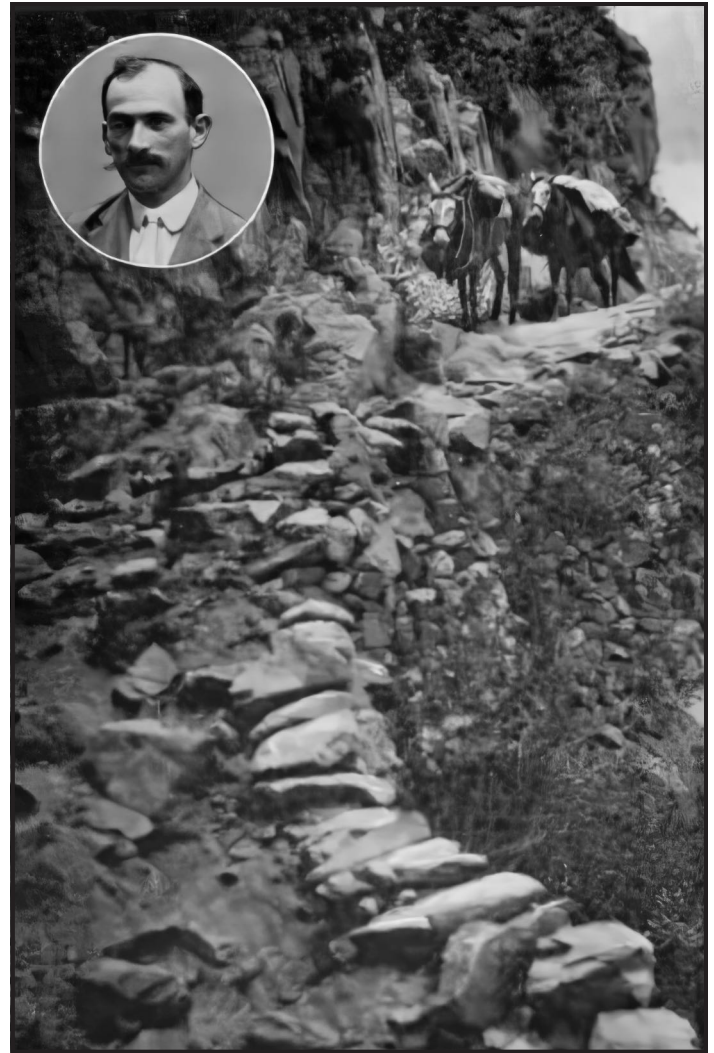
“O Father, pardon every sin I have committed. I give Thee thanks for Thy great mercy, for Thy hand has guided and liberated me from bad men. Thou hast given me grace in the sight of many who have helped me. Thanks for the joy in my soul, and for the hope my heart has in Thy promises. O Lord, follow me until I can see the borders of the eternal morning. My determination is to cling to Thy powerful arm and confide all to Thy care. Take me as wholly Thine, and keep my feet from the dangerous path, and my eyes always fixed on Jesus. Amen.”

## FACTS CONCERNING THE DEATH OF RAFAEL LOPEZ

(As told by Elder D. D. Fitch, who made a tour of investigation)

“The immediate details of the death of Rafael Lopez, as I was able to unearth them by weeks of investigation spent in waiting on court proceedings and visiting those with whom he had associated in various towns during the last weeks of his life, are as follows:

“He had made his headquarters in a *posada*, or transient boarding house, in San Cristobal, the capital of the state of Tachira in the extreme western part of the republic. The woman of the *posada* told me much about her esteemed guest, and the great confidence they had in him and his religion. At such times as it was necessary for her to be absent, she would leave him to attend to the store she operated. This he would kindly do, but refused to dispense the liquor. She expressed the comfort it gave her that he had prayer with her early the last morning he was there. Sabbath afternoon he wrote a letter to his family. In a letter to the office at Caracas



**Rafel Lopez, our martyred colporteur and the road he traveled in the Andes.**

he told of the trials he was enduring. As the mail leaves there but once each week, these letters were not mailed until after word came that he had been assassinated. Sunday morning he was off on his fatal ride.

“It was noted by his most intimate friends that he wished to keep secret the point of his destination, for when asked, he would reply, ‘A little way in the country.’ About four in the afternoon of that day he came to a point called La Raya, which consists of two stores, at one of which it is possible to find something to eat and a place to sleep. When there, it was my lot to eat at the same table and sleep in the same corner of the same room that he had occupied.

“The next morning, as was his custom, he left early, on his way to the town of La Grita, where he had previously sent two boxes of books, and was going there to deliver them. After proceeding a short distance it was necessary for him to descend the side of the mountain and cross the river again. As he went up out of the river bed and was ascending a steep place, he was fired upon by four men in ambush between him and the river, and fell from his mule dead. I found his

grave marked by a wooden cross. I saw hundreds of such crosses as I traveled over these mountain trails, each marking the spot where some one had been killed. This cross I removed, and replaced it by an iron one on which were clearly inscribed his name and date of his death.

“At the time of the assassination a young man was on the winding trail approaching from the opposite direction the point where Brother Lopez fell. He did not present a good appearance as he came near the spot of the tragedy, for it had been raining and he was bespattered with mud. He was expecting to finish his seventy-mile journey that day and deliver to their owner the 5,000 pesos he was carrying. He heard the shots, but since there were so many, he thought they proceeded from some sportsman, and so passed on.

“Soon he saw a mule running toward him with the saddle under its stomach. Immediately behind were running two armed men, who shouted for him to halt the beast. This was easy on so narrow a trail, and when he delivered the beast to the men, whom he supposed to be bandits, he asked permission to proceed and the request was granted. Not knowing that any one had been killed, he thought he was fleeing from danger when getting away from them.

“Continuing for a quarter of a mile, as he passed a curve he saw just ahead of him two men searching the body of Brother Lopez. The two men left behind would interfere with a retreat, so he was compelled to proceed, and did so without hindrance. As he passed the prostrate body of Brother Lopez, he was asked by the searchers where he was going. He told them that he was a poor young man looking for work. They told him to move on, little suspecting that he had 5,000 pesos in gold and silver in a belt around his waist and under his clothes. You may well imagine that he did move on in a lively manner, rejoicing that he had escaped with his life and his money. Later I employed him as a guide to the same spot.

“In Venezuela it is common for well-to-do persons to wear fine leather belts in which to carry their money, watch, and formerly their pistol, knife, and ammunition. In the city of Rubio, Brother Lopez had found it difficult to deliver a book because the subscriber did not have the money. Being very resourceful, he offered to take one of these new belts in payment for the book, believing he could sell it and thus realize the value of the book. As he was wearing the belt, it is easy to suppose the robbers would not think of his having another one inside his clothes, although this was the case. He had on his person the equivalent of about \$400. They took the loose change he had in his pocket, amounting to \$22.40, the new belt, his raincoat, hat, and the extra clothing he carried with him. Naturally they supposed they would find his gold and bills in the belt. These were not in the belt taken by his assassins, but in the one next his body, found at the time of the autopsy. Later I took a footpath on the mountain side near, and saw the cave where the robbers had

hidden the saddle and sorted over the things they had taken. Eleven days after the assassination of Brother Lopez, two of the assassins were captured, and in their possession was found his hat.

“The woman in San Cristobal in whose posada Brother Lopez roomed, became so interested in the religious teaching of our brother that she began keeping the Sabbath. In San Cristobal there is a bank, but they do not accept deposits. The purchase of drafts is expensive, and at times it is almost impossible to secure paper money. Brother Lopez had left a package of silver with this woman until he should return. I knew nothing of this when I was there seeking information in regard to his movements. After questioning me closely in regard to certain things, she went back to her room and returned with a heavy package, which she delivered to me as his representative. She knew it was silver, but not the amount. When I counted it, I found more than \$100. Had she so desired, she could have kept it all, for no one living knew of it. Certainly she is an honorable woman, and Brother Lopez’s confidence was not misplaced.”

Elder Fitch followed on in his investigation from place to place where boxes of books had been shipped in large quantities from the office in Caracas, according to instructions received from Brother Lopez. When the boxes were located, it was necessary to make a canvass of the towns to find the people for whom the books had been ordered; and in doing so Elder Fitch found a very lively interest in the literature, a profound regard for the King’s messenger who had visited them, and sincere sorrow at the news of his tragic death.

Brother F. W. Steeves, the field missionary secretary of the Venezuela mission field, furnishes the closing paragraph to this narrative, as follows:

“Brother Lopez is sleeping in the cemetery of a little village called El Cobre, away up in the old highlands of the Andes. The village has one long cobblestone street, running parallel with the valley. A large whitewashed cathedral holds a prominent place in the plaza, as in all Catholic villages. Just off the main street, two blocks away, is the cemetery, surrounded by a high adobe wall. Brother Gil and I entered the cemetery through the large wooden doors, and had no difficulty in locating the grave, where stands the headstone set up by Elder Fitch. On the stone are the words: ‘*Died May 15, 1922.*’ And in the open book at the head of the tomb appears, in Spanish, this sentence: ‘*In the book of life he is written.*’ As we stood beside this grave, we bowed our heads in prayer and asked God to help us be as faithful in the literature ministry as was our martyred brother.

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# Genesis, the Wonderful Book

By Uriah Smith

Yes, the most wonderful book in this wide world of ours. It is wonderful that we should have it at all. So old—only think of it, 3400 years since written. The oldest book known to be in being. Perhaps it is the first! who knows or can know to the contrary? But no matter; old enough, strange enough, and good also. If we go back three or four hundred years, and find the first printed books, how we wonder, and prize them; buy at enormous prices, and keep as great curiosities. We go back a few centuries farther, for early manuscripts of history, poetry and philosophy, and laws, and with great search and cost find a few, and how they are trumpeted, and make long famous the finder, or owner.

But here is a book, which at one bound, goes a thousand years before them all, and stands up, and stands out, singly and alone, unless Job be its compeer, challenging the nations and ages for its equal, or its like. If India, China, Nineveh, Babylon or Egypt be as old as they, and their skeptical friends claim, let them bring forth their volumes of law, history, poetry, as the fruit of their long ages of previous government, progress and glory. They should have whole libraries of them, but if not one, if God's Israel alone, if God's prophet alone, of them all, has left his book of history, law and poetry, then, let him and them enjoy the meed of glory fairly belonging to them, without cavil. The oldest book! how venerable! The first book perhaps, ever written and published! how wonderful that it should still live, still be read, still be understood! How many since lost! how many cannot be understood! how many unread that can be! But this oldest, first of all, is still published—in nearly all languages too, and read in nearly all and understood! Wonderful! Through what changes it has come, both from weak friends and many and mighty foes! Proscribed, burned, banished, with its few and despised, and poor and hated friends, it has outlived and triumphed over all. More numerous, powerful, and prized to-day than ever before! It is worthy of it. It is God's book and about God, and his greatest works and plans. It is worthy of it. It is for man's good, his enlightenment, reformation, salvation; body and soul, time and eternity. The first that tells of God and creation in any manner worthy of him, and adapted to human culture. It gives the origin of the race, and its unity, and changes and spread on earth, consonant to reason and known facts. The only one that unfolds the ground of reconciliation to God, and reason for sacrifice to God so common to the race. The first to unfold the seed of hope, and triumph of man over Satan, of grace over sin, and earth's restitution from the curse. Ah more! It solves the source of sin, the cause of the curse on man and earth, and of the Divine Redeemer and bruiser of the serpent. It is wonderful so



old a book should contain all this, and more, abundantly more For it tells of the apostasy of the race, the judgment of the flood, the preservation of a godly seed on earth, and through the flood, by divine love and power. Of the second degeneracy, the origin of nations and languages. Of Nineveh, Babylon Egypt, Tyre, Persia, Greece. The fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, for an example, and the rise of that singular, and still existent, widest spread and most oppressed people. And more wonderful still, from Abraham, Jacob and Moses, the writer of the book, it gives their history beforehand, most as plainly as we read it now, after 3400 years of fulfillment and facts. Wonderful, that it should give us the unity, infinity, and spirituality, and omnipotence, and omniscience and goodness, and justice, and truth, and mercy, and long-suffering of a prayer-hearing sin-pardoning God, loving and blessing the good, and punishing the bad, without respect of persons. In a word, all the attributes of God, all the doctrines and duties of religion, known now, after 3400 years! The Sabbath, marriage, parental duty, filial obedience, honesty, truth, love, hospitality, benevolence, chastity monogamy, temperance are involved and exhibited in its pages, and the opposite condemned expressly, as by implication. How much of this is done in the brief biographies of the patriarchs, and the inimitable stories of Dinah, Judah and Joseph; giving life and variety to the sober gravity and brevity of history. And all this so authentically. All this among an uneducated people. It is a great thing to write a book now, after ages of experience, especially one to be read; much more to be by posterity. What to have made one then! Perhaps the very first. To be the pioneer; to discover, invent, and carry out the manufacture of a book, all new, to be read, revered, loved, believed, obeyed, for all ages, nations! This is wonderful. God is its author, Moses the penman only. Salvation of men and the honor of God, its object and result!

And yet, wonderful of all, this author claims nothing of himself, no display, no great I. No evidence of effort, no display of study, no claim to learning, philosophy, or even inspiration. It is all natural, easy, modest, as though nothing extraordinary were in it. No great hard-sounding words of pomposity. All is artless, plain, rational, holy; and has stood the criticisms of friends and foes of all ages, lands, religions, dispositions and abilities. It has not a parallel aside from the others with which it is found. It must be divine. It carries these marks and evidences in itself. Its light is clearly from Heaven and leads thither. Whatever lack of external proof, it has enough within itself to hold its ground, and maintain its way to the end. Sail on, then, little bark, on the river of time, or ocean of society thou art safe. No storm can overwhelm thee, the Lord gave and keeps thee.

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# Parenting God's Way

## Escalating Behavior Problems

By Sheri Stump

Children are growing up in ever changing environments making discipline a bigger challenge than ever before. In the book, *The Well-behaved Child* by John Rosemond, I found this:

Fifty years ago, it was unheard-of for a child who had reached age three to hit his parents; today, it is not unusual to find children five and six years of age who are hitting their parents (usually their mothers) on a regular basis. Biting is another example of culturewide disciplinary decay. No one my age remembers children who bit. . . . Today, kids come to kindergarten still expressing the will to dominate with their teeth. Fifty years ago, children were mischievous, but the rare child was belligerently defiant; today the once-rare insolent child is everywhere. Fifty years ago, tantrums had stopped by age three. Today, it's not at all unusual for children to still be having major emotional meltdowns well into their elementary school years. . . . And the list goes on and on. (p. xiv)

What has happened to our children? There are multiple factors that influence children's behavior. Just one of these factors is what our children are eating. The standard American diet is full of refined sugar that is affecting children's health and moods. Hyperactivity is rampant today, which may be largely due to what children eat. Today's food is made attractive to children by adding food colors. These food colors can have a very bad effect on children's behavior. I know of one elementary age boy whose parents decided to eliminate all food additives and dyes from his diet. The change in his behavior was amazing! He calmed down, his participation in school improved and he was able to stop taking prescription medicines for hyperactivity.

Both of these pictures to the right represent colorful "fruit." One will promote health, while the other has negative effects. While some believe that good fruit is too expensive to purchase, the truth is the sugary cereal costs more per unit than blueberries, strawberries, or blackberries, and only slightly less than raspberries. Further, the *true fruit* promotes good health, while the sugary cereal promotes ill health which carries a large price tag physically as well as economically.

Do children sleep enough, and do they go to bed at the right time? Children are growing and need more sleep than adults. Behavioral problems are negatively influenced from a lack of proper sleep.

Even the activities of home life have changed dramatically. Both parents often have to work outside the home to

pay the bills. Children are expected to entertain themselves with modern electronics from a very young age. These electronics have a huge influence on the child's behavior and interfere with sleep. Parents are tired and stressed with the demands of competing in the work force. Many children and youth are handed portable cell phones and tablets that give them access to internet programs. These programs are rightly named. Programs are programming us. Today's entertainment for children and youth includes movies and video games and more that are designed to indoctrinate children into ungodly world views. Children who entertain themselves with these modern devices are being desensitized to violence and gore.

This is a small sample of the changes in parenting from one generation ago. These changes in the home have drastically complicated child rearing.

What shall we do? We must reverse course. We must make changes that will give our children healthy environments and more parental involvement. We need to prioritize the development of godly homes and healthy childrearing practices. We may need to make serious changes in our living standards and parenting practices.

I encourage each parent and even each grandparent to evaluate and eliminate the ungodly practices we have slipped into. This will take courage and firm resolve. Change is not easy! But change in the right direction will be worth it.

Here are a few Ellen White quotes that will assist parents in patterning their homes and parenting methods in God's way.

Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are "the issues of life"; and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the



success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences. (Ellen White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 15.1)



God would have our families symbols of the family in heaven. Let parents and children bear this in mind every day, relating themselves to one another as members of the family of God. Then their lives will be of

such a character as to give to the world an object lesson of what families who love God and keep His commandments may be. Christ will be glorified; His peace and grace and love will pervade the family circle like a precious perfume. (Ibid., p. 17.2)

Parents must administer the rules of the home in wisdom and love, not with a rod of iron. Children will respond with willing obedience to the rule of love. Commend your children whenever you can. Make their lives as happy as possible. . . . Keep the soil of the heart mellow by the manifestation of love and affection, thus preparing it for the seed of truth. Remember that the Lord gives the earth not only clouds and rain, but the beautiful, smiling sunshine, causing the seed to germinate and the blossom to appear. Remember that children need not only reproof and correction, but encouragement and commendation, the pleasant sunshine of kind words. (Ibid., p.18.3)

Every home should be a place of love, a place where the angels of God abide, working with softening, subduing influence upon the hearts of parents and children. (Ibid., p. 18.6)



#### Every home should be a place of love.

Satan and his host are making most powerful efforts to sway the minds of the children, and they must be treated with candor, Christian tenderness, and love. This will give you a strong influence over them, and they will feel that they can repose unlimited confidence in you. Throw around your children the charms of home and of your society. If you do this, they will not have so much desire for the society of young associates.... Because of the evils now in the world, and the restriction necessary to be placed upon the children, parents should have double care to bind them to their hearts and let them see that they wish to make them happy. (Ibid., p. 193.1)

I appeal to all our readers to pray earnestly for young families who are struggling to raise children in the admonition of the Lord. May God bless you, dear parent, and give you divine wisdom and courage to raise your children so that they will be mighty in the Lord, help spread the truth of God's word, and be fit to spend eternity in heaven. 卐

# Marriage Morsel

## May the wife have her own individuality?

By Ellen White

The question is often asked, "Shall a wife have no will of her own?" The Bible plainly states that the husband is the head of the family. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands." If this injunction ended here, we might say that the position of the wife is not an enviable one; it is a very hard and trying position in very many cases, and it would be better were there fewer marriages. Many husbands stop at the words, "Wives, submit yourselves," but we will read the conclusion of the same injunction, which is. "As it is fit in the Lord."

God requires that the wife shall keep the fear and glory of God ever before her. Entire submission is to be made only to the Lord Jesus Christ, who has purchased her as His own child by the infinite price of His life. God has given her a conscience, which she cannot violate with impunity. Her individuality cannot be merged into that of her husband, for she is the purchase of Christ. It is a mistake to imagine that with blind devotion she is to do exactly as her husband says in all things, when she knows that in so doing, injury would be worked for her body and her spirit, which have been ransomed from the slavery of Satan. There is One who stands higher than the husband to the wife; it is her Redeemer, and her submission to her husband is to be rendered as God has directed—"as it is fit in the Lord."

We must have the Spirit of God, or we can never have harmony in the home. The wife, if she has the spirit of Christ, will be careful of her words; she will control her spirit, she will be submissive, and yet will not feel that she is a bondslave, but a companion to her husband. If the husband is a servant of God, he will not lord it over his wife; he will not be arbitrary and exacting. We cannot cherish home affection with too much care; for the home, if the Spirit of the Lord dwells there, is a type of heaven. If one errs, the other will exercise Christlike forbearance and not draw coldly away. (Ellen White, *Counsels for the Church*, p. 138.3-.5) 卐

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Editor ..... Allen Stump—[editor@smyrna.org](mailto:editor@smyrna.org)  
Associate Editor ..... Onycha Holt—[onycha@smyrna.org](mailto:onycha@smyrna.org)