

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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How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. (Psalm 139:17–18)



Fundamental Pillars — The Third Angel's Message, Part 3

By Allen Stump

⁹ And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, ¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. ¹² Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. (Revelation 14:9–12)

The U.S. Marines have a recruiting slogan which says, “We’re looking for a few good men.” Not just anyone can become a United States Marine. The basic training is twice as long as other service branches, and it is more difficult than the other service corps. There are also greater demands placed upon a Marine. They serve on land or sea. Marines are almost always the first to go into battle and usually the first to die.

Today, God is looking for men and women—young, old, and in-between—who recognize that any goodness in themselves comes from God and not from within (Philemon 1:6). God is looking for people he can trust and upon whom he can pour his Spirit, people who will be faithful to

him no matter the circumstances and who are willing to go anywhere into warfare for him.

The apostle Paul was one such man. He was dedicated to Jesus Christ and was willing to endure great privation for Jesus. Notice a sampling of his experiences:

²⁴ Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. ²⁵ Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸ Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. (2 Corinthians 11:24–28)

Why do you think Paul endured such hardship? Why was he willing to go back into Lystra right after being stoned there? Why was he willing to continue preaching in Philippi after being beaten and imprisoned there? Why was Paul willing to continue in the minority, apparently, in the face of assault? The answer is really very simple. Paul declared: “The love of Christ constraineth us” (2 Corinthians 5:14).

The RSV says that “the love of Christ controls us.” The Phillips translation says: “The very spring of our actions is the love of Christ.” The love of Jesus



Christ was so deeply ingrained in the heart of Paul that no sacrifice was too great for him.

God is going to have a special group of men and women at the close of probation who will love him and Jesus Christ so much that they “will stand for the right though the heavens fall” (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 57.3), a group of men and women who will continue in the face of the assault of the enemy and who will proclaim the three angels’ messages. It is because there is a remnant of believers who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ that Satan exhibits such wrath (Revelation 12:17). As we continue our study on the three angels’ messages this month with the basic message of the third angel, we will see why Satan hates this message so much, for it points out the truth about God’s character and what he is able to do through man. It also clearly reveals Satan to be the liar that God has declared him to be.

The serious nature of the third angel’s message

The serious nature of this message should not be overlooked. The third angel’s message is one of life and death and not just in temporal terms but eternal. Those who receive the mark of the beast will be eternally lost, while those who refuse the mark of the beast will receive the seal of God and live with God and Christ forever.

As Adventists, we have rehearsed the mark of the beast crisis and the Sabbath/Sunday issue over and over. For our readers, the basic outline of this controversy should be elementary, and while a review of all our fundamental teachings is always safe, in this issue we will not review those details. We will, instead, focus on the goal that the third angel points us to—perfection of character.

When attention to a serious issue is needed, God has told his people to make it clearly known. In Isaiah 58:1, we read: “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” God does not ask that the message be given in a corner or with a timid voice; rather, the people of God are told to “cry aloud” with the message of sin and salvation. The messages of the first and third angels specifically say that they are given “with a loud voice” (Revelation 14:7, 9), meaning it is to be given with increasing power of the Holy Spirit:

This message [third angel’s] embraces the two preceding messages. It is represented as being given with a loud voice; that is, with the power of the Holy Spirit. (Ellen White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 14, p. 159)

The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, meaning with increasing power, as we approach the great final test.... (Ibid., vol. 2, p. 18.2)

Furthermore, since the fate of those who reject the message will be given without being diluted, we are told to spare nothing in the giving of the message. God directed Moses to tell Israel:

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. (Deuteronomy 4:2)

Those who fail to give the message will find that “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18 NKJV). Further, as we noted earlier, Isaiah 58:1 tells the people of God that their voice is to be trumpet-like, sounding loudly and clearly, resonating deeply into the hearts of the hearers.

Why must these messages be given so loudly and clearly? What is the reason for the seriousness of their nature? Those who reject the messages will at last receive the mark of the beast and be lost forever.

¹⁰The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: ¹¹And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (Revelation 14:10, 11)

This corresponds to the part of Ezekiel’s vision of Chapters 8–11 that deals with the slaughter of the wicked.

⁴And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. ⁵And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: ⁶Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. (Ezekiel 9:4–6)

Those who do not receive the seal of God will be lost. Though the slaughter begins with the ancient men or leaders of apostasy, it does not stop there. All who have been infected by the environment of apostasy are also cut down. We read that “old and young, both maids, and little children, and women” are all included. In fact, several times during the chapters that include and surround this vision we are told that God’s eye will not spare or have pity (Ezekiel: 5:11; 7:4, 9; 8:18; 9:5, 10)!

Beloved, God must be God. He must work consistently with his character of both love and justice. God is never capricious nor does he act based on feelings (though his heart is full of feelings), but, rather, he acts out of principle. To allow his wrath to be poured out without mercy, as Revelation 14:10, 11 state, God must exhaust all of his power to warn the wicked, for he desires them to turn from their wickedness so they may live.

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? (Ezekiel 33:11)

The 144,000

We are living in perilous days of the last times (2 Timothy 3:1). We may face danger, but like the apostle Paul, we can be sure of God's help. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

This is the scene that is presented to me. But the church must and will fight against seen and unseen foes. Satan's agencies in human form are on the ground. Men have confederated to oppose the Lord of hosts. These confederacies will continue until Christ shall leave His place of intercession before the mercy seat and shall put on the garments of vengeance. Satanic agencies are in every city, busily organizing into parties those opposed to the law of God. Professed saints and avowed unbelievers take their stand with these parties. ***This is no time for the people of God to be weaklings.*** We cannot afford to be off our guard for one moment. (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 42.2; all emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted)

In his foreknowledge, God knows of the last-day crisis in which this earth will be involved and is now preparing a people for that crisis. The 144,000 are specifically mentioned two places in the book of Revelation, and each time they are shown as God's answer to the last-day apostasy. Revelation 6:12–17 describes the sixth seal and the coming of Jesus, at which time all the wicked attempt to hide themselves. In response to the question of verse 17, "for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand," we find the answer given with the first description of the 144,000 in Revelation 7:1–8. Remember, the chapter and verse divisions are not part of the original text of Revelation. One needs to read continuously from the end of Chapter 6 through the first part of Chapter 7 to catch the sweeping view that is being presented.

The second time that the 144,000 are mentioned is in Revelation 14:1–5, in response to the crisis of the mark of the beast and the image of the beast in Revelation 13.

. . . [Revelation 14:1–3 quoted]. Why were they [the

144,000] so specially singled out? ***Because they had to stand with a wonderful truth right before the whole world, and receive their opposition,*** and while receiving this opposition they were to remember that they were sons and daughters of God, that they must have Christ formed within them the hope of glory. They were ever keeping in view the great and blessed hope that is before them (Ellen White, *Sermons and Talks*, bk. 1, pp. 72, 73).

The 144,000 are said to have no guile in their mouths, "for they are without fault before the throne of God" (Revelation 14:5). The 144,000 are without fault! These are people who have bridled their tongues. James says: "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man," and "the tongue can no man tame" (James 3:2, 8). If no man can tame the tongue, then the 144,000 have learned to totally depend upon God so that he is now in control of their lives. What alone can do this for them but the power of God by his Holy Spirit to clothe them with the righteousness of Jesus Christ?

Righteousness by faith is involved.

It is no wonder, then, that Ellen White connects the message of righteousness by faith with the third angel's message:

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

To see the larger issues, we must go below the surface. Involved with the seal of God and the mark of the beast is whether we will worship the Creator or the creature (man, angels, or anything created). Will we do things God's way or man's way? In fact, the Bible says the number of the beast is the number of man. "Here is wisdom: the one who has understanding, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number, and his number is six hundred sixty-six" (Revelation 13:18 Lexham English Bible).

There are two points of interest from the Greek that should be considered. Firstly, there is no indefinite article *a* in Greek, and the "a" before "man" does not have to be in the text. Secondly, the word translated "man" ἀνθρώπου (*anthrōpou*), as well as its pronoun αὐτοῦ (*autou*), translated "his," can be in the neuter or in the masculine forms. The grammar could, therefore, allow for the translation: "Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of man; and its number is six hundred threescore and six."

While there are interpretations that 666 should be understood in the light of "vicarius filii Dei," here we see a broader and more basic application.¹ Seven is the number of perfec-

¹ Several popes used the phrase and quoted it throughout their documents, including the following: Pope Leo IX in his *In Terra Pax Hominibus*, 1054; Pope Nicholas IV in his letter to Caydo-

tion, and six is the number that falls short of perfection and represents man and the works of man.

The basic principle of all false religions is the claim that man has the ability to raise himself by himself—salvation by works—but the Bible teaches the exact opposite picture. It presents man as having no ability to do anything to elevate himself. Man needs a Saviour. He is totally in need of Jesus to save him from sin and self. Is it any wonder that Ellen White wrote the following?

What is justification by faith?—It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. When they begin to praise and exalt God all the day long, then by beholding they are becoming changed into the same image. What is regeneration?—It is revealing to man what is his own real nature, that in himself he is worthless. (E. G. White, *Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers*, series A, no. 9, p. 62.2)

Justification by faith is the work of God in doing what man is not able to do for himself. The issue of the mark of the beast comes down to doing things our way, the way of failure, versus the way of God, the way of truth and perfection. The issue comes down to the worship of man instead of the worship of God.

Going on to perfection and the seal of God

The book of Hebrews discusses the perfection of the saints. Jesus Christ was made perfect so that we might be made perfect.

⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; ¹⁰ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. (Hebrews 5:8–10)

Paul then goes on to state: “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God” (Hebrews 6:1).

The word *therefore* means *because of this* or *for this reason*. Because Christ was perfected, we are to be perfected. So, we are to go on to perfection, but what kind of perfection? Simply, the same kind Jesus had.

Paul addresses the incompleteness of the Levitical priesthood in Chapter 7, showing that perfection could not come through it:

¹¹ If therefore perfection were by the Levitical

nius the Tartar, 1289; Pope John XXII in his *Licet juxta doctrinam*, 1327; Pope John XXII in his *Bulla Sabbatina*; Pope Paul VI in his *Rivi Muniensis*, 1965, and in his *Bafianae*.

priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? . . . ¹⁹ For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. (Hebrews 7:11, 19)

Paul is emphatic that perfection was not found in either the Levitical priesthood nor in the law; on the other hand, Paul says a better hope has been introduced through which we draw near to God. Perfection is not via the old system but by the priesthood of Christ. Focusing on the main issue of the old system, Paul noted that it “was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience” (Hebrews 9:9).

The conscience is a person’s moral sense of right and wrong and works through the mind which is the battleground of the Christian. While health reform is important, the flesh, or body, of a man may be very deformed, but he may still be an upright Christian, if he has a clean conscience. The Bible does not say to have the flesh of Jesus Christ, for we already have that, but what we need is the mind of Jesus (Philippians 2:5). Jesus came in sinful flesh and conquered in that flesh, and that victory is promised to each one who lives by faith (1 Corinthians 15:57; 1 John 5:4).

¹¹ But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; ¹² Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained [thus securing, RSV] eternal redemption for us (Hebrews 9:11, 12).

In Christ we receive the eternal redemption needed which could not be provided for by the law. Paul then goes on to reinforce this point in verses 13 and 14:

¹³ For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: ¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your *conscience* from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:13, 14)

The sacrifices of the Levitical system were designed to teach wonderful truths about the plan of salvation, but they had no power within themselves to cleanse our minds or consciences. However, Christ can “purge your conscience from dead works.” The Bible says that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Sin brings death, and dead works are works of sin. In the life of the believer there are to be no dead works or works that bring death—sin.

Continuing in Chapter 10 of Hebrews, Paul reinforces his point again that the law was a shadow or a lesson book of the better priesthood that was to come.

¹ For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. ³ But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. ⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. (Hebrews 10:1-4)

Paul again states that no perfection could be found in the Levitical priesthood. Perfection is the goal at each step of the Christian life. Paul is continually contrasting the Levitical priesthood with that of Jesus. One could not produce perfection, and the other could. In the light of these and other plain statements we shall look at, it is a denial of the gospel to say that God's people cannot obtain perfection of character. Many do not believe that all victory over sin is possible; yet, this philosophy is actually saying that the new covenant is no better and has no more power than the old covenant. We are told that perfection, total victory over sin, is not attainable and that our goal should rather be to simply get close to the mark, but the Scriptures say that God's plan is to have no more conscienceness of sins. God does not say some conscienceness of sins.

⁵ Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: ⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. ⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. ⁸ Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; ⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. ***He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second*** (Hebrews 10:5-9).

Paul is very plain. The first system that was to be done away with was the sacrifices and offerings. The second that would be established is the will of God. "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10).

What is God's will on the matter of perfection and overcoming sin? May the word of God plainly explain:

For this is *the will of God*, even your sanctification. (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)

⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. . . . ¹² *For the perfecting of the saints*, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of

Paul is continually contrasting the Levitical priesthood with that of Jesus. One could not produce perfection, and the other could. In the light of these and other plain statements, it is a denial of the gospel to say that God's people cannot obtain perfection of character.

God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:8, 12, 13)

²⁰ Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ *Make you perfect in every good work* to do his will . . . (Hebrews 13:20, 21)

God's will is sanctification for the believer and since that involves no more consciousness of sin, the ministry of Jesus must take away our sins, and this it does. The law cannot do this. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" (Romans 3:20).

In fact, "the law worketh wrath" (Romans 4:15). Ellen White insightfully noted:

Were the law understood apart from Christ, *it would have a crushing power* upon sinful men, blotting the sinner out of existence. But by understanding the law in connection with Christ, receiving him by faith as his substitute and surety, man sees himself as a prisoner of hope. The truth as it is in Jesus is an acquaintance with the holy, just, and good law of God, as this law is elevated, and its immutability demonstrated, in Christ. He magnified the law, expanded its every precept, and in his obedience left man an example, that he also may meet its demands (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, February 8, 1898, par. 5).

Outside of Christ, the law can only crush us, but if Christ is in us (Colossians 1:27), we may meet the law's demands, which Hebrews 10:10 declares to be the will of God.

The ministry of Jesus to perfection

Do you think that Paul is finished contrasting law and grace and our efforts and the work of Jesus? No, he is not done yet but continues to press his point: "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins" (Hebrews 10:11).

The old cannot take away sins and anything that tries to bring back the old cannot either. By perfectly doing the perfect will of God, we establish perfection.

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; ¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering he hath *perfected* for ever them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:12–14)

The Greek word for “perfected” in verse 14 is from the same root word we find in John 19:30 when Jesus proclaimed “it is finished.” At each step in the plan of salvation, Christ has perfected and finished that stage of the plan, and he will bring the believer to perfection, step by step, through a new and living way.

¹⁵ Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, ¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; ¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. ¹⁸ Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. (Hebrews 10:15–18)

The new way involves receiving from God a new heart, a new mind, and God declares that he will remember our sins no more! All this is obtained by the ministry of Christ. “By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh” (Hebrews 10:20).

Through the flesh of Christ, through his coming to live as we have to live and obtaining victory as we must obtain victory, we have the assurance of perfection in our lives, as we have Christ.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14)

Through his flesh, he has consecrated for us a new and living way. “For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore” (Hebrews 7:28).

If you wish to be perfect as Christ, then you need to be as consecrated as Christ. He was sinless: “For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens” (Hebrews 7:26); yet, his humanity reaches us. He who was born with sinful flesh but not a sinner, will help all who come to him as he ministers as our high priest in heaven today. “Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God” (Psalm 77:13)?

²¹ And having an high priest over the house of God;

²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil

conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised. (Hebrews 10:21–23)

We may have hearts full of assurance because we have Jesus who overcame in sinful flesh.

¹⁸ For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, ¹⁹ And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: . . . ²² But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. ²⁵ See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven. (Hebrews 12:18, 19, 22–25)

It has been almost two thousand years since the apostle Paul gave up all for Christ and followed the path of Christian perfection, becoming one of God’s Marines. Why did he do it? The love of Christ constrained him, and the 144,000 will be constrained by the faith and love of Christ to stand in defense of the truth, even amidst apostasy and cold companions. We are told, “Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand” (Ellen White, *Maranatha*, p. 241).

God wants everyone, but it will only be a few good men and women who will be ready when Jesus comes. As seen in Ezekiel 9:8, 9, there is only to be a small, final remnant, but you can be a part of it. The seal of God can be for you. You may have perfection of character because Christ has trodden the path for you and has consecrated it with his own blood. The will of God is clear and unmoveable. You have more than a target to aim at; you have the very power of God through Christ who is able to keep you from falling (Jude 24). You can be one of God’s special men or women who will stand on the sea of glass and sing the song of Moses and the Lamb (Revelation 15:1–3). You can be a part of the group of men and women who will continue in the face of the assault of the enemy and give the vital messages, the three angels’ messages.

To be continued.



Prophetic Truths for Troubled Times

By Fay Ulett

Recently 1889 HSDA-USA hosted a Zoom evangelistic series entitled “Prophetic Truths for Troubled Times.” Many homes joined this series of meetings over five weekends on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, May 7 to June 6, 2026.

A dedicated prayer band, consisting of about six individuals, met prior to and after each meeting. They earnestly sought God’s blessing and guidance for the success of the series and faithfully brought before the Lord the prayer requests submitted by attendees, interceding on their behalf.

Pastor Allen Stump shared seventeen sermons over fifteen days, embracing several topics found in the books of Revelation and Daniel, such as some of the beasts presented and their symbolic meanings, the mark of the beast, and the second coming of Christ, as well as other topics of hell, judgment, and heaven.

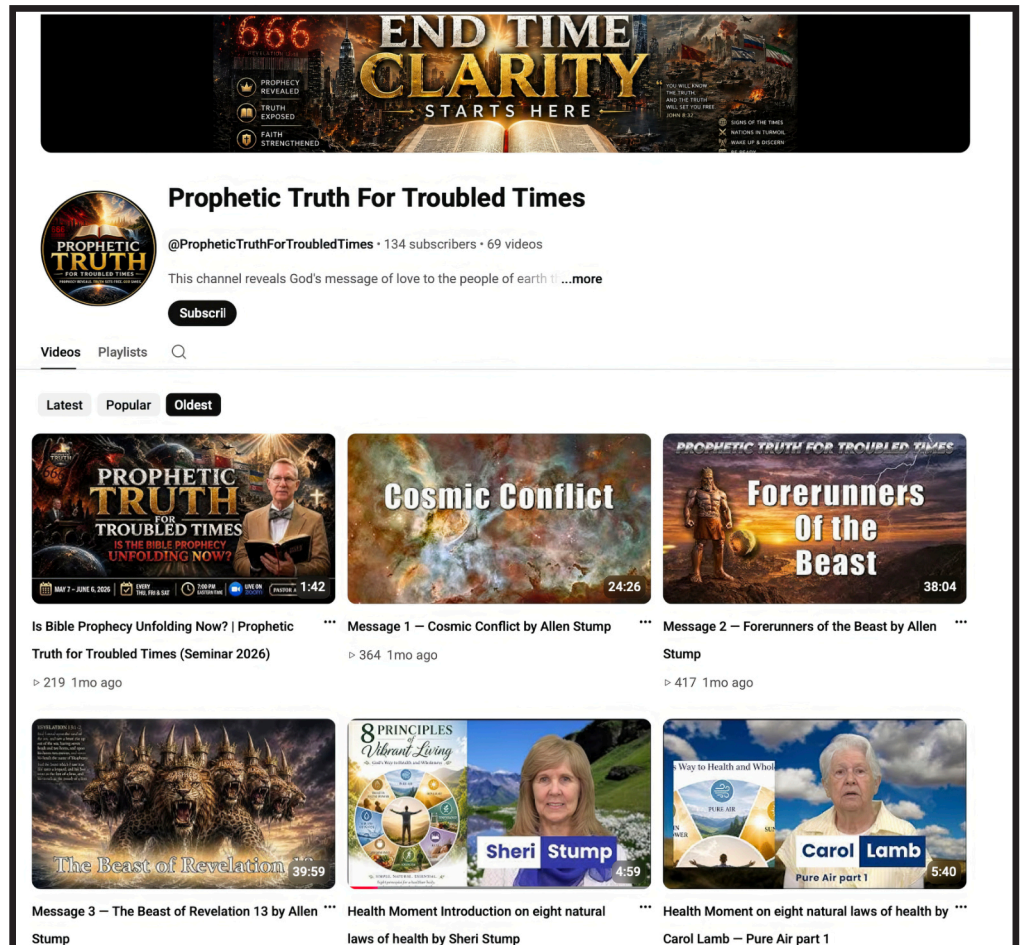
Before each evening sermon, breakout rooms were enabled, and participants were encouraged to read the key texts for the sermon of the night, and, as time allowed, comments and questions were shared. Questions not answered in the sermon could even be sent directly to Pastor Stump to be answered in the next night’s question and answer session.

At each meeting a health moment was shared explaining the benefits of nutrition, exercise, water internally and externally, sunshine, temperance, fresh air, rest, and trust in God.

In addition, beautiful music blessed our time together, incorporating the theme song every night, as well as solos, duets, and group special music.

A couple of lesson studies challenged our understanding, and even two children stories brought smiles to the faces of young and old!

We realize you may not have been able to attend these meetings, so we urge you to



visit our dedicated YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@PropheticTruthForTroubledTimes>, where every sermon, every health presentation, most question and answer sessions, and every special music and story have been recorded for your benefit. You may also scan the QR code below for easy access. We are very appreciative to Pastor Allen Stump for providing and posting these online recordings for us.

The videos from this prophecy seminar may also be used as witnessing tools. Please feel free to share the YouTube link or playlist of the sermons with others, encouraging those to whom you send it to watch the messages in the order they were presented, as each message builds upon the other.

May God bless you, and if you have further questions or a desire to continue your study in the Bible on these topics, just contact us at info@prophetictruthfortroubledtimes.com or info@hsda-usa.org. or at the website.



Hid in My Heart

By Sheri Stump

The purpose of the “Hid-in-My-Heart” series is to meditate on and to memorize Scripture that defines 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.

Many believers own several Bibles, listen to sermons, attend church, and read devotional books; yet, comparatively few intentionally memorize Scripture. However, throughout the Bible, God repeatedly emphasizes the importance of storing his word in our hearts and minds.

Biblical memorization is not merely an exercise for children. It is a spiritual weapon, a source of comfort, a defense against temptation, and a preparation for difficult times ahead.

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, a temporal millennium, the prophetic correction of 1844, the prophetic ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, the immutable Law of God, the Sabbath, the change of the Law of God, Christ’s peculiar people, how God would have his people dress, giving to God, the nature of man, man’s dependance on God, gifts of the Spirit, the three angels’ messages, the investigative judgment, and this article features Fundamental Belief XXII, the grave.

1889 Fundamental Belief XXII:

XXII – That the grave, whether we all tend, expressed by the Hebrew word *sheol* and the Greek word *hades*, is a place, or condition, in which there is no work, device, wisdom, nor knowledge. Ecclesiastes 9:10

This fundamental addresses the state of man in death.

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 XXII, the grave.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XR0myTvzxq0&list=PLsE-5c918fZE dGxPn-grO6mmkyPe708owA&index=24>

The following are some 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.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. Ecclesiastes 9:10

Wthftd, diwtm; ftinw, nd, nk, nw, itg, wtg. E 9:10

For in death there is no remembrance of thee: In the grave who shall give thee thanks? Psalm 6:5

Fidtinrot: Itgwsgtt? P 6:5

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 1 Corinthians 15:55

Od, wits? Og, wity? 1C 15:55

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Revelation 1:18

Iahtl, awd; a,b, laafe, A, ahtkohaod. R 1:18

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Revelation 20:14

Adahwcitlof. Titsd. R 20:14

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

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



Youth's Corner—Prayers for Organ Lessons

Sister Grace Cox grew up in what is now called Smyrna Valley and is writing letters to my granddaughter, Gillian, telling her about her growing up while weaving spiritual lessons into them. This is the second of a series of letters we know will bless you. Pastor Allen Stump)

Dear Gillian,

I might have been nine, a little older than you, when I began to pray that I could learn to play the organ. My mom's best friend, Mrs. Harrell, had an odd kind of old fashioned pump organ. It was portable, so it could be folded up and carried like a really big suitcase. We rode to church with them many Sabbath mornings, and that organ sat on the back seat. I was small enough that I could sit on the edge of the seat in front of it, and there was enough room for my mother to sit at the end of the organ by the window. Mrs. Harrell unfolded that organ at the house church where we met in Anawalt and played it for Sabbath School and church.

How I loved that organ! I yearned to touch the keys, to cause music to come from it. It had pedals that had to be pumped with the feet in order to make the music. Mrs. Harrell had another, full size, pump organ in her living room. I thought how wonderful it would be if I could sit on the stool, pump those pedals, and bring music from those white and black keys.

So I began praying that God would help me to learn to play an organ. I knew it would require hours and hours of practice, and we had no organ in our house for me to practice on. But I prayed anyway, and I prayed for a long time. Then, one day when I was almost 11, my oldest brother came and said that his wife's parents were getting ready to move to Wisconsin. But they needed to store their organ somewhere. He asked if my mom and dad would be willing to keep the organ for them, and they agreed. I could have danced for joy! God was answering my prayer. I just knew it! I was so glad I had not given up and stopped asking.

So, in a few days, my brother brought the organ, probably in the bed of a pickup truck. Since there was no car road up the hollow then, my dad harnessed his horse, a big white Percheron named Nellie, and hooked up the sled and went down to the main road with my brother to pick up the organ. They tied that big, tall, beautiful organ onto the sled with ropes and hauled it up the hollow. They unloaded it and set it up in our living room, and there it stood, the answer to my prayers.

Can you imagine how happy I was?? A real pump organ in our house, and a beautiful one at that. It was ornate, with a mirror built into it, and some shelves on either side where you could set vases of flowers or other pretty things. It was my dream come true, my prayer answered in a way that I

never imagined possible. God is so good! How I enjoyed sitting on the stool that came with it, pumping those pedals with my feet to force air through its bellows, and have musical sounds respond to my fingers on the keyboard.

Mrs. Harrell agreed to give me organ lessons one afternoon a week after school. So, my teacher gave me permission to leave school early so I could walk the mile and a half to Mrs. Harrell's house, have my lesson, then walk another mile and half home before dark. Gradually, I learned the white keys and the black keys and how to look at the musical notes on a page and press the right keys to match them.

Mrs. Harrell obtained music lesson books for beginners, including a colorful book of Christmas songs. Finally, it came time for me to learn to play a hymn from our Church Hymnal. She had me play "Work for the Night is Coming," then she asked what would I like to learn to play. I chose my favorite of all, "Sitting at the Feet of Jesus," on page 618 in the hymnal we used. (If you don't know that hymn, Gillian, look in the song book over in the chapel. I think you would love it, too.)

I was supposed to practice at home on our loaner organ every day. Like many children who take music lessons, I didn't like to practice. But I tried to practice enough so I could play what my teacher had assigned for my homework when I went for my next lesson. I was very nervous and made more mistakes than when I was practicing alone. Unfortunately, after most of a year, I lost interest in taking lessons. I wanted to just practice at home at my own speed.

The organ remained in our home for many years, and I loved to play it when I was alone. Eventually, I could play a lot of the songs in the hymnal. The little bit of music I learned is still helpful as I can look at the notes of a new song and sing along with the congregation quite well. Knowing at least some music is a very good thing, and knowing music well would be wonderful. I hope you have a chance to do that, Gillian. You will always be glad you did.

And remember, when you pray and ask God for things that would be a blessing to you and that would please Him also, be persistent! Don't give up before the answer comes! God's timing is always perfect. In Psalm 37, we are told to "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. ... Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him" (Psalm 37:4, 5, 7a).

With love in Jesus,

From Miss Grace,
who was once The Girl of the Hollow



Parenting God's Way

By Ellen G. White

(The following is from Chapter 40 from *Child Guidance*.)

Objectives of Discipline

Self-government the Paramount Objective—The object of discipline is the training of the child for self-government. He should be taught self-reliance and self-control. Therefore as soon as he is capable of understanding, his reason should be enlisted on the side of obedience. Let all dealing with him be such as to show obedience to be just and reasonable. Help him to see that all things are under law, and that disobedience leads, in the end, to disaster and suffering. When God says, "Thou shalt not," He in love warns us of the consequence of disobedience, in order to save us from harm and loss.

Enlisting the Power of the Will—The true object of reproof is gained only when the wrongdoer himself is led to see his fault and his will is enlisted for its correction. When this is accomplished, point him to the source of pardon and power.

Those who train their pupils to feel that the power lies in themselves to become men and women of honor and usefulness will be the most permanently successful.

Correct Habits, Inclinations, Evil Tendencies—It is the work of the parents to restrain and guide and control. They cannot commit a worse evil than to permit their children to gratify all their childish wishes and fancies, and leave them to follow their own inclinations; they cannot do them a greater wrong than to leave upon their minds the impression that they are to live to please and amuse themselves, to choose their own ways and find their own pleasure and society.... The youth need parents who will educate and discipline them, correct their wrong habits and inclinations, and prune away their evil tendencies.

Break Down Satan's Stronghold—Mothers, the destiny of your children rests to a great extent in your hands. If you fail in duty, you may place them in Satan's ranks and make them his agents to ruin other souls. Or your faithful discipline and godly example may lead them to Christ, and they in turn will influence others, and thus many souls may be saved through your instrumentality.

Let us look carefully and begin to catch up our dropped stitches. Let us break down the strongholds of the enemy. Let us mercifully correct our loved ones and keep them from the power of the enemy. Do not be discouraged.

Teach Respect to Parental and Divine Authority—Children ... should be trained, educated, and disciplined until they become obedient to their parents, giving respect to their authority. In this way respect for divine authority will

be implanted in their hearts, and the family training will be like a preparatory training for the family in heaven. The training of childhood and youth should be of such a character that children will be prepared to take up their religious duties, and thus become fitted to enter into the courts above.

He who is the fountain of all knowledge has stated the condition of our fitness to enter the heaven of bliss, in the words, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Obedience to God's commandments is the price of heaven, and obedience to their parents in the Lord is the all-important lesson for children to learn.

Obedience From Principle, Not Compulsion—Tell your children exactly what you require of them. Then let them understand that your word is law and must be obeyed. Thus you are training them to respect the commandments of God, which plainly declare, "Thou shalt," and "Thou shalt not." It is far better for your boy to obey from principle than from compulsion.

A Lesson in Implicit Confidence—Isaac is bound by the trembling, loving hands of his pitying father, because God has said it. The son submits to the sacrifice, because he believes in the integrity of his father...

This act of faith in Abraham is recorded for our benefit. It teaches us the great lesson of confidence in the requirements of God, however close and cutting they may be; and it teaches children perfect submission to their parents and to God. By Abraham's obedience we are taught that nothing is too precious for us to give to God.

Youth Will Respond to Trust—The youth must be impressed with the idea that they are trusted. They have a sense of honor, and they want to be respected, and it is their right. If pupils receive the impression that they cannot go out or come in, sit at the table, or be anywhere, even in their rooms, except they are watched, a critical eye is upon them to criticize and report, it will have the influence to demoralize, and pastime will have no pleasure in it. This knowledge of a continual oversight is more than a parental guardianship, and far worse; for wise parents can, through tact, often discern beneath the surface and see the working of the restless mind under the longings of youth, or under the forces of temptations, and set their plans to work to counteract evils. But this constant watchfulness is not natural, and produces evils that it is seeking to avoid. The healthfulness of youth requires exercise, cheerfulness, and a happy, pleasant atmosphere surrounding them, for the development of physical health and symmetrical character.

Self-government Versus Absolute Authority—There are many families of children who appear to be well trained, while under the training discipline; but when the system

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Health Matters

By Sheri Stump

Health is much broader than many realize. A truly healthy person will be healthy in four basic areas: Physical, Emotional/Mental, Spiritual, and Financial.

I hope you, dear reader, will consider each of these areas in your life.

Health is made up of daily choices. Health is a lifestyle comprised of daily habits. Good choices normally result in good health, and bad habits result in poor health. If we will work on making good choices each day, we will see the accumulation of those good choices in our energy, strength and enthusiasm for life. When we 'feel' good, we are happier, and ambitious. When we 'feel' good, we accomplish more. When we 'feel' good, we are pleasant to be around. When we 'feel' good, we tend toward a positive outlook on life, and we are more creative. We have energy to accomplish daily tasks, and we even think better.

Poor daily habits also yield results. The accumulation of bad choices will lead to many negatives: depression, weight gain, anxiety, stress, a negative outlook on life in general, sadness, a feeling of worthlessness, and much more.

To make this simple, I suggest that we focus on one day at a time, and for some who need to make greater changes in lifestyle choices, the focus may need to be one hour at a time or even one minute at a time. It is generally easier to choose what is right today, right at this moment, one choice at a time, than it is to consider making long-term changes.

If we will seek God for wisdom and read his word, we will find encouragement.

The book of Colossians is rich with broad counsel on overall health. Colossae was a small city located about 100 miles east of Ephesus. Paul wrote to this church even though he had never been there. Heresy entering the church had been reported to Paul through his convert, Epaphras, who was the devoted founder of the church in Colossae and a dedicated minister of the gospel. In the first chapter of the book of Colossians, we find this encouraging counsel:

¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; ¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

(Colossians 1:10–13)

The general health principles presented here include pleasing God and walking worthy of him, being fruitful in good works, and a precious promise from God to strengthen us with all might not according to our power but according to his glorious power! This passage addresses the good mental and emotional attributes of a believer who is patient in all things with longsuffering, joyfulness, and thanksgiving. And we are reminded that it is the Father who has made us “partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”

In Colossians Chapter 3, we find:

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1–3)

Can you see how being obedient to this scripture passage alone would result in fabulous health—spiritual, mental/emotional, physical and financial? If our thoughts and affections are elevated to those things which are above, we would not hold the things of this earth in esteem. We would chose to please God in everything. We would think right, act right, and spend our money on only what is of heavenly value, and, of course, we would NOT lay up treasure on this earth:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (Matthew 6:19–20)



God's word is full of encouragement as we see in the following verses in Philippians, 2 Corinthians, Romans, and 2 Peter:

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

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (2 Corinthians 9:8)

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (2 Peter 1:3)

Dear reader, we are in the end times. We must carefully seek out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12)

God's word admonishes us to:

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (Ephesians 6:10–18)

If we will follow the counsel in Colossians 3:16, we will be daily growing in grace and spiritual maturity, and we will be in good health, physically, mentally/emotionally, spiritually and financially.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)

And finally:

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. (3 John 2)

“Parenting . . . “ Continued from page 11, column 2

which has held them to set rules is broken up, they seem to be incapable of thinking, acting, or deciding for themselves. These children have been so long under iron rule, not allowed to think and act for themselves in those things in which it was highly proper that they should, that they have no confidence in themselves to move out upon their own judgment, having an opinion of their own. And when they go out from their parents to act for themselves, they are easily led by others' judgment in the wrong direction. They have not stability of character. They have not been thrown upon their own judgment as fast and as far as practicable, and therefore their minds have not been properly developed and strengthened. They have so long been absolutely controlled by their parents that they rely wholly upon them; their parents are mind and judgment for them.

On the other hand, the young should not be left to think and act independently of the judgment of their parents and teachers. Children should be taught to respect experienced judgment and to be guided by their parents and teachers.... They should be so educated that their minds will be united with the minds of their parents and teachers, and so instructed that they can see the propriety of heeding their counsel. Then when they go forth from the guiding hand of their parents and teachers, their characters will not be like the reed trembling in the wind.

The severe training of youth—without properly directing them to think and act for themselves as their own capacity and turn of mind will allow, that by this means they may have growth of thought, feelings of self-respect, and confidence in their own ability to perform—will ever produce a class who are weak in mental and moral power. And when they stand in the world to act for themselves, they will reveal the fact that they were trained, like the animals, and not educated. Their wills, instead of being guided, were forced into subjection by the harsh discipline of parents and teachers.

Evil Results When One Mind Dominates Another—Those parents and teachers who boast of having complete control of the minds and wills of the children under their care would cease their boastings could they trace out the future lives of the children who are thus brought into subjection by force or through fear. These are almost wholly unprepared to share in the stern responsibilities of life. When these youth are no longer under their parents and teachers, and are compelled to think and act for themselves, they are almost sure to take a wrong course and yield to the power of temptation. They do not make this life a success, and the same deficiencies are seen in their religious life. Could the instructors of children and youth have the future result of their mistaken discipline mapped out before them,



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“For Such a Time as This” July 28 – August 2, 2026

1889 HSDA Camp Meeting Schedule

CST	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath	Sunday
Early Devotional 6:30–7:00 am	Set up camp	Joel Rivera	Corey McCain	Brian Thomas	Caleb Brown	Roy Araya
7:00–9:00 am		Break and Breakfast (Serving time 7:30–8:15 am)				
9:00–9:30 am		Songs/Testimonies	Songs/Testimonies	Songs/Testimonies	Songs/Testimonies	
9:30–10:25 am		Damaris Rivera	Daniel Mesa	Daniel Mesa	Sabbath School Fay Ulett	
9:00–10:25 am		Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	
10:25–11:10 am		Break				
11:10–11:40 am		Songs/Testimonies	Songs/Testimonies	Communion Allen Stump	Songs/Testimonies	Clean up camp and leave
11:40 am–12:35 pm		Rob Chisum	Rob Chisum		Allen Stump	
12:35–3:00 pm		Break and Lunch (Serving time 1:05–2:15 pm)				
3:00–3:50 pm		Breakout Sessions 1 Country Living Health Expo Marriage Why Organization?	Breakout Sessions 2 Country Living Family Children Health Expo Why Organization?	Testimonies	Baptisms and Testimonies	
3:50–4:00 pm		Break				
4:00–4:50 pm	Breakout Sessions 1 Health Expo Laodicean Message The Truth About God Youth	Breakout Sessions 2 Health Expo Laodicean Message The Truth About God Youth				
4:50–7:00 pm	Break and Light Supper (Serving time 6:15–6:45 pm)					
7:00–7:15 pm	Song Service	Song Service	Song Service	Song Service	Song Service	
7:15–7:30 pm	Health J. McCain	Health Carol Lamb	Health Roy Araya	Health Sheri Stump	Health Daniel Mesa	
7:30–8:30 pm	Todd Brown	Daniel Mesa	J. C. Bolotte	J. C. Bolotte	J. C. Bolotte	

To register please go to: <https://www.1889hsda-usa.org/1889-hsda-usa-camp-registration-form> or scan the QR code.



1889 HSDA Camp Meeting

By Allen Stump

It is almost time for our annual camp meeting. This year's dates are July 28–August 2. It will be held again at the Piney Creek Campground of Fall Creek Falls State Park near Spencer, Tennessee. We hope all will come and join us in fellowship and in the study of God's word.

The theme of the camp meeting is "For Such a Time as This." Our featured evening speaker will be Jean-Christophe Bolotte from France who will also conduct two breakout sessions on the subject, "Why Organization?" Other speakers and times are on page 14.



Pastor Jean-Christophe Bolotte

During the breakout sessions, Sister Sheri Stump will lead out in health expos. There will also be sessions on the truth about God by Daniel Mesa, marriage and family life by Todd and Rhonda Brown (who also have a special time for the youth earlier in the day), country living by Corey McCain, and the Laodicean church by Allen Stump.

Free healthy vegan meals will be served each day. There are several cabins in the camp, and if you do not mind possibly sharing a cabin, there should be room for all. There is no cost to campers for using a cabin. They will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Those attending full-time will be given preference over those who may only wish to come for part of the camp.



Cabin at Piney Creek Camp

The weather is usually hot, and thunder showers are always a possibility this time of the year, so bring an umbrella and fan if you wish.

Above all, bring your spiritual sword and a good attitude that is seeking to know God better. You will not be disappointed. Please plan now to attend.



Marriage Morsel

By Sheri Stump

A healthy marriage requires conscious effort and time. In this article I will share with you a brief look at a book written by Gary Chapman titled, *The Five Love Languages, How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate*.

The information in this book has helped me to understand better how to express my love to others and especially to my husband. The book explains that there are different ways to express love and encourages the reader to observe their spouse and figure out what his or her love language is. Mr. Chapman defines five categories of expressing love. They are words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch.

The concept is that each person needs love expressed in a way that is meaningful to them. Some feel loved when they receive a gift, others feel loved when they are complimented and verbally appreciated. There are some who will not feel loved unless you spend quality time with them. Some need physical touch, and others feel that their spouse loves them when they see tangible proof through doing things for them. Most people are not 100% in one category. You may need quality time, but you also appreciate all the other ways of expressing love. We need to show our love to our spouse. Thoughtfully considering personality types and what will express that love in a way that means love to your spouse will not be a waste of time.

Finding out what makes your spouse feel loved is very important. It may mean the difference between surviving your marriage and thriving in your marriage.

There are other ways to identify personality types and better understand how and why a person thinks and acts and what their strengths and weaknesses are. One way that I heard a lot about when I was in my 20s were the four personality types identified by choleric, sanguine, phlegmatic, and melancholy. One author took these categories and paired each one with an animal. Choleric was like a lion, a strong leader. Sanguine was like an otter, always happy, the life of the party, and carefree. Phlegmatic was paired with a golden retriever, faithful and dependable, who functioned best with daily routine. Melancholy was identified with a beaver who is busy and organized. The idea is that when you understand your spouse's personality type, you understand them better and can allow for their unique strengths and weaknesses.

Have you heard of the Myers-Briggs test? It became very popular several years ago. Many corporations promoted the Myers-Briggs evaluation for their employees. Even churches jumped on the bandwagon and encouraged their parish-

ioners to take the test. I was attending one of those large churches and took the test. The hope seemed to be for people to get along better. There was some good in it. People seemed more thoughtful and tried to understand each other to allow for their weaknesses. Jobs and leadership positions were often given based on these tests. I found it limiting. In my opinion, it placed people in boxes and limited emotional and spiritual growth. For example a person might take the Myers-Briggs test and find out they were not a natural leader. Rather than alerting the person to an area they needed to improve, this evaluation often became a permanent disadvantage to them. They would be evaluated and passed over as though they could not do the job. Change and growth were not always considered. Also, these evaluations are only as good as the accuracy given in answering the many questions. If people took the test yearly, they often saw changes in their strengths and weaknesses.

The Bible counsels us to evaluate those around us. We are to observe others so that we may encourage spiritual growth in them.



Good communication is necessary in a good marriage.

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (Hebrews 10:24)

The Bible also instructs the husband to love the wife and the wife to reverence her husband.

Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)

From this we see that having a healthy marriage requires more than nominal effort. It is not just being attracted to someone, getting married to them, and expecting that everything will be warm and fuzzy as it was in courtship days. Most couples figure out that feelings change when pressures enter and daily duties get in the way.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider your spouse and what you can do to show them love and respect and provoke them to love and good works.



“Parenting . . . “Continued from page 13, column 2 they would change their plan of education. That class of teachers who are gratified that they have almost complete control of the wills of their scholars are not the most successful teachers, although the appearance for the time being may be flattering.

God never designed that one human mind should be under the complete control of another. And those who make efforts to have the individuality of their pupils merged in themselves, and to be mind, will, and conscience for them, assume fearful responsibilities. These scholars may, upon certain occasions, appear like well-drilled soldiers. But when the restraint is removed, there will be seen a want of independent action from firm principle existing in them.

Through Skill and Patient Effort—It requires skill and patient effort to mold the young in the right manner. Especially do children who have come into the world burdened with a heritage of evil, the direct results of the sins of their parents, need the most careful culture to develop and strengthen their moral and intellectual faculties. And the responsibility of the parents is heavy indeed. Evil tendencies are to be carefully restrained and tenderly rebuked; the mind is to be stimulated in favor of the right. The child should be encouraged in attempting to govern himself. And all this is to be done judiciously, or the purpose desired will be frustrated.



Online Virtual Service Schedule

We provide on-site and virtual services. All times are EST or EDT, depending on the time of the year.

Sabbath: Sabbath School—9:10 a.m. Worship Service—11:00 a.m.

Monday: Story Hour—7:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Meeting—7:00 p.m.

Thursday: History/Theology Study—7:00 p.m.

Zoom Room Information: ID—613 212 7443. Passcode—916919. Phone—1-646-931-3860, enter conference ID 613 212 7443, followed by the # symbol when prompted, and press the # symbol again.



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