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Bible Explorations Newsletter

August 2021 Issue

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FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2021

We are planning on having camp meeting here in Terra Bella October 22 through 29, 2021. So far all looks good for this, however, as we all know, things can change at any time. Hopefully the world will stay moving forward and we can all have a great retreat. We are getting the campgrounds ready! It has been awhile since anyone stayed here, so there are a lot of cobwebs to clean! If anyone wishes to come and help us get ready, please do. We want things ready for the fall. We have some speakers, but have room for more. We MAY use zoom for some, but most we would like to have here live in Terra Bella. We are also not sure of the arrangements this time regarding travel with the airlines changing, and the expense of these things. It is more expensive now, but God will make a way. Please send special prayers and support for this upcoming camp meeting. We would love to have the grounds full of wonderful people again! There are some who will not be with us which is sad. Quite a few have gone to their rest until that Great

Day. Those of us remaining need to get together and encourage one another. Please continue to support Bible Explorations, we look forward to a wonderful, spiritually filled week in October. It's been too long!

CAUTION AND ADVICE

After the malfunction of 1888 Ellen White wrote "We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years . . ." LDE 39

But before that time she was writing things like the following. Truly what goes around comes around.

"It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal." GC 622.

"Hoarded wealth will soon be worthless. When the decree shall go forth that none shall buy or sell except that have the mark of the beast, very much means will be of no avail." RH 3/21/1878, p.91

"In the time of trouble it (their prosperity) would come up before them like a mountain to crush them, and they would try to dispose of it, but would not be able. I heard some mourn like this . . . now our property is useless." 5T 152; EW 57

"In the last great conflict in the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see **every earthly support cut off.** Because they refuse to break

God's law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell." DA 121,122.

Of the "property" she evidently means income or investment property. Of personal property she wrote:

Parents should get as suitable a place as their means will allow. Though the **dwelling** may be small, yet there should be land in connection with it, that may be cultivated . . . God will help His people to find such **homes** outside the cities." Country Living p 24.

She also gives some pretty straight talk about what to do with some of the means gained by such sales, but I will leave that for the reader to find. Or otherwise ask for His guidance and holy impressions.

We highly respect all who read the truths presented in our newsletters and hold in high respect those who contribute to the workings of this ministry. You are all important.

SHORT BIBLE STUDY

Elder John VanDenburgh

(Rev 13:7) And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

(Rev 13:11) And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

(Rev 13:12) And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and **causeth** the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

(Rev 13:13) And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

(Rev 13:15) And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Is the world getting ripe for these things? Just read about the inhuman atrocities going on in the world and you be the judge.

And then there is the other side: The side of the seven last plagues.

(Rev 16:4) And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

(Rev 16:5) And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

(Rev 16:6) For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

John describes the saints as those who, in spite of the beast and his mark are found keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus; But who are the prophets that will perish with them?? Joel describes them as young men and young women working in the time when the later and former rain will be falling on them just before probation closes. Yes, while many who hear their witness are turned to accept Christ and all He and His kingdom stand for. Then Christ comes:

"(Joe 2:30) And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

(Joe 2:31) The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Soon thereafter John sees another future scene:

(Rev 20:4) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.



Friend, are you ready to live and reign with Christ for a thousand years? Once you taste of the heavenly land and enjoy the holy city, will you find yourself ready to step out from the gates of the city to watch our Creator build a new world for you and your loved ones? Will you be among the eager ones to experience joys unspeakable?

The promises of all these things are just as real as the predictions regarding wars and rumors of wars, the

rise of the beast power, and the horrendous show of persecution inspired by Satan himself. When that begins to happen we can honestly sing:

“Though the hills be steep and the valleys deep, with no flowers my way adorning. Though the night be lone and my rest a stone, joy awaits me in the morning. I’ll exchange my cross for a starry crown where the gates swing outward never. And His feet I’ll lay every burden down and with Jesus reign forever.”

TIME TO REMEMBER, TIME TO DECIDE, WHICH DEALS WITH MALACHI 4:4, 5

By Ted Schultz

The book of the law defines righteousness

Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:16, 17. The power of the gospel is made manifest in changed lives. The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith in those changed lives. Nothing short of Divine power can change the lives of poor fallen humanity. That is why Jesus promised power in the gospel commission to His disciples. “And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 24:18-20. Notice how the gospel commission is very similar to the definition of righteousness as given in the book of the law. “And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.” Deuteronomy 6:25. Verses one, two, seventeen, and twenty of chapter six and onward tell us repeatedly all the things that were commanded. “Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: that thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I commanded thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son’s son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.” “Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.” “And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, what mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?” We see then that Malachi 4:4 is the gospel commission. The gospel commission calls people

to a teaching assignment. They are to teach the people “to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you,” which are the commandments, statutes, and judgments. We see by the book of the law that keeping everything that God has commanded is righteousness. The apostle John warned against false ideas of what is true righteousness. “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 1 John 3:7.

The apostle James warned, “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” James 1:22. These warnings by the apostles are consistent with what the book of the law teaches in Deuteronomy 6:25. There is no real righteousness apart from the righteousness that is done. It is only true righteousness if it is in harmony with all God’s commandments, statutes, and judgments which Malachi 4:4 calls us to remember. Malachi 4:4 contains a set of instructions that must be obeyed in order to be prepared for the second coming. “The Lord Jesus gave these commandments from the pillar of cloud, and Moses repeated them to the children of Israel and wrote them in a book, that they might not depart from righteousness. We are under obligation to fulfill the specifications of the law of God.” *Review and Herald*, December 18, 1894. So what specifications are to be obeyed? The ones written by Moses in the book of the law. Who is to obey these specifications? We are. It is to this work that Malachi 4:4 calls us.

The last great deception

“That the law which was spoken by God’s own voice is faulty, that some specification has been set aside, is the claim which Satan now puts forward. It is the last great deception that he will bring upon the world. He needs not to assail the whole law; if he can lead men to disregard one precept, his purpose is gained....Every man is to be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world.” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 763.

It is not the ten commandments only by which we are tested. It is also by “rules, statutes, and laws” that we will be tested. “Every character is to be tested by the standard of God’s holy law. The great God of Heaven, our supreme Ruler, has rules, statutes, and laws. These laws govern not only the intelligences of Heaven, but they govern every member of the human family; and we read in my text:



‘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.’” E. G. White, *Signs of the Times*, Sept. 8, 1887. “God will not take into his kingdom and give eternal life to those who will not come under his laws and statutes in this life.” *Ibid*. After pronouncing a blessing on those who

keep the commandments a warning is given to not add or take away from the words of the book. (Rev. 22:18). The same warning is given in the book of the law. “Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” Deut. 4:1, 2. Then the book of the law goes on to warn against disobedience to God’s commandments, statutes, and judgments. And like Revelation 22:14, blessings are promised to those who keep all that God commanded. But many scholars, even in our church, cast doubts on the words “do his commandments.”

In 1953 the General Conference Committee on Bible Translations stated, “It would be well, however, to exercise care in the use of this text as rendered in the *King James Version*, in view of the currently available evidence which favors ‘robes.’ Other Scriptures not in dispute should be used, such as those given by John in other places in his writings.” *Problems In Bible Translation*, p. 260. Once again, one more miserable doubt is insinuated against the *King James Version*. “Other Scripture not in dispute”? But who, other than the higher critics who prefer the Catholic Vaticanus and Sinaiticus Manuscripts over the Received Text of the Waldenses, are disputing the *King James Version* rendering of Revelation 22:14? Certainly not the Spirit of Prophecy. “Says the Saviour, ‘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.’ **These are the words of God; they are not my words.** Keep the commandments of God, and you will have right to the tree of life.” E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, April 30, 1889. Emphasis supplied. The Spirit of Prophecy not only confirms that the words ‘do His commandments’ are God’s words but includes the law of Moses in what is being commanded in Revelation 22:14 as well.

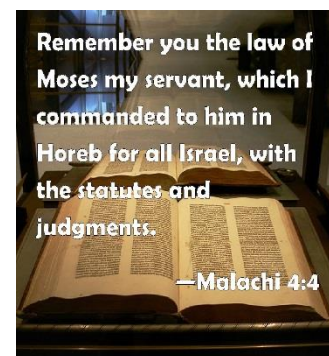
The elect and the law of Moses

After quoting Revelation 22:14 the servant of the Lord says, “He is elected who will have faith continually, and who will be obedient to every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The *provisions* of redemption are free to all; the *results* of redemption will be enjoyed by those who have complied with the conditions.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 208. (Italics in the original). The words “every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” are from Matthew 4:4 where Jesus is quoting from the book of the law of Moses in Deuteronomy 8:3. The elect of God will be following Christ’s example. Just as Christ anchored Himself into the book of the law in the great temptations, likewise, God’s people will do so.

Not all is yet revealed and understood

“The light that we have upon the third angel’s message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it is proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood and will not be understood until the unrolling of the scroll.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, p. 159. Ellen White penned this statement in 1898. This was ten years after she produced the 1888 edition of *The Great Controversy*. Whether there were things revealed to her that she could not specifically recall after coming out of vision (because the Lord blocked it from her memory) or whether she was not shown the things to transpire after the unrolling of the scroll we do not know nor does it matter. What does matter is that we take these words at their face value. It seems that the Lord simply revealed to Ellen White that there was more to be understood regarding the great testing truth of the mark of the beast,

but did not reveal to her just what it was. There will come a time when the scroll unrolls to a certain point that God will make it known to His people the things relating to the mark of the beast that are not revealed to us as of yet, but are in the Scripture nevertheless. In fact, Ellen White penned a message to those that



assembled at the 1888 General Conference. “Said my Guide, ‘There is much light yet to shine forth from the law of God and the gospel of righteousness. [The mark of the beast is an issue directly relating to the law of God]. This message, understood in its true character, and proclaimed in the Spirit, will lighten the earth with its glory. The great decisive question is to be brought before all nations, tongues, and peoples.’” Manuscript Releases, Vol. 2, p. 58. Brackets supplied. By these and other statements she made it clear that God had not revealed everything to her even of such crucial matters relating to the seal of God and the mark of the beast which are issues dealing with “the law of God and the gospel of righteousness.” She was shown that light and understanding would come to the students of God’s Word at the right time as the scroll unrolls. That light will not come, however, if we have not heeded the call to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments. If we have been given the opportunity but have made no effort beforehand to understand the things that we are called upon to study, God will not be able to illuminate our minds with the light shining from the law of God as the scroll unrolls. Thus we will not be found walking in the advancing light.

Judged by the law of Moses

“The light given me is that we are to study more than we do the instruction given to Moses by God after He has proclaimed the law from Sinai. The ten commandments

were spoken by God Himself, and were then written on tables of stone, to be preserved till the judgment should take place. After the giving of the law, God gave Moses **specifications** regarding the law. These **specifications** are plain and explicit. No one need make a mistake....In the day of judgment we shall be asked whether we have lived in harmony with these **specifications**. It is because we do not carry out these **specifications** in all our dealings, in our institutions, our families, and in our individual lives, at all times, and in all places, that we do not make greater advancement. It is by the directions that God has given that we shall be judged at the last day. Have we studied these **specifications**? I heard them one night some weeks ago. It seemed as if they were being given to Israel, and there was the same solemnity that there was when they were given. I thought, this is given to me that I may tell our people that we must study these **specifications**.” *Australasian Union Conference Record*, March 25, 1907.

Time to remember, time to decide

Simply put, we have more studying to do. With this study will come greater clarity and understanding which will result in a stronger faith. On the one hand we have nailed the entire law of Moses to the cross under the plea that it is the old covenant and the ceremonial law. On the other hand we have selected portions we have chosen to keep. This was an issue that both Jones and Waggoner endeavored to clarify during the 1888 crises, but met with unreasonable and stubborn resistance. It was perhaps because so many at that time were blocking the way for any advanced light to shine (*1888 Materials*, Vol. 4, p. 1575), that God allowed that generation to pass into their graves without seeing further development and the final conclusion to the loud cry and the latter rain. The Lord is going to bring His church around to the same test again. The same light that began to shine out of the law of God and the gospel of righteousness in 1888 will shine once again! History will repeat itself. Once again lack of interest and indifference will be on the right hand and on the left. Their will be scoffers through the ranks of professed believers that will again refer to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as fanaticism and a delusion. Sneering speeches will again be made against the messages attending the last work of God in the earth. “There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 300.

“The third angel’s message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory.” E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, May 27, 1890. “In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only

something in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their expectations, and ideal, they will oppose the work. ‘Why,’ they say, ‘should we not know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?’ Because they did not respond to the warnings, the entreaties, of the messages of God, but persistently said, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.’” *Maranatha*, p. 219. These and other warnings have been given to prepare the faithful for what is coming. But for those who have obeyed the command to remember the law of Moses with the statutes and judgments, glorious truths will be revealed.

Truths unseen since Pentecost yet to shine forth

“Light and grace will be given to those who thus obey God. They will behold wondrous things out of his law. Great truths that have lain unheeded and unseen since the day of Pentecost, are to shine forth from God’s word in their native purity. To those who truly love God the Holy Spirit will reveal truths that have faded from the mind, and will also reveal truths that are entirely new.” E. G. White, *1888 Materials*, Vol. 4, p. 1651. (**THE END**)

FROM THE PEN OF ELLEN G. WHITE

The prophet saw "four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." Another angel, ascending from the east, cried to them, saying, "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." This points out the work we now have to do, which is to cry to God for the angels to hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world, and shall have proclaimed the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah. *Review and Herald* Extra, Dec. 11, 1888.



I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go; but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads. *Early Writings*, p. 38.

My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure. *Early Writings*, p. 58

With all the “record” weather scenes in the news daily, the increasing violence in the world, the immorality that is being shown everywhere on television and in the streets, with so many people saying “It is okay, don’t worry, it is normal, God will not judge you, He is all love,” we must remember He is love, and has mercy, but with that love and mercy are His judgments. God means what He says:

Isaiah 26:21 - For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Ezekiel 25:17 - And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them.

Nahum 1:2-6 - God [is] jealous, and the LORD revengeth the LORD revengeth, and [is] furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth [wrath] for his enemies.

This day is soon to come:

Rev 19:2 - For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

PP 429.2 - Like the men before the Flood, the Canaanites lived only to blaspheme Heaven and defile the earth. And both love and justice demanded the prompt execution of these rebels against God and foes to man.

Don’t be discouraged by the words above. Let God be your Guide every day. He knows you and me and holds us precious to Himself.

John 3:16 - 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.

Luke 21:36 - Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Desire of Ages, Ellen White: “The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who

is turning his face toward Him as the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. Are you tempted? He will deliver. Are you weak? He will strengthen. Are you ignorant? He will enlighten. Are you wounded? He will heal. The Lord "tellethe the number of the stars;" and yet "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." Ps. 147:4, 3. "Come unto Me," is His invitation.

Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon the Burden Bearer.

The rest that Christ offers depends upon conditions, but these conditions are plainly specified. They are those with which all can comply. He tells us just how His rest is to be found. "Take My yoke upon you," Jesus says. The yoke is an instrument of service. Cattle are yoked for labor, and the yoke is essential that they may labor effectually. By this illustration Christ teaches us that we are called to service as long as life shall last. We are to take upon us His yoke, that we may be co-workers with Him.

The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan's ranks and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore God confines us to His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating. He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity. He said, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Ps. 40:8. "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt."

Remember: He is coming soon! Let’s continue to study and learn what He desires for us as His children. Let’s continue to get our lives in order so that we may each be ready when that Great Day comes and we see Him in the clouds! What a wonderful day that will be!

WAYS TO SUPPORT BIBLE EXPLORATIONS



As you probably noticed, there are not any pink envelopes in the newsletter. They cost quite a bit for every one we get returned, and also to pay for the envelopes, returned or not. We have various ways you can donate to this ministry. One is PayPal, the email for this is to info@BibleExplorations.com when you go to Paypal.com. How can I donate through PayPal? You can visit <http://bibleexplorations.com/donate> You do not need a PayPal account to donate. You only need a Visa or Debit card. Thank you for your help.

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If you have emails, maybe you can send them in so that we can make a list of emails we can send the newsletter to. For now you can also always get the newsletter from our website under Newsletters. If you wish it to be emailed, send in a good email with your name and address. We do not know what the future holds. So far we are moving along fine, but tomorrow is not guaranteed. Lots has happened in the last two years with the "pandemic" and loss of jobs, moving, deaths, etc. from many in our Bible Explorations family. We pray everyone is doing well and your health is good. Please let us know if you have prayer requests, we will keep you in prayer.

As many of you know, Clara has passed away (June 7). We are not sure of the future here in Terra Bella. We are planning for the upcoming Fall Feast of Tabernacles here, and your support is appreciated, both financial and prayers, that the state remain open. God is in control! He knows what we need and what He wants us to do. Help us hear His voice and do His will. It is not the same here without them. I know mom wasn't well, but always in the back of my mind was the hope of a miracle? Yet that was not God's will for her at this time and they are both gone until that resurrection.. I know she is only sleeping, but every trip to town I see her...yet she isn't there. I can't visit her now, even if she didn't know me anymore. Due to the world I was 10 minutes from her yet never hugged or touched her since over a year ago. I only get by because of our Father in heaven is holding me close. Your prayers are certainly part of that love and encouragement. He knows the pain we feel when we lose those dear to us. I

don't know what His plan is, but we will let Him show us in His time.

Thank you again for all the wonderful words of encouragement and hope via emails and facebook. They are all appreciated and help lift us up and keep our faith strong. **Blessings to all and thank you!**

I recently ran across the following article and it was a wonderful encouragement for me today. I am sure it will be for you, too. God IS in control. Rely on Him, always.

GOD'S WORD OUR ASSURANCE

by Ellen G. White

The word of God is the foundation of our faith, and therefore it is by the word of God that we may obtain evidence of our standing before God. We are not to make our feelings a test by which to discern whether we are in or out of favor with God, whether they be what we consider encouraging or not. As soon as one begins to contemplate his feelings, he is on dangerous ground. If he feels joyous, he is confident he is in a favorable condition, but when a change comes, as it will, for circumstances will be so arranged that feelings of depression will make the heart sad, then he will be naturally led to doubt that God has accepted him. It is not wisdom to look at the emotions, and try to test your spirituality by your feelings. Do not study yourself; look away from self to Jesus. While you acknowledge yourself as a sinner, yet you may appropriate Christ as your sin-pardoning Redeemer. Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Satan will not be slow in presenting to the repentant soul suggestions and difficulties to weaken faith and destroy courage. He has manifold temptations that he can send trooping into the mind, one in succession of another; but the Christian must not study his emotions, and give way to his feelings, or he will soon entertain the evil guest, doubt, and become entangled in the perplexities of despair. Expel the suggestions of the enemy by contemplating the matchless depths of your Saviour's love.

Do not exalt your feelings, and be swayed by them, whether they be good, bad, sad, or joyful. The apostle says, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." It is the word of God that is to be your assurance. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." The soul's supply of nutrition is in Jesus Christ. A legal religion will always be a troublesome guest, and it is a deception to imagine that there is such a thing as natural religion that is acceptable to God. The religion of Christ teaches its possessor self-distrust, but at the same time enables him to grasp the hand of Christ firmly, and still more firmly, as temptations press upon the soul.

There is a warfare in which every soul must engage who would have the crown of life. Inch by inch the overcomer must fight the good fight of faith, using the weapons of God's word. He must meet the foe with, "It is written." He must keep the armory well supplied with, "It is written." In this way he must meet the advances of the enemy, and educate and train the soul for the still more severe attacks of the foe. Truth, the word of God, faith and righteousness, and the hope of salvation, must be the armor of the successful warrior, and his eyes must be anointed to be keen and sensitive to detect the devices of the enemy. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." If God had not made provision by which you might be thoroughly equipped for your warfare with the powers of darkness, then these commands and promises would be but mockery to you, and would tantalize your soul; but our God is true. We may depend upon him under all circumstances. The word of God cannot fail, and in it we are to find our assurance.

By the word of God we are to overcome every temptation of the enemy. Satan may present every attraction, bring to our notice every deceiving, alluring bribe, in seeking to eclipse the brightness of Jesus from our view, and to obliterate from our minds his plainest requirements, but we are to meet his deceptions with the word of God. "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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

When the enemy begins to draw away the mind from Jesus, to shut away His mercy, His love, His all-sufficiency, do not devote precious time to the consideration of your feelings, but flee to the word. In the Scriptures Christ is presented as the One by whom God made the worlds. He is the light of the world, and, as the seeker for light studies the word, he finds heavenly illumination. Christ, the all-absorbing theme, is revealed to his soul, and he sees the requirements of God to be of a Christlike character. He studies the conditions on which redemption may be his, sees the divinity of his Saviour, the value of His atonement, the efficacy of the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost; and Christ becomes all and in all to his soul. He sees in the Scriptures that which the casual

reader does not see, a significance and value beyond computation. He comes with a teachable spirit to the word, and is instructed by both the Old and New Testaments.

Christ opens the mind to comprehend the meaning of the sacred word, and the Holy Spirit conveys its true significance to the soul, which before had not been seen or appreciated. The searcher for truth feels as did the disciples when Christ overtook them on their journey to Emmaus. They told Him their pitiful story, and He reproved them for their unbelief and slowness of heart. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." When their eyes were opened, and they realized that it was Christ Himself who had been talking with them, they said one to another, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

What do we hope to accomplish by longing to have the whole world converted to Jesus, by believing in His pardoning love, when we do not ourselves believe in His love or find rest in His grace? How can we possibly lead others to a full assurance, to simple, childlike faith in our heavenly Father, when we are measuring and judging our love to Him by our feelings? We cannot be lifted up in thought, or know what it is to be the sons and daughters of God, unless we trust implicitly to the word of God, for Satan will ever be on the ground to dispute our claims. We must educate the soul to trust in God's word with unwavering confidence. Let gratitude and thankfulness flow out of the heart, and cease to hurt the heart of Christ by doubting His love, which has been assured to us by most astounding evidences; for He so loved us as to give His own life for us, that we should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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