

THE THIRD
ANGEL'S
MESSAGE
IN
VERITY

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	i
CHAPTER 1	7
<i>Christ & His Righteousness</i>	
CHAPTER 2	21
<i>The Place Of The Law</i>	
CHAPTER 3	30
<i>The Laodicean Message Pt.1</i>	
CHAPTER 4	44
<i>The Laodicean Message Pt.2 The Straight Testimony</i>	
CHAPTER 5	57
<i>Character Perfection In The Light Of The Judgment</i>	
CHAPTER 6	69
<i>Our Title To Heaven Justification, Our Standing Of Perfect Sinlessness - The Accounting</i>	
CHAPTER 7	76
<i>Our Fitness For Heaven Justification, Our State Of Sinless Perfection In The Judgment</i>	
CHAPTER 8	83
<i>The Imputed & Imparted Righteousness Of Christ Apparent Contradictions</i>	
CHAPTER 9	96
<i>The Prophetic Context And Perspective Of The Third Angel's Message</i> <i>20 Characteristics Of The Third Angel's Message</i>	
CHAPTER 10	121
<i>The Shaking</i>	
CHAPTER 11	141
<i>Timing & Nature Of The Loud Cry Of The Third Angel</i>	
CHAPTER 12	153
<i>The Nature Of Christ</i>	
CHAPTER 13	166
<i>The Mind Of Christ</i>	
CHAPTER 14	184
<i>The Faith Of Jesus</i>	

FOREWORD

“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.” {TM 91.2}

“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.”-- Review and Herald, April 1, 1890. {Ev 190.3}

Elder Saul Leacock

Camp 2015

Barbados

CHAPTER 1

Christ & His Righteousness

THE MAIN TOPIC OF INTEREST AND SUBJECT OF PREACHING

“One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other,—Christ our righteousness.” *The Review and Herald Extra*, December 23, 1890.

We have been told by Inspiration that as we approach the end of this world, one theme and one theme only will swallow up every other “Christ and His Righteousness”.

In 1888, the key emphasis was the right relationship of the Law to the Righteousness of Christ.

In this well-known statement—“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones”—the message is described as

“the law and the gospel, binding up the two in a perfect whole” (*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 91, 94).

She knew that **“the law and the gospel, blended, will convict of sin”** and **“in no discourse are they to be divorced.”** Why?

“The one is the complement of the other. The law without faith in the gospel of Christ cannot save the transgressor of law. The gospel without the law is inefficient and powerless...The two blended—the gospel of Christ and the law of God— produce the love and faith unfeigned” (*1888 Materials*, pp. 892, 783).

Whatever we preach, whether it be the ten commandments, the Sabbath, the State of the Dead, the Millenium, the Prophecies, or Dress or Health Reform, should be Christocentric, that is, have Christ as central and showing its relationship to Christ and His Righteousness.

In order for this truth to swallow up every other, we would have to see the beauty of this ‘most precious message’, and be transformed by its ‘matchless charms’. The Servant of the Lord has insightfully revealed what she experienced at that time when the message came in these words:

“I see the beauty of truth in the presentation of **the righteousness of Christ in relation to the law** as the doctor has placed it before us.... That which has been presented harmonizes perfectly with the light which God has been pleased to give me during all the years of my experience. If our ministering brethren would accept the doctrine which has been presented so clearly-

-the righteousness of Christ in connection with the law-

--and I know they need to accept this, their prejudices would not have a controlling power, and the people would be fed with their portion of meat in due season. Let us take our Bibles, and with humble prayer and a teachable spirit, come to the great Teacher of the world; let us pray as did David, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalms 119:18). {1888 164.3}

"Elder E. J. Waggoner had the privilege granted him of speaking plainly and presenting his views upon justification by faith and the righteousness of Christ in relation to the law. This was no new light, but it was old light placed where it should be in the third angel's message."

"What is the burden of that message? John sees a people. He says, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). This people John beholds just before he sees the Son of man "having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle" (verse 14).The faith of Jesus has been overlooked and treated in an indifferent, careless manner. It has not occupied the prominent position in which it was revealed to John. Faith in Christ as the sinner's only hope has been largely left out, not only of the discourses given but of the religious experience of very many who claim to believe the third angel's message."

“At this meeting I bore testimony that the most precious light had been shining forth from the Scriptures in the presentation of the great subject of **the righteousness of Christ connected with the law**, which should be constantly kept before the sinner as his only hope of salvation.” 1888 Materials pg.212.

“**This is the mystery of godliness.** This picture is of the highest value. It is to be meditated upon, placed in every discourse, hung in memory’s hall, uttered by human lips, and traced by human beings who have tasted and known that the Lord is good. It is to be the groundwork of every discourse.” 1888 Materials pg.213.

“There are but few, even of those who claim to believe it, that comprehend the third angel’s message, and yet this is the message for this time. **It is present truth.** But how few take up this message in its true bearing, and present it to the people in its power! With many it has but little force.” {1888 165.4}

“Said my guide, “There is much light yet to shine forth from the law of God and the gospel of righteousness. 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.”

“The closing work of the third angel’s message will be attended with a power that will send the rays of the Sun of Righteousness into all the highways and byways of life, and decisions will be made for God as supreme Governor; His law will be looked upon as the rule of His government.” {1888 166.1}

So the blending of the Righteousness of Christ with the law of God was the key emphasis of the 1888 message .This is the true Gospel which is to be proclaimed under the Latter Rain power of the Holy Spirit during the Loud Cry. Galatians 1:6—9. See also Galatians 3:1—3.

“The third angel is leading out and purifying a people, and they should move with him unitedly. . . .” Amazing Grace pg. 110.

There are many who claim to be a part of and understand the Third Angel’s Message but who do not in reality comprehend it, neither have they experienced the previous two messages that paved the way for the reception of the Third.

“Many who embraced the third message had not had an experience in the two former messages. Satan understood this, and his evil eye was upon them to overthrow them; but the third angel was **pointing them to the most holy place**, and those who had had an experience in the past messages were pointing them the way to the heavenly sanctuary.”

“Many saw **the perfect chain of truth in the angels’ messages**, and gladly received them

in their order, and followed Jesus by faith into the heavenly sanctuary. These messages were represented to me as an **anchor** to the people of God. Those who understand and receive them will be kept from being swept away by the many delusions of Satan." {EW 256.2}

When it comes to leading men and women to Christ, **the Holy Spirit alone** has the ways and means of doing so. He can/will convict and convince the sinner of sin, of righteousness and of judgment to come.

A message may come first revealing the love of God, melting the heart and producing a deep heart-felt repentance and obedience to God's law.

Another message may come from the Holy Spirit first revealing the nature of sin and obedience to the law (like John the Baptist message, straight, plain and pointed) exposing a person's self-confidence, self-indulgence and complacency awakening a deep heart-felt need and appreciation of the love of Christ.

Whichever message is used, once the theme is Christ and his righteousness, it will swallow up individual pride and selfishness.

Sometimes instead of calling sin by its right name so that sinners are "made to tremble in Zion", some would prefer to dwell only on the love and righteousness of God. But

"Righteousness is defined by the ten precepts given by the Lord on Mt. Sinai". SC p.61.

“All (God’s) commandments are righteousness.” Ps. 119:172.

God’s law is the very expression of His nature of love and righteousness.

“Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God, and “God is love.” 1 John 4:16. It is conformity to the law of God, for “all thy commandments are righteousness” (Psalm 119:172), and “love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10). Righteousness is love, and love is the light and the life of God. The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him.”
FLB 109.2

“This goody-goody religion that **makes light of sin**, and that is **forever dwelling upon the love of God to the sinner**, encourages sinners to believe that God will save them while they continue in sin and know it to be sin. This is the way that many are doing who profess to believe present truth. The truth is kept apart from their life, and that is the reason it has no more power to convict and convert the soul. There must be a **straining of every nerve and spirit and muscle to leave the world**, its customs, its practices, and its fashions...” Christ Triumphant 81.2

“The lives of many show that they have no living connection with God. They are drifting into the channel of the world. In reality they have no part or lot with Christ. They love amusement and are filled with selfish plans, hopes, and

ambitions. They serve the enemy under the pretense of serving God. They are in bondage to a taskmaster, and this bondage they choose, making themselves willing slaves of Satan. . . .” Christ Triumphant p. 81.3

“The goodness and the love of God lead the sinner to repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The awakened sinner, convicted of sin by the true display of the love of God, is pointed to the law he has transgressed. **It calls to him to repent, yet there is no saving quality in law to pardon the transgression of law,** and his case seems hopeless. **But the law draws him to Christ.** However deep are his sins of transgression, the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse him from all sin.” {1888 Materials p.780.3}

“There is a necessity of dwelling upon the love of Jesus Christ; this is essential. **But it is not all that must be spoken.** The great standard of character--God’s holy law, with all its solemn injunctions--should be **distinctly set forth,** together with the circumstances of the giving of the law from Mount Sinai in awful grandeur.” {1888 Materials p.781.1}

“While we dwell upon the paternal character of God, and His love expressed for man in the gift of His only begotten Son, **we must tell people why such a costly sacrifice was necessary.** It was because of sin. What is sin? The transgression

of the law. Only the Son of God could pay the penalty, and that by His own humiliation and death. As men look at the cross, conscience will be aroused. They will see the majesty of the law, the holiness of God, and their own unlikeness to His character. They will flee for refuge to Jesus Christ, who can cleanse them from every stain of sin and adopt them into the royal family, making them sons of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ." 1888 Materials p.781.

"It is earthliness and selfishness that separate from God. **The messages from heaven are of a character to arouse opposition.** The faithful witnesses for Christ and the truth will reprove sin. **Their words will be like a hammer** to break the flinty heart, like a fire to consume the dross. There is constant need of earnest, decided messages of warning. God will have men who are true to duty. At the right time He sends His faithful messengers to do a work similar to that of Elijah."-
-Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 253, 254. {RC 32.5}

"**Some messages come as the Lord's hammer,** to break down the workings of Satan and turn men to the living God. But mingled with this decided work of standing in defense of the truth is Christ's consolation, which comes when repentance reveals what sin really is. And while some are called to battle desperately with an evil work, there is another kind of message to be borne to the ones who, while suffering wrong, have endured the temptation to harbor a sense

of injustice and cherish it. . . .” Upward Look p.273.5}

“What is to bring the sinner to the knowledge of his sins unless he knows what sin is? The only definition of sin in the Word of God is given us in 1 John 3:4: “Sin is the transgression of the law.” The sinner must be made to feel that he is a transgressor. Christ dying upon the cross of Calvary is drawing his attention.” 1888 Materials p.780.

“The nature of the intervention should ever make man afraid to do the smallest action in disobedience to God’s requirement. **There should be a clear understanding of that which constitutes sin**, and we should avoid the least approach to step over the boundaries from obedience to disobedience.” {ISM 234.2}

Unlike many compromising preachers today, the Spirit of God is not afraid to step on toes, is not “afraid to offend”, not afraid “to call sin by its right name”, not afraid to speak the truth “whether they hear or forbear”. He loves us too much, and He is not seeking to win any popularity contest or friendship either.

THE LAW OF GOD DOES NOT ONLY APPLY TO OUTWARD ACTIONS, BUT ALSO TO THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART. SINCE “THE LAW IS SPIRITUAL”, IT MUST BE FAR-REACHING IN ITS NATURE AND ENCOMPASSES THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN. SEE MAT.5:28; 1 JOHN 3:15.

“God’s law reaches to the internal as well as to the external actions of men. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents and purposes of the soul. **A man may be guilty of sins which God alone knows.** God’s law is indeed a searcher of hearts. There are dark passions of **jealousy and revenge** and hatred and malignity, lust, and wild ambition that are covered up from human observation, and **the great I AM knows it all.** Sins have been contemplated and yet not carried out for want of opportunity. God’s law makes a record of all these. **These hidden-away, secret sins form character.**” {1888 374.1}

“The law of God condemns not only **what we have done but what we have not done.** We will, in the day of final accounts, find a register of the **sins of omission** as well as the **sins of commission.** God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing. It is not enough that by your own measurement of character you prove you have done no positive wrong. **The fact that one has done no positive good** will be enough to condemn him as a wicked and slothful servant.” {1888 374.2}

SINS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN CONFESSED OR FORSAKEN WILL STAND TO CONDEMN US IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT. **LET US BE ZEALOUS THEREFORE AND REPENT.**

THE VERY PURPOSE OF THE THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE IN VERITY IS THE SAME AS THE LAODICEAN

MESSAGE – TO SHOW US OUR **TRUE CONDITION**
, AND TO POINT US TO THE **ONLY SOURCE OF**
FORGIVENESS AND CLEANSING. See 1 John 1:7-9

CLOSING THOUGHT

“I want to say to my brethren, Shall we humble our hearts before God and be converted? Shall we put off all of the self-sufficiency and the lifting up of ourselves, and come down at the foot of the cross? The lower we lie at the foot of the cross the more clear will be our view of Christ. For just as soon as we begin to lift ourselves up and to think that we are something, the view of Christ grows dimmer and dimmer and Satan steps in so that we cannot see Him at all. But what we want is to come and dwell in view of the cross.” {1888 159.3}

CHAPTER 2

THE PLACE OF THE LAW

“The lower we lie at the foot of the cross the more clear will be our view of Christ. For just as soon as we begin to lift ourselves up and to think that we are something, the view of Christ grows dimmer and dimmer and Satan steps in so that we cannot see Him at all. But what we want is to come and dwell in view of the cross.”
{1888 159.3}

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [to bring us] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” Galatians 3:24

THE LAW REVEALS SIN TO US, AND CAUSES US TO

FEEL OUR NEED OF CHRIST, AND TO FLEE UNTO HIM FOR PARDON AND PEACE BY EXERCISING REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD AND FAITH TOWARD OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

“An unwillingness toaccept this truth lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren (E.J.) Waggoner and (A.T) Jones.” 1 SM.p.234.

“THE LAW IS HOLY AND JUST AND GOOD” Rom.7:12.

The Law of God is not anything to be afraid of, and it has its place in the Righteousness of Christ. IT WAS AN EMPHASIS OF THE 1888 MESSAGE, THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE IN VERITY.

BUT THE LAW IS NOT OUR SAVIOUR. NOT FAITH, NOT GOOD WORKS, NOT MISSIONARY WORK, NOT PRAYER, FASTING OR EVEN PRAISING GOD.

EVEN SPIRIT-INSPIRED OR SPIRIT- MOTIVATED WORKS CANNOT SAVE US.

ONLY THE MERITS OF CHRIST CAN SAVE US. GOD SEES ONLY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST AS OUR TITLE AND FITNESS FOR HEAVEN.

OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW CANNOT SAVE US. HEALTH REFORM, DRESS REFORM, SABBATH REFORM AND SABBATH KEEPING CANNOT SAVE US.

WE HAVE TO PREACH THEM BUT CHRIST MUST BE CENTRAL IN THEM ALL.

WHILE IN 1888 THE LAW WAS PREACHED UNTIL IT WAS AS DRY AS THE HILLS OF GILBOA WITHOUT DEW OR RAIN, THAT IS, WITHOUT CHRIST OR THE HOLY SPIRIT; THE LAW STILL HAS ITS PLACE IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

SINCE THEN, MANY CHURCHES HAVE PREACHED GRACE OR CHRIST WITHOUT ANY RELATION TO THE LAW. SOME HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO PREACH THAT THE LAW IS ABOLISH, THAT WE ARE NOT “UNDER THE LAW.”

FAR FROM ABOLISHING THE LAW, GOD WANTS TO WRITE IT IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS. Heb.10:16.

THE LAW IS OFTEN SEEN AS A THREAT TO THE GOSPEL AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST. ANY MENTION OF THE LAW IS CONSIDERED LEGALISM. BUT CHRIST SAID, “THINK NOT THAT I AM COME TO DESTROY THE LAW OR THE PROPHETS. I AM NOT COME TO DESTROY, BUT TO FULFILL.” Mat.5:16. THE PROPHET ISAIAH SAID THAT CHRIST WOULD “MAGNIFY THE LAW AND MAKE IT HONOURABLE”. Isaiah 42:21.

THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID THAT THE VERY “RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW IS FULFILLED IN US” WHEN WE ARE IN CHRIST, WALKING AFTER THE SPIRIT AND NOT AFTER THE FLESH. Romans 8:4

THE LAW OF GOD IS THE LAW OF LOVE. IT IS THE LAW OF SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE FOR EARTH AND HEAVEN. CHRIST IS THE VERY “EMBODIMENT OF THE LAW OF GOD”. BC.vol.5, p. 1131.6.

THE LAW IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE VERY CHARACTER OF GOD. IT IS AS SACRED AS GOD HIMSELF. IT WAS BECAUSE THE LAW COULD NOT BE CHANGED OR BROKEN THAT CHRIST CAME TO DIE FOR US. IN DOING SO, HE SATISFIED THE JUST DEMANDS OF THE LAW AND EXHAUSTED ITS PENALTY.

CHRIST CAME TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT THE BROKEN LAW DOES TO THE HEART OF GOD.

“All heaven suffered in Christ’s agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. Every departure from the right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach His ideal, brings grief to Him.... Yet God feels it all. In order to destroy sin and its results He gave His best Beloved, and He has put it in our power, through co-operation with Him, to bring this scene of misery to an end.” Education page 263.

The law demands righteousness but it cannot give it. Instead, it points us to Christ, the source of righteousness. WHEN WE HAVE IT, THE SAME LAW WILL ATTEST THAT WE HAVE THE GENUINE ARTICLE. Galatians 3.

“IT IS THE LAW WHICH ARREST THE CRIMINAL; THE (POLICEMAN) IS SIMPLY THE VISIBLE AGENT OF THE LAW. IT IS THE LAW WHICH LOCKS THE PRISONER IN HIS CELL: THE JAILER, THE IRON WALLS, AND HEAVY BARS WHICH SURROUND THE

PRISONER, ARE SIMPLY THE EMBLEMS OF THE IRON HAND OF THE LAW WHICH IS UPON HIM.....SO IT IS WITH THE SINNER AGAINST GOD'S GOVERNMENT. THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE IN EVERY PLACE, SO THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT HE CAN ESCAPE ARREST.AS SOON AS HE HAS SINNED, HE IS SEIZED BY THE LAW, AND IS AT ONCE UNDER CONDEMNATION OF DEATH.”

“THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAUSES THE PRISON WALLS TO CLOSE IN UPON HIM, HIS CELL BECOMES NARROWER AND NARROWER, AND HE FEELS OPPRESSED; AND THEN HE MAKES DESPERATE STRUGGLES TO ESCAPE...BECAUSE HE HAS VIOLATED EVERY ONE OF (THE TEN COMMANDMENTS)...HE IS COMPLETELY SHUT IN ON EVERY SIDE. **THERE IS, HOWEVER, JUST ONE AVENUE OF ESCAPE, AND THAT IS THROUGH CHRIST.** CHRIST IS THE DOOR (JOHN 10:9), AND ENTRANCE THROUGH THAT DOOR GIVES FREEDOM (JOHN 8:36).” Waggoner in *The Gospel in the book of Galatians*, page 37.

“Stung by his awakened conscience, the guilty one seeks peace and rest, but the law relentlessly charges him with his sin. All that it will do is deepen conviction, and thus add to the load that weighs down the sinner. Finally when he loses confidence in himself, and cries out “O wretched man that I am”, he is forced to cast himself at the feet of Jesus, saying, “Lord be merciful to me a sinner. **This is the only avenue of escape, and it is the one that never fails.** Thus the law literally drives the sinner to Christ by shutting up every other

way of freedom from guilt."Waggoner, Signs of the Times Aug.26, 1886.

IT MUST EVER BE REMEMBERED THAT NO AMOUNT OF OBEDIENCE CAN REMOVE THE GUILT OF A PAST CRIME, NEITHER CAN WE DO ANYTHING TO EARN OR MERIT GOD'S PARDON. THE JUDGE OR THE LAW CANNOT JUSTIFY A MAN WHO HAS BROKEN THE LAW. IF THERE WERE A LAW THAT COULD GIVE LIFE, THEN RIGHTEOUSNESS WOULD SURELY COME BY OBEDIENCE TO THAT LAW. Galatians 3:21.

THE FIRST STEP IN PERSONAL RECONCILIATION TO GOD IS THE CONVICTION OF SIN.

"Sin is the transgression of the law." "By the law is the knowledge of sin." 1 John 3:4; Rom.3:20.

"To slay the sinner is then the first use of the law; to destroy the life and strength wherein he trust, and convince him that he is dead while he liveth, not only under the sentence of death, but actually dead unto God, void of all spiritual life, "dead in trespasses and sins".

"The second use of the law is to bring him unto life--unto Christ that he may live.

"IT IS TRUE, IN PERFORMING BOTH THESE OFFICES, IT ACTS THE PART OF A SEVERE SCHOOLMASTER. IT DRIVES BY FORCE, RATHER THAN DRAWS US BY LOVE. AND YET LOVE IS THE SPRING OF IT ALL. IT IS THE SPIRIT OF LOVE WHICH, BY THIS PAINFUL MEANS, TEARS AWAY OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH, WHICH LEAVES US NO BROKEN REED

WHEREON TO TRUST, AND SO CONSTRAINS THE SINNER, STRIPPED OF ALL, TO CRY OUT IN THE BITTERNESS OF HIS SOUL..."Waggoner, Signs of the Times, Sept.2,1886.

"The nature of the intervention should ever make man afraid to do the smallest action in disobedience to God's requirement. **There should be a clear understanding of that which constitutes sin, and we should avoid the least approach to step over the boundaries from obedience to disobedience.**"ISM.p.234.

"There is a necessity of dwelling upon the love of Jesus Christ; this is essential. But it is not all that must be spoken. The great standard of character--God's holy law, with all its solemn injunctions--should be distinctly set forth, together with the circumstances of the giving of the law from Mount Sinai in awful grandeur." {1888 Materials p.781.1}

"This goody-goody religion that makes light of sin, and that is forever dwelling upon the love of God to the sinner, encourages sinners to believe that God will save them while they continue in sin and know it to be sin. This is the way that many are doing who profess to believe present truth." Christ Triumphant p. 81.

The Apostle Paul in Romans Chapter 7 clearly understood the role of the law in the salvation of man. First, he stated that "I would not have known sin except through the law."

“I was alive without the law once, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.”

“The law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.”

“The apostle Paul, in relating his experience, presents an important truth concerning the work to be wrought in conversion. He says, “I was alive without the law once”--he felt no condemnation; “but when the commandment came,” when the law of God was urged upon his conscience, “sin revived, and I died.” Then he saw himself a sinner, condemned by the divine law. Mark, it was Paul, and not the law, that died.” {6BC 1076.7}

“Sin then appeared in its true hideousness, and his self-esteem was gone. He became humble. He no longer ascribed goodness and merit to himself. He ceased to think more highly of himself than he ought, and he ascribed all the glory to God. He was no longer ambitious for greatness. He ceased to want to avenge himself, and was no longer sensitive to reproach, neglect, or contempt. He no longer sought earthly alliance, station, or honour. He did not pull others down to uplift himself. He became gentle, condescending, meek and lowly of heart, because he had learned his lesson in the school of Christ. He talked of Jesus and His matchless love, and grew more and more into His image. He bent his whole energy to win souls to Christ.”6BC 1076.

“...when the spiritual character of the law was discerned, he saw himself a sinner...when he looked into the depths of its holy precepts, and saw himself as God saw him, he bowed in humiliation and confessed his guilt.... When he saw the spiritual nature of the law, sin appeared in its true hideousness, and his self-esteem was gone.” SC 29.3

THIS HOLY REVELATION LED PAUL TO CRY OUT, “O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM! WHO SHALL DELIVER ME FROM THIS BODY OF DEATH?” Romans 7:24.

THEN HE FOUND THE ANSWER AND PROCLAIMED JOYFULLY, “I THANK GOD—THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.” Romans 7:25.

MAY WE TOO SEE THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF THE LAW IN THE GOSPEL AND EXPERIENCE DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

CHAPTER 3

THE LAODICEAN MESSAGE Pt.1

“The Laodicean message has been sounding, take this message in all its phases and sound it forth to the people wherever providence opens the way. Justification by faith and the Righteousness of Christ are the themes to be presented to a perishing world.” 7BC 964.

God sent the third angel’s message IN VERITY back to the church 1888 to cure it of its Laodicean lukewarm condition, hence the message was also called the Laodicean message. This is verified by the following quotation:

“ The message given us by A.T.Jones and E.J.Waggoner IS the message of God to the Laodicean church.” Letter S-24,1892.

So there is a direct link of the Laodicean message with Justification by faith and the Righteousness of Christ.

LAODICEAN MESSAGE = JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH (RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST)

Therefore, what the brethren really rejected in 1888 and its subsequent years was the Laodicean message, the only cure for its condition.

“The message to the Laodicean church is highly applicable to us as a people. It has been placed before us for a long time but has not been heeded as it should have been. When the work of repentance is earnest and deep, the individual members of the church will buy the rich goods of heaven”. 7BC 961

“I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God's people at the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts.” 1T 186.

The message to Laodicea is the doctrine of Justification by faith, Christ our Righteousness, which should “be presented to the perishing world.”

Now the book of Revelation goes over the same ground as the book of Daniel repeating world history, except it comes from the angle of sevens. You have the message of the seven churches, you have the seven seals, you have the seven trumpets. They are all dealing with the same period of time but each message is dealing with a different issue.

In other words, the seven churches, the seven seals, the seven trumpets, are covering the same periods of time but from different angles.

What is God trying to bring across in the messages to the seven churches of which Laodicea is a part ? SEVEN SEALS ,SEVEN TRUMPETS,SEVEN CHURCHES.

If you look at the messages to the seven churches, you will find that there is a common thread all through the seven churches' messages.

The first church is Ephesus. Now the common thread is a phrase that is repeated for every church.

In Verse 2a, what does He say to the Ephesus church?

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance....

vs. 9, Smyrna: I know your afflictions and your poverty....

vs. 13, Pergamos: I know where you live....

Vs. 19a, Thyatira: I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance....

In Chapter 3:1, to Sardis : I know your deeds....

And then Philadelphia in chapter 3, verse 8 He says: I know your deeds....

And, of course Laodicea, is the same thing. In verse 15 of chapter 3 He says: I know your deeds...

So what is Jesus doing in the messages to the seven churches? He is giving us an evaluation of our spiritual condition. You see, God judges the churches, He judges individuals, by their

works. Our works tell us what our spiritual condition is.

Our works tell us what our spiritual condition is.

For example, in Matthew 5:14 Jesus says to the disciples :
You are the light of the world....

In other words, you are My witnesses. Christ is the light but you are to represent Me. Now look at verse 16:

In the same way, “let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise (glorify) your Father in heaven.”

Let your light so shine that men may see what? How do we reveal Christ, by what? By works. And by these we glorify Who? Our Father in heaven.

So our works reveal what kind of people we are. Let me give you another example: in Matthew 25, when Jesus comes He will divide the world into two camps, the sheep and the goats. Now please REMEMBER, nobody is saved by their works. But what does Jesus say to them? “I was hungry and you...” what? Matthew 25:34-36:

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’”

Justification by Faith always bears fruit. And the fruit is feeding the hungry.

You will find this in Matthew 25:34-36. Christ is using works as evidence that they had accepted His righteousness. At the same time, He uses works to prove those Who had rejected Him. And He will say [Matthew 25:41-43]:

“ ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’”

“I was hungry and you did not feed Me.”

In the gospel of John, chapter 5, Jesus used His works to prove that He came from the Father, from God. Look at John 5:36:

“I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.

The same thing happens in John chapter 14, Philip says to Jesus [John 14:8]: “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” What did Jesus say? Verse 9:

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”

“If you don’t believe My words, believe My WORKS. For the works I do are not Mine but the Father Who dwells in Me — He is the One that is doing the works.”

So verse 10 and 11 say: “Believe Me for My works’ sake.”

Another example is found in James. Is James teaching Justification by Works? It appears so on the surface, but if you read James 2 very carefully, what He’s defending is that genuine justification by faith will always produce works. That is what He’s dealing with.

James 2:18a: But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Are these two different things? James says no [18b]:

“Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”

Then he goes on to say in verse 19, “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.” But genuine justification by faith always produces works.

So when Jesus says, “I know thy works,” He’s simply saying, “I’m evaluating you. Are your works good; are your works bad; what is your condition?”

So God judges us by our works.

How does God evaluate the Adventist church, which is part of the present last-day generation of Christians? How does

He evaluate us? According to our works.

There are four basic terms that are used like a pattern in all the churches. There are:

Commendation. He points out the good points of every church in each period, the good points, what He commends.

Reproofs. Then He has the reproofs. In other words, judging by our works, He says, “This is the good thing about you; this is the bad thing about you.”

Counsel. Then He counsels. God never rebukes us without giving us counsel. In other words, for every problem that the churches face, there is a remedy, there is a counsel.

Promise. The counsel is followed by a promise. In other words, if you accept the counsel and follow it, there is a promise.

“ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD AND IS PROFITABLE FOR ;DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS...” 2 Timothy 3:16.

Who determines what the church needs?

Of the seven churches mentioned, there are only two that have no reproofs. Those are Smyrna and Philadelphia.

Because Philadelphia has no reproofs, it is clear that those who pass the Laodicean (judging of the people) period and get the victory over Lukewarmness will go back to the “hot” Philadelphian condition or experience before Christ can come. These are the ones to whom God has given the promise,

“Because you have kept the word of My patience, I also will keep you from the HOUR OF TEMPTATION WHICH SHALL COME ON ALL THE WORLD TO TRY THEM THAT DWELL ON THE EARTH.” Rev.3:10.

“The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denunciation and it is applicable to the people of God at the present time.” 3T 252.

Why is it that we have no commendation from Christ? Here is a church that claims to have the truth, here is a church that claims to be the best church...you know, sometimes we call them other names, but we are no better than they. We are all in the same boat.

ONLY AS WE HAVE THE PUBLICAN SPIRIT AND CRY OUT TO GOD FOR MERCY LIKE THE COMMON SINNER AND DEPEND ONLY AND WHOLLY ON THE MERITS OF CHRIST DO WE HAVE HOPE.

So when Christ says to us, “You are not hot, you are not cold, you are lukewarm,” we must not give it the modern application of complacency. We need to go to the Bible and say, “What does the Bible mean by ‘hot, cold, and lukewarm’?”

This message that we are dealing with is vitally connected with the message that God brought to this Church in 1888, the message of Righteousness by Faith.

JESUS, THE TRUE AND FAITHFUL WITNESS SAYS, “I know your WORKS (deeds).”

That they are neither HOT or COLD.... but LUKEWARM. Here are described three kinds of works, HOT, COLD and

LUKEWARM.

Jesus says, “ “You’re spiritual behaviour is not hot, it is not cold, but it is lukewarm.”

When we read the New Testament carefully we discover that it describes human behaviour in three categories:

- ✓ works of the flesh,
- ✓ works of faith,
- ✓ works of the law.

“Cold” works represent works of the flesh.

Jesus said, “Because iniquity will abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Mat.24:12. So Jesus identifies cold with sinful acts, with iniquity. The word “flesh” is used in the New Testament in a spiritual sense, it refers to our carnal, fallen, sinful behaviour or nature.Rom.7:14.See also Eph.5:11

The “Works of the flesh” are represented in Galatians 5, verses 19-21as follows:

“The works of the flesh are manifest which are these...”

The flesh is incapable of doing anything good.

“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

In Romans 8:7, Paul says:

“The carnal mind is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be”.

“The sinful mind [the mind controlled by the flesh] is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.”

But what is the opposite of works of the flesh? In Galatians 5:16, Paul is making a statement, and the works of the flesh is based on that statement. He says:

So I say, Walk (live by) in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill (gratify) the desires of the flesh (sinful nature).

So there are two kinds of walks that are available to the Christian: you can walk in the flesh or you can walk in the Spirit. If you walk In the Spirit, you can overcome the flesh.

Then, in verses 19-20, he describes the works of the flesh, which are produced by people who walk in the flesh. See Romans 9:30-32

But in verse 22, --which is the opposite— the fruit of the Spirit is what? Galatians 5:22-23:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

The fruit of the Spirit is synonymous with works of faith. Jesus Christ in John 14:12 said: “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Thessalonians 1:3

In James 2:14-26, James says that genuine faith always produces works. And faith without works is dead. If your faith doesn't produce works, it is because your faith is dead.

Now if “cold” is the works of the flesh, then hot must be works of faith. So we have now identified two kinds of works. But what I want to do now is to look at “lukewarm.” If “hot” is works of faith, and “cold” is works of the flesh, then “lukewarm” would be what kind of works? What is left? Works of law. Galatians 2:16

Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. Let us now read Philippians 3:7-9,

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

Self-righteousness, or works of the law, is a mixture of cold and hot. In self-righteousness, who is doing the works, the Spirit or the flesh?

So the flesh is doing the works. But the works that the flesh is doing, is it good, or does it resemble the righteousness of the law outwardly? See Luke 18:11-12; Matthew 19:16-30.

Now what kind of works did the young man do? Works of the law. “Works of the law” means “flesh” trying to produce the righteousness of the law which belongs to the heart. So the source of works of the law is flesh. But the works themselves resemble what? Works of faith or righteousness.

Do “works of faith” keep the Sabbath? Yes. Do “works of the law” keep the Sabbath? Yes. The question is not, “Are you keeping the Sabbath?” But, “Is that keeping of the Sabbath works of the law or is it works of faith?”

Let us now notice how Inspiration identifies the Laodicean problem.

“Your self-righteousness is nauseating to the Lord Jesus Christ.

“I know your deeds, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be

clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”

These words apply to the churches and to many of those in positions of trust in the work of God.” [7BC 962]

“There are those who profess to serve God while they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law...” SC 44.

How would you describe these kind of works — “works of faith” or “works of the law”? Who are they depending on to produce righteousness? Their own effort.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

“There are those who profess to serve God while they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law to form a right character and secure salvation. Their hearts are not moved by any deep sense of the love of Christ, but they seek to perform the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires of them in order to gain heaven. Such religion is worth nothing!”

“ We may have flattered ourselves, as did Nicodemus, that our life has been upright, that our moral character is correct, and think that we need not humble the heart before God, like the common sinner: but when the light from Christ shines into our souls, we shall see how impure we are; we shall discern the selfishness of motive, the enmity against God, that has defiled every act of life. Then we shall know that our own righteousness is indeed as filthy rags,

and that the blood of Christ alone can cleanse us from the defilement of sin, and renew our hearts in His own likeness." {SC 28.3}

CHAPTER 4

THE LAODICEAN MESSAGE Pt.2 THE STRAIGHT TESTIMONY

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be **caused by the straight testimony** called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him **to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth**. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.” (EW 270.2)

As we come up to the time of the Final Loud Cry warning message to the world, God will have a “purified ministry” fully equipped and who will “come up to the help of the

LORD.” THEY WILL BE MIGHTILY SHAKEN AND SIFTED BY THE FINAL MARK OF THE BEAST TEST (Rev.13: 13—16), AND WILL BE EMPOWERED BY THE LATTER RAIN POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE FINISHING OF THE WORK.

IN THIS WORK, ALL WHOM GOD HAS PREPARED BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT WILL BE ENGAGED IN THE PROCLAMATION OF THE STRAIGHT TESTIMONY, THEY THEMSELVES HAVING RECEIVED IT. ALL CLASSES WILL BE INVOLVED IN THIS WORK. NONE WILL BE EXCLUDED.

“And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” Joel 2: 28,29.

“At the eleventh hour the Lord will call into his service many faithful workers. Self-sacrificing men and women will step into the places made vacant by apostasy and death. To young men and young women, as well as to those who are older, God will give power from above.”

“With converted minds, converted hands, converted feet, and converted tongues, their lips touched with a living coal from the divine altar, they will go forth into the Master's service, moving steadily onward and upward, carrying the work forward to completion.” Y1, February 13, 1902 par. 10}

AT A TIME WHEN MANY ARE GIVING UP THEIR FAITH THROUGH COWARDICE AND LUKEWARMNESS, GOD'S LOYAL SERVANTS WILL BE STANDING TALL IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, FIGHTING THE BATTLES OF THE LORD "WHEN CHAMPIONS ARE FEW".

In Judges 5:14—17, the Prophet Deborah mentions the various tribes to whom the message had been given to come up to the help of the Lord and to join in the battle. Ten out of the twelve tribes are mentioned by name. There were hundreds of thousands of eligible men, but how many came up to the help of the LORD?

In Judges 4:4, we are told that 10 000 followed Barak to battle. But Judges 5:17 says that Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan, so as not to get involved. -Dan chose to remain on ships. Asher continued at the seashore, and Zebulun and Naphtali, the two main tribes, jeopardized their lives, but the rest did not respond, and God was not well pleased with them. While this story points forward to the glorious victory and finishing of God's work, it also reveals some disappointments in the final work of God on earth.

In Luke 14:27, Jesus said that a cost is involved in the Christian life, and that we must count the cost as to whether we are willing to be counted with the army of the LORD. See also LUKE 14:26, 27, 33.

THE EXAMPLE OF ELEAZAR, THE SON OF DODO, THE AHOHITE.

While there were many who were willing to give their lives for Israel, the truth and cause of God, Eleazar was one of the

three mighty men with David, who when the whole army of Israel was in retreat, stood up alone against the enemy. He held his ground. Although his hand was weary and stuck to his sword, he did not quit.

2 Samuel 23:10 says, “ *The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.*”

That is the kind of courage God wants His people to have today. Valuing the call and cause of God more than they value their lives or their reputation. These men of Israel who were not willing to fight in the battle were not bad men, they were religious. They viewed themselves as basically repentant and good. They generally supported the cause, BUT THEY WERE NOT WILLING TO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE.

THE LORD USED A TERM TO DESCRIBE THEM--- MEROZ. THIS IS WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF MEROZ IN JUDGES 5:23, THE PEOPLE THAT DID NOT COME UP TO THE HELP OF THE LORD (THOSE IN GILEAD, ASHER, DAN AND OTHERS)

*“Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because **they came not to the help of the LORD**, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.”*
JUDGES 5:23

THERE IS A NEW TESTAMENT APPLICATION OF MEROZ, AND IT APPLIES TO THE LAODICEAN PEOPLE FOUND IN REVELATION 3:14-18. MEROZ IS A TYPE OF LAODICEA. THE OLD TESTAMENT TYPE (like Ephraim) FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT LAODICEA,

neither hot or cold but Lukewarm. HERE IS WHAT THE SOP SAYS ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE OF MEROZ:

“They have committed no grievous, outbreaking sins, and they must, after all, be on the true foundation, and God will accept their works. They see no special sins to repent of, no sins which call for special humiliation, humble confession, and rending of heart. The delusion upon such is strong indeed when they mistake the form of godliness for the power thereof, and flatter themselves that they are rich and have need of nothing. The curse of Meroz rests upon them: “Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.” 2T 395,396

“As an illustration of the failure on your part to come up to the work of God, as was your privilege, I was referred to these words: “Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.” Judges 5:23. What had Meroz done? Nothing. And this was their sin. They came not up to the help of the Lord against the mighty.” 2T 247.1

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all [men], as every man had need.” Acts 2:44,45.”

*“And the multitude of them that believed were of **one heart and of one soul**: neither said any [of them] **that ought of the things which he possessed was his own**; but they **had all things common**.....**Neither was there any among them that lacked**: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid [them] down at the apostles’ feet: and **distribution was made unto every man according as he had need**.” Acts 4:32,34,35*

“We hope those who have means trusted out to strangers will see that God's cause may be benefited by its use. It was placed in their hands by the Lord, to **test them and prove them**, to see if they will render back to the Master his own when he shall call for it. **Means were given them, not to hoard or to use for themselves**. Those who are murmuring and complaining at the outlay of means in the Publishing House and in the meeting-house, had better be at work to act their part, lest they shall be found wanting by acting the part of Meroz. God gave commandment, ‘Curse ye Meroz, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof, because **they came not up to the help of the Lord**, to the help of the Lord, against the mighty.’” ST, December 19, 1878 par. 18}

- THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE MEANS AND TALENTS AND DON’T USE THEM FOR THE LORD.
- THEY HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS AND ARE DOING NOTHING. (Not even attending weekday

services to strengthen their faith. They are satisfied with coming to church only on Sabbaths).

➤ ALL THIS IS DESCRIBED IN THE LAODICEAN MESSAGE.

“Many of our people are lukewarm. They occupy the position of Meroz, neither for nor against, neither cold nor hot. They hear the words of Christ, but do them not. If they remain in this state, He will reject them with abhorrence.” 5 Test.pg. 76,77

THEY DON'T WANT TO BE AGAINST ANYTHING. THEY JUST ADOPT A “WAIT AND SEE” ATTITUDE. THEY PRAISE CHRIST AND THE WORLD WITH THE SAME BREATH. ARE COMPROMISING.

LAODICEAN TYPES MATTHEW 11: 20,21.

TYRE, BETHSAIDA, CHORAZIN. SABBATH KEEPING, TITHE PAYING, PROFESSED MEMBERS OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH. Vs.23, mentions CAPERNAUM,

“And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.” MATTHEW 11:23,24.

THEY BOAST OF THEIR LIGHT AND YET FAIL TO WALK IN IT. “IT SHALL BE MORE TOLERABLEAT THE DAY OF JUDGMENT THAN FOR YOU”. THEIR SIN IS WORSE THAN HOMOSEXUALS. CHRIST SAID

THAT THE PEOPLE OF SODOM WERE BETTER OFF THAN THE PEOPLE OF CAPERNAUM.

HOT OR COLD BUT NOT LUKEWARM

ALL THE WAY IN THE WORLD, OR HALF WAY IN THE CHURCH. JESUS IS SAYING THAT WE/OUR CHILDREN ARE BETTER OFF ALL THE WAY IN THE WORLD THAN HALF WAY IN THE CHURCH. IF THEY ARE HALF WAY IN THE CHURCH, THEY ARE WORSE OFF.

“I WISH YE WERE HOT OR COLD....” REV.3:15.

I WISH YOU WERE EITHER ONE OR THE OTHER!

*“The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.”
Matthew 12:41*

What was Nineveh guilty of — works of the law or works of the flesh? Works of the flesh. Their behaviour was terrible.

I WILL SPEW THEE OUT OF MY MOUTH

WHY DID GOD SAY HE WOULD SPEW THEM OUT? BECAUSE LAODICEA IS IN A NEUTRAL POSITION, AND THEY TOOK A NEUTRAL POSITION.

“If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is **doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis** is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the **very worst type of hostility against God.**” 3T 280.3

THERE IS MORE HOPE FOR AN OPEN ENEMY THAN FOR ONE WHO IS NEUTRAL.

“In this fearful time, just before Christ is to come the second time, God’s faithful preachers will have to bear **a still more pointed testimony than was borne by John the Baptist**. A responsible, important work is before them; and those who speak **smooth things. God will not acknowledge as His shepherds**. A fearful woe is upon them.”
1T 321.

“While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, **those who have a zeal for God’s honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any**.....The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect.” 5 TEST.pg. 210,211

“The plain message of rebuke to the Laodiceans is not received. Many cling to their **doubts and their darling sins** while they are in so great a deception as to talk and feel that they are in need of nothing. They think the testimony of the Spirit of God in reproof is uncalled for or that it does not mean them.

“I have been shown that the greatest reason why the people of God are now found in this state of spiritual blindness is that they will not

receive correction. Many have despised the reproofs and warnings given them. **The True Witness condemns the lukewarm condition of the people of God**, which gives Satan great power over them in this waiting, watching time.”

“Ministers who are preaching **present truth** should not neglect the solemn message to the Laodiceans. The testimony of the True Witness is **not a smooth message**. The Lord does not say to them, You are about right; you have borne chastisement and reproof that you never deserved; you have been unnecessarily discouraged by severity; you are not guilty of the wrongs and sins for which you have been reproved.”3T 257.

“It is not enough for ministers to present theoretical subjects; they should also present those subjects which are **practical**. They need to study the practical lessons that Christ gave His disciples and make a close application of the same to their own souls and to the people. Because Christ bears this rebuking testimony, **shall we suppose that He is destitute of tender love to His people?** Oh, no!” {3T 257.3}

“The word of the Lord, spoken through His servants, is received by many with **questionings and fears**..... Many are tempted in regard to our work and are calling it in question. Some, in their tempted condition, **charge the difficulties and perplexities of the people of God to the testimonies of reproof** that we have given them.

“They think the **trouble is with the ones who bear the message of warning**, who point out the sins of the people and correct their errors. Many are deceived by the adversary of souls. They think that the labors of Brother and Sister White would be **acceptable if they were not continually condemning wrong and reproofing sin.**” 3 T. 258,259.

APOSTASY DEMANDS ACTION

AN EXAMPLE OF NEUTRALITY IN A CRISIS IS ILLUSTRATED IN THE CASE OF MOSES AND AARON. AARON WAS A TYPE OF LAODICEA WHEN HE MADE THE GOLDEN CALF. MOSES WAS THE ONE WHO WAS UPSET AND BROKE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. BUT AARON THE ONE WHO LED OUT IN THE APOSTASY CAME WITH CALM ASSURANCE.

“Aaron's calm assurance in a wrong course gave him greater influence with the people than Moses could have had in leading them in a right course and in subduing their rebellion..... When Moses saw the idolatry of Israel and his indignation was so aroused at their shameful forgetfulness of God that he threw down the tables of stone and broke them,

Aaron stood meekly by, bearing the censure of Moses with commendable patience. The people were charmed with Aaron's lovely spirit and were disgusted with the rashness of Moses. But God seeth not as man sees. He condemned not the ardour and indignation of Moses against the base apostasy of Israel.” {3T 300.3}

WE ARE TOLD THAT THE STRAIGHT TESTIMONY WILL CAUSE A SHAKING AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE. SOME WILL RISE UP AGAINST IT AND THIS IS WHAT WILL CAUSE A SHAKING AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE. (EW.p.270.) THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE IN VERITY IS ALSO CALLED THE STRAIGHT TESTIMONY OF THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS. THIS IS THE SAME THING AS THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL OF THE LOVE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST WHICH WILL BE GIVEN AS THE FINAL WARNING MESSAGE TO MANKIND AND WILL BRING THE GREAT CONTROVERSY TO A CLOSE AND HASTEN THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST FOR HIS PEOPLE.

CHRIST CAME FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH TO REVEAL THE LOVE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. AS WE LOOK AT HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY AND IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE SCRIBES, PHARISEES AND OPEN SINNERS, WE SEE THAT IT WAS A MINGLING OF JUSTICE AND MERCY. GOD SACRIFICED HIMSELF IN HIS SON TO SHOW THE LENGTHS TO WHICH HE WOULD GO TO SAVE PERISHING MAN. Jesus said,

“All that the Father giveth Me shall come unto Me, and He that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37.

IN BOTH HIS PLEADING AND HIS STRAIGHT TESTIMONY HE IS REVEALING HIS LOVE FOR MANKIND. WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR NOW? See Mark 4:28-30.

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When

the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own." {COL 69.1}

CHAPTER 5

CHARACTER PERFECTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE JUDGMENT

THE PURPOSE OF THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE IN VERITY IS TO PRODUCE A PEOPLE PERFECT IN CHARACTER SO THAT THEY CAN STAND PERFECT BEFORE GOD IN THE LIGHT OF THE JUDGMENT.

THEY MUST BE SO COVERED AND FILLED WITH CHRIST THAT GOD WILL ONLY SEE CHRIST IN AND THROUGH THEM.

A . PERFECTION IS THE STANDARD OF THE JUDGMENT

1. **The Law is the standard.**

- a. "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty ." James 2 :12 .

b. “The law of God is as sacred as Himself . It is a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, the expression of divine love and wisdom .” PP 52 .

2. **Christ’s life is the standard.**

CHRIST IS THE LAW PERSONIFIED.

His life was the righteousness and perfection of the law revealed in human flesh .- All men will be judged by the standard of His sinless life, as it is written:

“ . . . **God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ .**”*Rom. 2 :16.*

3. **The standard is always the same.**

a. “The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been,--just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents,--perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness .” SC 62 .

b. “The Lord requires no less of the soul now, than He required of Adam in Paradise before he fell--perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness . The requirement of God under the covenant of grace is just as broad as the requirement He made in Paradise--harmony with His law, which is holy, and just, and good .” 1SM 373 .

c. “Though all nations are to pass in judgment

before God, ‘yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth . Every one must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.” GC 490 .

B . CHRIST HAS BEEN MADE OUR PERFECTION

1. Christ took human nature .

“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 .” Heb . 2 :14 .

2. Human nature is made the very righteousness of God in Christ.

“For he hath made him to be sin for. us, who knew no sin ; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him .” 2 Cor . 5 :21 .

3. Human nature is reconciled to God in Christ.

“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ . For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us : having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances ; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace ; and that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity in himself [margin] .“ Eph . 2 :13-16 .

4. The old man or sinful spiritual nature is abolished in Christ,

- a. “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin .” Rom . 6 :6 .
- b. “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself ; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven . And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight .” Col . 1 :20-22 .

5. Human nature is forgiven, cleansed in Christ.

- a. “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high .” Heb . 1 :3 .
- b. “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son : in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins .” Col . 1 :13,14 .
- c. “I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins : return

unto me ; for I have redeemed thee . Sing, O ye heavens ; for the Lord hath done it : shout, ye lower parts of the earth : break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein : for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel .“ Isa . 44 :22,23 .

6. Spiritual Human nature is brought to perfection in Christ.

“In Him you have been brought to completion .” Col . 2 :10 NEB .

“And ye are complete in Him”. KJV

7. Humanity is justified, restored, and redeemed in Christ.

a. “Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation ; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life .”Rom . 5 :18 .

b. “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us .” Heb . 9 :12 .

8. Christ is our righteousness.

a. “In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely : and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS .”Jer . 23 :6 .

- b. “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption .” 1 Cor .1 :30 .

9. In Him the work is complete.

- a. “The Lord would have His people sound in the faith--not ignorant of the great salvation so abundantly provided for them . They are not to look forward, thinking that at some future time a great work is to be done for them ; for the work is now complete . The believer is not called upon to make his peace with God ; he never has nor ever can do this . He is to accept Christ as his peace, for with Christ is God and peace .” 1SM 394-5 .
- b. “God himself has the honour of providing a way, and it is so complete, so perfect, that man cannot, by any works he may do, add to its perfection .” 1SM 184 .

C . JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

1. **Faith in Jesus’ merit justifies freely . Rom . 3 :20-28 ; Rom .5:1-3**
2. **Faith is the result of the Spirit’s work on the heart as He presents to the soul the uplifted Saviour. John 3 :14-16; 1 Cor . 12 :3 ; Eph . 1 :13 ; Gal . 5 :22 ;Acts 14 :7-9**
3. **Faith is a heart response to love of God .**
 - a. “When you respond to the drawing of Christ,

and join yourself to Him, you manifest saving faith .” 1SM 334 .

- b. “. . . faith leads its possessor to place all the affections of the soul upon Christ . . .” 1SM 391 .

4. Faith unites us to Christ and makes us one with Him.

- a. “Many hold faith as an opinion . Saving faith is **a transaction** by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigour, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.” DA 347.
- b. “The faith which avails to bring us in vital contact with Christ expresses on our part supreme preference, perfect reliance, entire consecration .” 1SM 334 .
- c. “So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. . . .” DA 123 .
- d. “So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ . By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed . The sinner unites his weakness to Christ’s strength, his emptiness to Christ’s fullness, his frailty to Christ’s enduring might . Then he has the mind of Christ .” DA 675 .
- e. “This is no casual touch, no off-and-on

connection . . . As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character .” DA ., 676 .

- f. “Faith is the clasping of the hand of Christ in every emergency .” GW 262 .
- g. “. . . faith can lay hold of the merits of Christ . . .” 6BC 1073 .
- h. “Sinful men can become righteous only as they have faith in God and maintain a vital connection with Him .” DA 310 .

From the above statements, notice how faith operates :

- it joins us to Christ,
- it brings us into vital contact with Him,
- it unites us to Him,
- it clasps His hand,
- it lays hold on His merits, and
- it makes us one with Him .

“ . By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be

clothed with the garment of His righteousness. . . ." COL 312 .

5. Faith is counted for righteousness.

"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt . But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness ." Rom. 4 :3-5.

In God's sight, faith equals righteousness, yes, even the very righteousness of God (See Rom . 3 :21-24) . This is not because there is any virtue in faith itself. Faith is not righteousness . It is not a substitute for righteousness . It is not our saviour . But faith joins us to Christ . It makes us one with Him . It embraces His merits . Faith takes hold of Jesus as our Saviour . When we have Christ, we have righteousness .

6 . Righteousness is received by receiving Him.

"We receive righteousness by receiving Him ." MB 34 .

The apostle Paul says that we have forgiveness, righteousness, and every spiritual blessing in Christ.(See Eph.1 :3,7). Many people do not grasp the meaning of this . It does not mean that Christ is like a cupboard that we go to to get things out of to appropriate to ourselves. He does not say that we obtain forgiveness from Christ, but in Christ . Faith does not take forgiveness from Christ, but it

embraces Christ Himself . Then having Christ, the believer has forgiveness In Him .

We do not receive righteousness from Christ, apart from Him, for righteousness is never an essential part of human nature . The only way to receive righteousness is to receive Him . He is our righteousness .

When faith accepts Him, **it accepts a perfect righteousness in Him** . This throws light on the Laodicean message . Here is a people boasting that they are rich with spiritual graces . But Christ is on the outside, and with Him is every spiritual grace .

The only way to obtain the gold and the white raiment and the eyesalve **is to obtain Him** . He is the gold, the white raiment and the eyesalve . We have **all these blessings when we have Him** . When the Father gave us Christ, He gave **all heaven**, even all the accumulated wealth and love of eternity . When we receive Christ, we receive all this **infinite favour** .

When we have Christ, we have a perfect righteousness . Faith is counted for righteousness because it embraces the One Who is Righteousness

The message which came in 1888 presented more prominently the uplifted Saviour for our justification . That message accepted would have brought the latter

rain to God's people . (See Testimonies to Ministers, pp . 91, 92) .

7. **Justification by faith gives us sonship .**

“As the penitent sinner, contrite before God, discerns Christ's atonement in his behalf, and accepts this atonement as his only hope in this life and the future life, his sins are pardoned . **This is justification by faith** . Every believing soul is to conform his will entirely to God's will, and keep in a state of repentance and contrition, exercising faith in the atoning merits of the Redeemer and advancing from strength to strength, from glory to glory .”

“Pardon and justification are one and the same thing . Through faith, the believer passes from the position of a rebel, a child of sin and Satan, to the position of a loyal subject of Christ Jesus, not because of an inherent goodness, but because Christ receives him as His child by adoption . The sinner receives the forgiveness of his sins, because these sins are borne by his Substitute and Surety .”

“The Lord speaks to His heavenly Father, saying : ‘This is My child . I reprove him from the condemnation of death, giving him My life insurance policy --eternal life-- because

I have taken his place and have suffered for his sins . He is even My beloved son .' Thus man, pardoned, and clothed with the beautiful garments of Christ's righteousness, stands faultless before God ." 6BC 1070 .

CHAPTER 6

OUR TITLE TO HEAVEN JUSTIFICATION, OUR STANDING OF PERFECT SINLESSNESS-THE ACCOUNTING

JUSTIFICATION GIVES STANDING OF PERFECT SINLESSNESS

1. There is no condemnation to the believer in Jesus .Rom . 8 :1,31-39 .
2. We become Just as if we had not sinned.

“Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey a holy law . We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God . But Christ has made a way of escape for us . He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet . He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers

to take our sins and give us His righteousness . If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous . Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned ." SC 62 .

3. In Christ Holiness is fully satisfied.

"As the sinner, drawn by the power of Christ, approaches the uplifted cross, and prostrates himself before it, there is a new creation . A new heart is given him . He becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus . Holiness finds that it has nothing more to require . God Himself is 'the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus .'" COL 163 .

4. In Christ we are Pronounced righteous before universe

"The great work that is wrought for the sinner who is spotted and stained by evil is the work of justification . By Him who speaketh truth he is declared righteous . The Lord imputes unto the believer the righteousness of Christ and pronounces him righteous before the universe . Having made us righteous through the imputed righteousness of Christ, God pronounces us just, and treats us as just. He looks upon us as His dear children." FLB 112.6 (See also Romans 5:1, 2.)

"He transfers his sins to Jesus, the sinner's representative, substitute, and-surety . Upon

Christ He lays the iniquity of every soul that believeth . 'He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin ; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him' (2Cor . 5 :21)." 1SM 392 .

5. Christ Clothes us with eternal righteousness .

"The provision made is complete, and the eternal righteousness of Christ is placed to the account of every believing soul . . Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believeth . In ourselves we are sinners ; but in Christ we are righteous ." 1SM 394 .

6. We are Complete in Him.

- a. "Every soul may say : 'By His perfect obedience He has satisfied the claims of the law, and my only hope is found in looking to Him as my substitute and surety, who obeyed the law perfectly for me . By faith in His merits I am free from the condemnation of the law . He clothes me with His righteousness, which answers all the demands of the law . I am complete in Him who brings in everlasting righteousness . He presents me to God in the spotless garment of which no thread was woven by any human agent . All is of Christ, and all the glory, honour, and majesty are to be given to the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world .'" 1SM 396 .

- b. “Sinful and fallen man may be made complete in Jesus through the forgiveness of sin and the imputed* righteousness of Christ .” MYP 137 .

“The moment the sinner believes in Christ, he stands in the sight of God uncondemned; for the righteousness of Christ is his: Christ’s perfect obedience is imputed to him. But he must co-operate with divine power, and put forth his human effort to subdue sin, and stand complete in Christ.” FE 429.

“We are not to be anxious about what Christ and God think of us, but about what God thinks of Christ, our Substitute.” FLB 114.

7. Faith makes the righteousness of Christ ours .

“The moment the sinner believes in Christ, he stands in the sight of God uncondemned; for the righteousness of Christ is his : Christ’s perfect obedience is imputed to him .” FE 429 .

8. Justified believers are in harmony with the law .

“Through the imputed righteousness of Christ, the sinner may feel that he is pardoned, and may know that the law no more condemns him, because he is in harmony with its precepts .“ SD 240.

9. Believers not in Adam but in Christ .

“Those who . . . accept of Christ are looked upon by God, not as they are in Adam, but as

they are in Jesus Christ .. ." FLB 113 .

10. The moment the sinner is justified by faith he has on the wedding garment .
 - a. "Christ's righteousness alone can avail for his salvation, and this is the gift of God . This is the wedding garment in which you may appear as a welcome guest at the marriage supper of the Lamb . Let faith take hold of Christ without delay, and you will be a new creature in Jesus, a light to the world . Christ is called 'the Lord our righteousness,' and through faith each one should say, 'The Lord my righteousness .' When faith lays hold upon this gift of God, the praise of God will be upon our lips, and we shall be able to say to others, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world' (John 1 :29) ." 1SM 331 .(The wedding garment can be obtained the moment Christ is received by faith.)
 - b. "Give to God the most precious offering that it is possible for you to make ; give Him your heart . He speaks to you saying, 'My son, My daughter, give Me thine heart . Though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white as snow ; for I will cleanse you with My own blood . I will make you members of My family--children of the heavenly King . Take My forgiveness, My peace which I freely give you . I will clothe you with My own righteousness,--the wedding garment,--and make you fit for the marriage supper of the Lamb . When clothed in My righteousness, through prayer, through

watchfulness, through diligent study of My Word, you will be able to reach a high standard . You will understand the truth, and your character will be molded by a divine influence .” SD 98 .

- c. “When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life . This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness . Then as the Lord looks upon us, He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah .” COL 312 .
- d. “When we are clothed with the wedding garment of His righteousness, we become one with Him.” 7BC 925 .
- e. “The wedding garment, provided at infinite cost, is freely offered to every soul . By the messengers of God are presented to us the righteousness of Christ, justification by faith, the exceeding great and precious promises of God’s word, free access to the Father by Christ, the comfort of the Spirit, the well-grounded assurance of eternal life in the kingdom of God .“ COL 317 .

CONCLUSION :

Justification by faith, the wedding garment, gives us the standing of sinless perfection before God and before His law . God Himself declares that the believer who relies on

the merits of Christ is without fault . The eternal, absolute righteousness of God Himself is imputed to him, and he is pronounced perfectly righteous before the universe .

As long as he maintains (retains) justification by faith, nothing past, present, or future can separate him from the love of God . Moreover, the believer, possessing the eternal righteousness of Christ, could never, in any later experience, become more righteous in the sight of God . He has reached, in Christ, the highest point to which man can attain .

Therefore, the experience of justification by faith gives the believer the standing of sinless perfection .

CHAPTER 7

OUR FITNESS FOR HEAVEN JUSTIFICATION, OUR STATE OF SINLESS PERFECTION IN THE JUDGMENT

Philippians 3:7—16.

“The proud heart strives to earn salvation; but both our title to heaven and our fitness for it are found in the righteousness of Christ.” D.A p.300.

“The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven.”
FLB 116.2

JUSTIFICATION  THE IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

SANCTIFICATION  THE IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

BOTH THE IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE FOUND IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST.

BOTH JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION ARE FOUND IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST.

“The righteousness of Christ will not cover one cherished sin... Only that which is in accord with the principles of God's law will stand in the judgment.” COL 3:16.2

A careful distinction must be made between a standing of sinless perfection and a state of sinless perfection . Some individuals fail to notice the distinction between the standing of perfection and the state of perfection.

STANDING OF PERFECTION-----OUR TITLE TO HEAVEN

STATE OF PERFECTION-----OUR FITNESS FOR HEAVEN

We have already seen that a justified believer has a standing of sinless perfection before God and His law . But he does not at that same moment of time experience a state of sinless perfection .

The Bible writers knew nothing of any sudden attainment to a state of perfect sinlessness . There is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification.

1. Paul, having a standing of perfection, was seeking that state of perfection .Phil . 3 :10-15.
2. The faithful loyal of the past, having a standing of perfection, did not attain to a state of perfection .Hebrews 11 :13,40

3. The justified believer is not entirely freed from a state of depravity and sinfulness. 1 Cor.9:27; 2 Cor.10:3,4.

“Every Christian will have a hard battle to fight with wrong habits . He must overcome his unbelief, his deformity of character, his inclination to self-indulgence . His long resistance of light, warnings, and appeals has left its mark upon his life” RH Jan . 13, 1891 .

“The power of self-control and reason is overborne by practices that defile the whole being; and if these sinful practices are continued, the brain is enfeebled and diseased, and loses its balance. Such ones are a curse to themselves and to all who have any connection with them. . . .” Mar 229.3

“Bad habits are more easily formed than good habits, and the bad habits are given up with more difficulty.” Maranatha 229.

“Paul was ever on the watch lest evil propensities should get the better of him. He guarded well his appetites and passions and evil propensities .” 6BC 1089 .

“The life of the apostle Paul was a constant conflict with self . He said, ‘I die daily.’ His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God . Instead of following inclination, he did God’s will, however crucifying to his nature .” MH 453 .

“A constant battle must be kept up with the selfishness and corruption of the human heart .” 5T 397 .

“In the human heart there is natural selfishness and corruption, which can only be overcome by most thorough discipline and severe restraint and even then it will require years of patient effort and earnest resistance .” 4T 496 .

“The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes ; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature . This is evidence that Satan’s delusions have lost their power ; that the vivifying influence of the Spirit of God is arousing you. **No deep-seated love for Jesus can dwell in the heart that does not realize its own sinfulness. The soul that is transformed by the grace of Christ will admire His divine character; but if we do not see our own moral deformity, it is unmistakable evidence that we have not had a view of the beauty and excellence of Christ .” SC 64-65 .**

“None of the apostles and prophets ever claimed to be without sin . Men who have lived the nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act, men whom God has honoured with divine light and power, have confessed the sinfulness of their nature. They have put no confidence

in the flesh, have claimed no righteousness of their own, but have trusted wholly in the righteousness of Christ." AA 561 .

4. Our state of depravity is inherited and cultivated .

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity ; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Ps. 51:5 .

"Men do not know their own hearts ; for 'the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked .' But God understands the tendencies of the depraved nature of man ." PP 688 .

"Selfishness is the essence of depravity ." CS 24 .

"Every impure thought defiles the soul, impairs the moral sense, and tends to obliterate the impressions of the Holy Spirit . It dims the spiritual vision, so that men cannot behold God . The Lord may and does forgive the repenting sinner ; but though forgiven, the soul is marred ." DA 302 .

"Now it may be you can repent . But even if pardon is written against your names, you will sustain terrible loss ; for the scars you have made upon your souls will remain," TM 447 .

"Every mistake, every error, unimportant though it may be regarded, leaves a scar in this life and a blot on the heavenly records ." OHC 227 .

"A wrong action, by frequent repetition, leaves a permanent impression upon the mind of the actor, and also on the minds of those who

are connected with him in any relation, either spiritual or temporal ." CG 201 .

"Those who take the lead in these things [amusements] bring upon the cause a stain not easily effaced . They wound their own souls, and through their lifetime will carry the scars . The evildoer may see his sins and repent ; God may pardon the transgressor ; but the powers of discernment, which ought ever to be kept keen and sensitive to distinguish between the sacred and the common, are in a great measure destroyed ." 8T 66 .

"Every Christian will have a hard battle to fight with wrong habits . He must overcome his unbelief, his deformity of character, his inclination to self-indulgence . His long resistance of light, warnings, and appeals has left its mark upon his life ; and although God has forgiven him, he feels that he cannot forgive himself ." RH Jan . 13, 1891 .

"He may be converted ; he may see the wickedness of his injustice to his fellow-men, and as far as possible, make restitution ; but the scars of a wounded conscience will ever remain ." 3BC 1158 .

"Our thoughts are to be strictly guarded ; for one impure thought makes a deep impression on the soul . An evil thought leaves an evil impress on the mind ." MYP 144 .

CONCLUSION:

“Man has fallen ; and it will be the work of a lifetime, be it longer or shorter, to recover from that fall, and regain, through Christ, the image of the divine, which he lost by sin and continued transgression .” 2T 448 .

“None are living Christians unless they have a daily experience in the things of God, and daily practice self-denial, cheerfully bearing the cross and following Christ . Every living Christian will advance daily in the divine life . As he advances toward perfection, he experiences a conversion to God every day ; and this conversion is not completed until he attains to perfection of Christian character, a full preparation for the finishing touch of immortality .” 2T 505 .

“A true, lovable Christian is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favor of Bible truth. Such a man is Christ’s representative. His life is the most convincing evidence that can be borne to the power of divine grace. When God’s people bring the righteousness of Christ into the daily life, sinners will be converted and victories over the enemy will be gained.” Our Father Cares p. 165.6

CHAPTER 8

THE IMPUTED & IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS

“ I greatly desire a clear, distinct idea of the subject of righteousness by faith in Christ. We have thought and talked on this subject far less than we should have; therefore we have dwelt in the shadow of darkness--hopeless, faithless, without power to resist the tempter.” Ms. 20, 1892, pp. 40, 44. {12MR 141.1}

“There is not a point that needs to be dwelt upon **more earnestly, repeated more frequently,** or established more **firmly** in the minds of all than the impossibility of fallen man meriting anything by his own best good works. Salvation is through **faith in Jesus Christ alone....** Let the subject be

made **distinct and plain** that it is not possible to effect anything in our standing before God or in the gift of God to us through creature merit. Should faith and works purchase the gift of salvation for anyone, then the Creator is under obligation to the creature..It is wholly a free gift. Justification by faith is placed beyond controversy. And all this controversy is ended, as soon as the matter is settled that the merits of fallen man in his good works can never procure eternal life for him.” **Faith and Works p. 19, 20.**

“ The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; **for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken.** If he can control minds so that doubt and unbelief and darkness shall compose the experience of those who claim to be the children of God, he can overcome them with temptation.” GW 161

“Many commit the error of trying to define minutely the fine points of distinction between justification and sanctification. Into the definitions of these two terms they often bring their own ideas and speculations. Why try to be more minute than is Inspiration on the vital question of righteousness by faith? Why try to work out every minute point, as if the salvation of the soul depended upon all having exactly

your understanding of this matter? All cannot see in the same line of vision. You are in danger of making a world of an atom, and an atom of a world." {CTr 150.2}

"As penitent sinners, contrite before God, discern Christ's atonement in their behalf, and accept this atonement as their only hope in this life and the future life, their sins are pardoned. This is justification by faith. Every believing soul is to conform his or her will entirely to God's will, and keep in a state of repentance and contrition, exercising faith in the atoning merits of the Redeemer, and advancing from strength to strength, from glory to glory. Pardon and justification are one and the same thing. . . ." {CTr 150.3}

There is a distinction between Legal, forensic justification or the objective gospel, and Justification by faith. While Legal justification has to do with the work of Christ which has already been accomplished for us, **Justification by faith is an experience which has to do with the individual believer.**

In the subject of Justification by Faith we sometimes meet some apparent contradictions which if not properly understood can pose much confusion in the minds of many.

For example, there are two verses in *Romans* which fall into this seemingly contradictory category. They are *Romans* 2:13 and *Romans* 3:28.

The first reads: *“For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”* Romans 2:13.

There is no mistaking Paul’s position taken here in this text . By saying that only “the doers of the law shall be justified”, he is teaching *in this verse* that a person must be obedient to the law before justification can take place.

The second one reads: *“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”*

This Scripture teaches the opposite from the first. According to it, no obedience is necessary in order to be justified. Instead, the believer is given this wonderful gift without the deeds of the law being present. It is impossible to have it both ways in the same justification or so it appears.

Either obedience comes before the experience of justification, or it does not. WHICH COMES FIRST? Justification or Obedience?

Therefore, if Paul is speaking of the *same* justification in both verses, then there appears to be an irreconcilable contradiction. But there are no contradictions in the Scriptures. They are inspired by the same divine Author, the Holy Spirit, who guides us into a glorious harmony of truth between these two verses. These verses are not contradictory, they refer to two different experiential justifications phases which God applies at two widely-spaced points of time to those who fulfil the conditions required.

JUSTIFIED AT CONVERSION/NEW BIRTH

The first in point of time tells us that a man is “justified without the deeds of the law.”

This takes place at the beginning of the Christian's experience, at Conversion or the New Birth experience. No good deeds/works have to be done first by the individual in order to merit or experience this justification. It is wholly the work of Christ done in the heart of the believer at the start of the Christian experience. He is transformed through faith in the righteousness of Christ. He is delivered from the bondage of sin. He is forgiven and cleansed. 1 John 1:9.

“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.” {FLB 111.2}

“God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul.”
FW 100.1

Because of his condition before justification at conversion, it is impossible for any man to produce good works. “All our righteousness are as filthy rags.” “There is none righteous, no not one.”

“For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good;

and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” Luke 6:43-45.

“The law demands righteousness, and this the sinner owes to the law; but he is incapable of rendering it. The only way in which he can attain to righteousness is through faith. By faith he can bring to God the merits of Christ, and *the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner’s account*. Christ’s righteousness is accepted *in place of man’s failure*, and God receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as *though* he were righteous, and loves him as He loves His Son. This is how faith is *accounted* righteousness; and the pardoned soul goes on from grace to grace, from light to a greater light. He can say with rejoicing, ‘Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life’ (Titus 3:5-7).” *Selected Messages 1:367.*

Before justification, there can be no law-keeping, but righteous living will always attend the man who has been forgiven and cleansed. But while good deeds never *precede* justification, they will always follow it. The justified “are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” *Ephesians 2:10.*

The same thought is expressed again in these words:

“It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are *accounted* righteous. Christ's character stands in *place* of your character, and you are accepted before God just as *if* you had not sinned.” *Steps to Christ*, 62.

JUSTIFIED IN THE JUDGMENT

The other Justification (phase) mentioned in Romans 2:13 (“the doers of the law shall be justified”) takes place in the judgment when a person is justified. At that time, only those who are doers of the law as a result of the earlier justification, will be judged worthy of a place in heaven. See also James 2:20-26.

JUSTIFICATION RETAINED

This passage of Scripture is parallel to Matthew 24:13---“He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved.”

Rev.22:14.--“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.”

Revelation 14:12----“Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.”

“...in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul.” Faith and Works pg.100.

“The apostle James saw that dangers would arise in presenting the subject of justification by faith, and he labored to show that genuine faith cannot exist without corresponding works..... Thus genuine faith does a genuine work in the believer.” {FLB 115.5}

Romans 2:13 deals with the justification which can be given only in the judgment. It is in the context of a discussion on the judgment and it stresses that only those who come to this judgment with lives of righteous obedience, will be justified.

In the judgment, God “will render to every man according to his deeds: “To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: “But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey

the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; "(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.)" Verses 6-13.

When will these vital decisions be made? In the judgment! After the initial justification which takes place at the beginning of the Christian experience, the believer is not immediately taken to heaven for two reasons—there is a work which God desires to do through him.... He must demonstrate that he is ready/fitted to be taken to heaven. The believer must have both the title and the fitness for Heaven.

"The proud heart strives to earn salvation; but both our title to heaven and our fitness for it are found in the righteousness of Christ. The Lord can do nothing toward the recovery of man until, convinced of his own weakness, and stripped of all self-sufficiency, he yields himself to the control of God. Then he can receive the gift that God is waiting to bestow." DA 300.

We cannot come to the great judgment day practicing known sins and expect to be justified, for in that day of ultimate decisions, not the hearers but the doers of the law shall be justified.

Here are some clear-cut distinctions between the two justifications phases.

The first one justifies *the ungodly*. The second one justifies *the godly*.

The first one is *without the deeds of the law*. The second is for those *who keep the law*.

The first comes at the *beginning* of our Christian experience. The second comes at the *end* of probationary time.

The first saves us from the bondage of sin in this world. The second saves us *from* this world.

The first admits us into the family of God in *the church, the body of Christ*. The second admits us into the family/kingdom of God *above*.

It is possible to have the first justification experience and never gain the second, but only those who have *both* the first and the second will ever enter the kingdom of God.

“God’s forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness *for* sin, but reclaiming *from* sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart. David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.’ *Psalm 51:10.*” *Mount of Blessing*, 114.

“When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our characters, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who have preserved their bodies and

spirit in holiness, in sanctification and honour, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality. But those who are unjust, unsanctified, and filthy will remain so forever. No work will then be done for them to remove their defects and give them holy characters. The Refiner does not then sit to pursue His refining process and remove their sins and their corruption. This is all to be done in these hours of probation. It is *now* that this work is to be accomplished for us." *Testimonies* 2:355.

Those who come to the judgment expecting to be delivered from their sinfulness when Christ returns, will find themselves forever lost when Jesus stands up and says, "He that is unjust, let him *be* unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him *be* filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him *be* righteous still: and he that is holy, let him *be* holy still. And behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." *Revelation* 22:11, 12.

"But while God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's righteousness while practicing known sins or neglecting known duties. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul." {FW 100.1}

"James writes of Abraham and says, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when

he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:21-24). In order for man to be justified by faith, faith must reach a point where it will control the affections and impulses of the heart; and it is by obedience that faith itself is made perfect." {FW 100.2}

The cleansing of the sanctuary is to be an experience in the hearts of God's people, an experience wherein their hearts are cleansed from every root of self-dependence and pride of human achievement. The most holy place experience is a sealing in this truth of justification by faith alone. The message which came in 1888 presented more prominently the uplifted Saviour for our justification. That message accepted would have brought the latter rain to God's people . (See Testimonies to Ministers, pp . 91, 92) .

The message of justification by faith shows us how to be hid in Christ like how Moses was hid in the cleft of the rock. Unless we are securely hidden in Christ, our faith fully resting on His merits, we cannot see the glory which He has for us.

Let us at this time put away all self-righteousness, and hide in this Rock that God has provided? Paul said : "*And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law,*

but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith .” --Philippians 3 :9 .

CHAPTER 9

THE PROPHETIC CONTEXT & PERSPECTIVE OF THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

20 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

REVELATION 14:6--12

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE IS A PROPHETIC MESSAGE. IT AROSE AT THE RIGHT TIME ACCORDING TO BIBLE PROPHECY. IT IS THIS PROPHETIC MESSAGE WHICH SHOULD MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE OF GOD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FOR THE FINISHING OF THE WORK OF GOD ON THE EARTH. IT IS FOUND IN THE HEART OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION. IT IS SANDWICHED BETWEEN REVELATION 13 WHICH DEALS WITH THE MARK AND IMAGE OF THE BEAST BEING FORMED AND REVELATION 15 WHICH DEALS WITH THE 144000 GETTING THE VICTORY OVER THE BEAST, HIS IMAGE, MARK NAME AND NUMBER

STANDING UPON THE SEA OF GLASS.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MESSAGE

IT DESCRIBES OUR PURPOSE AND MISSION IN THE WORLD.

“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import--the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention. The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work.” {9T 19.1}

20 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

“God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth—the messages of the first, second, and third angels—He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated

to the world. The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God's messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth. {CCh 58.4}

"The mighty cleaver of truth has taken out a people from the quarry of the world and is fitting this people, who profess to be the children of God, for a place in His heavenly temple..... All rough edges and rough surfaces must be removed..... We must be fitted and squared for the building." Manuscript 49, 1886 (Manuscript Releases, vol. 3, pp. 230-232). {CTr 155.5}

➤ THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD WITHOUT A KNOWLEDGE OF THE BOOKS OF DANIEL AND REVELATION.

"Those whomakelightofthethirdangel'smessage do so because they know little of Daniel or the Revelation. They have not read these prophecies with a determination to find out the meaning by prayer, by study, and by fasting. If they had had the experience of Daniel or of John, they would know that the third angel's message will go forth unto perfect victory. Those who proclaim that message because they see and believe it, will understand that very much is comprehended by it.The third angel is represented as flying through the heavens with a banner on which is inscribed, "The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." All who will gather warmth

from the coldness of others, courage from their defections, and loyalty from their treason, will triumph with the third angel's message." RH, June 8, 1897 par. 17

➤ NOT PROCLAIMED BY ANGELS BUT BY HUMAN BEINGS.

REVELATION 1:1,2 give a sequence which reveals how inspiration works. It is thus:

GOD -----JESUS-----HOLY SPIRIT---ANGELS---
JOHN----- 7 CHURCHES.

In the Greek, the word ANGELOS means MESSENGERS and sometimes HUMAN BEINGS are called ANGELS. The following passages of Scripture prove this latter assertion.

PHILIPPIANS 2:25; MATTHEW 11:10; LUKE 7:24;
JAMES 2:25; ACTS 6:15.

The Gospel message was not committed to Angels, but to HUMAN BEINGS whom God is depending on to cooperate with Him.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."
MATTHEW 24:14.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized

shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." MARK 16:15,16.

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." REVELATION 14:6.

"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 28:18,19.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." ACTS 1:8.

The Gospel is to be preached unto all the world, then shall the end come. In other words, the end cannot come unless these 'ANGELS' representing you and me, allow God through His literal Angels to use us to carry this gospel to the world.

While Angels of God superintend the work, each Angel represents A MOVEMENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE on the earth, carrying a message or having a system of truth to share.

➤ **THE THREE ANGELS FLY IN THE MIDST OF HEAVEN**

This means that the message has its origin or source in God. It is a God-centred or heavenly message. REVELATION 14:6,7.

The Angel speaks with a Loud voice. This means that the message are preached with power and clarity as well as straight and pointed. There is to be

NO MUTING OR TONING DOWN OF MESSAGE.

NO FEAR OF CONSEQUENCES.

NO SMOOTH MESSAGE.

NO COMPROMISES.

The message is designed to expose the Beast, His image, Mark, Name and Number, without fear or favour.

➤ **THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE WILL BE CHALLENGED AND OPPOSED**

"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. The work that might have been done, will be left undone by the rejecters of truth, because of their unbelief. We entreat of you who oppose the light of truth, to stand out of the way of God's people. Let Heaven-sent light shine forth upon them in clear and steady rays. God holds you to whom this light has come, responsible for the use you

make of it. Those who will not hear will be held responsible; for the truth has been brought within their reach, but they despised their opportunities and privileges. Messages bearing the divine credentials have been sent to God's people; the glory, the majesty, the righteousness of Christ, full of goodness and truth, have been presented; the fullness of the Godhead in Jesus Christ has been set forth among us with beauty and loveliness, to charm all whose hearts were not closed with prejudice." RH, May 27, 1890 par. 6

"The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is: "Show us from the word of God our error"--the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who

hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths." GC 607.1. See also Dan.11:44.

➤ ANGELS FLY AND JOIN EACH OTHER SOUNDING.

Flying describes the SWIFTNESS OR SPEED by which the message is to be carried. This flight speed is described in Ezekiel 1:13, 14 as well as the swift flight of the CHERUBS in Ezekiel chapters 10 and 11. Our feet should be swift to proclaim these messages. (NOT GOSSIP). God wants to finish the work and cut it short in righteousness.

The first angel gives its message. He is joined by the second who unites his voice with the first and they both sound as they fly. The Third joins these former two and unites his voice and message with the other two as they continue flying and sounding. Hence the Third Angel's Message is a combination of three messages, all sounding together as they fly in the midst of Heaven.

➤ MESSAGES ARE WORLDWIDE OR UNIVERSAL IN THEIR SCOPE.

The message is not to be carried to the Jews after the tribulation as some wrongly teach, but to EVERY NATION, KINDRED, TONGUE AND PEOPLE (to the world). Remember Jesus had said in Acts 1:8, that the Gospel was to be carried to "Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Then also Revelation 17:15 says, “And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”

So this movement of God’s people will be spread all over the world.

➤ MESSAGES ARE TO BE PROCLAIMED IN THEIR PROPER ORDER

In REVELATION 14:6,8,9, there is a particular order or sequence in which these messages are to be carried. The Third angel does not come or bring his message before the first. The first angel makes a statement and gives a command. He is said to have the EVERLASTING GOSPEL to preach, and to command others to FEAR GOD AND GIVE GLORY to Him, and to WORSHIP HIM who made the Heaven, the earth, the sea, and the fountains of waters.

This first angel also announces a solemn message that the HOUR OF God’s JUDGMENT has come. Therefore this movement of God’s people must know when the Judgment would have started and would have began preaching the Judgment HOUR message.

The second angel simply acknowledges the fact that Babylon has fallen, has fallen, and why she has become fallen. Each rejection of the message causes a greater fall.

BABYLON fell because they rejected the 1st Angel’s message. Those who rejected the 2nd Angel’s message to come out of Babylon will receive the wrath of God,

which is what the 3rd angel warns against.

➤ MESSAGES ARE GOD'S FINAL WARNING MESSAGES OF APPEAL. (REVELATION 14:6-12,14).

"Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power--all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these." G.C 606.

After a people has been formed as a result of the third angel's message, (those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus), then a vision is seen of Jesus coming in the clouds of Heaven to do a work of reaping (sharp sickle) and coming as King (on His head a golden crown).

➤ THREE ANGELS ARE PART OF A SERIES OF 7 ANGELS

These angels of Revelation 14 describe the completion or the finishing of God's work on the earth in the context of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan. They are part of a bigger picture. Just like the seven last plagues, these are the seven last angels involved in the wrapping up of God's work on earth. There are other angels to follow the third. The first four angels come before the close of probation proclaiming the gospel to the world. The last three angels come after the close of probation. They have a work to do which does not involve the salvation of souls, but the vindication of God's character through His final remnant. Rev.14: 15-18. It is not just the preaching of the gospel for the salvation of man, that God is concerned about, but the plan of redemption and the bringing of the great controversy between Christ and Satan to a close. See Revelation 12:11-14.

➤ THERE IS A FOURTH ANGEL THAT FOLLOWS THE THIRD. Rev.18:1-4.

This angel of Revelation 18 adds or unites his voice and power to the third angel, giving clarity, power and force to his message. It is the last warning message to be given to the world for the salvation of men. According to Inspiration it

➤ SEEM TO BE AN ADDITION TO THE THIRD ANGEL.

➤ IS CALLED THE LOUD CRY OF THE THIRD ANGEL.

- IS A REPETITION OF THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE EXPOSING THE SINS AND FALL OF BABYLON THE GREAT, AND CALLING GOD'S PEOPLE TO COME OUT OF HER.

It is this angel that lightens the earth with the glory or character of God. SO IT IS A FINAL MESSAGE ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER, THAT WILL BE ILLUMINATING IN ITS INFLUENCE AND SAVING IN ITS POWER. C.O.L.pg. 415.

- WE ARE LIVING IN THE TIME OF THE FLIGHT OF THIS 4TH ANGEL WHICH BEGAN HIS WORK IN THE YEAR 1888.

"The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth." 1SM 362.4.

AFTER THE FINAL WARNING MESSAGE HAS GONE TO THE WORLD, EVERYONE MAKES UP THEIR MINDS FOR OR AGAINST GOD, RECEIVE THE SEAL OF GOD OR THE MARK OF THE BEAST, AND PROBATION CLOSES FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD BEFORE THE OUTPOURING OF THE 7 LAST PLAGUES UPON THOSE WHO HAVE THE MARK OF THE BEAST. Rev.16:2,3.

"The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world.

From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvellous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10." {AA 9.1}

"For it is the work of every one to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus, to present Him to the world as revealed in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelations of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples and in the wonderful miracles wrought for the sons of men. Search the Scriptures; for they are they that testify of Him." {1SM 362.4}

"Let every one who claims to believe that the Lord is soon coming, search the Scriptures as never before; for Satan is determined to try every device possible to keep souls in darkness, and blind the mind to the perils of the times in which we are living. Let every believer take up his Bible with earnest prayer, that he may be enlightened by the Holy Spirit as to what is truth, that he may know more of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Search for the truth as for hidden treasures, and disappoint the enemy." {1SM 362.4}

➤ THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE WILL BE EMPOWERED BY THE POWER OF THE LATTER RAIN

In Revelation 14: 14, a picture is given of Jesus sitting on a white cloud with a crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. This means that He is coming as a King (crown on head), KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, and, that He is coming to do a work of reaping/harvesting. In verse 15 we are told that another angel cries to Christ and says,

“THRUST IN THY SICKLE AND REAP, FOR THE TIME IS COME FOR THEE TO REAP FOR THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH IS RIPE.”

In the days of ancient Israel, what was it that ripened the harvest? IT WAS THE LATTER RAIN.

While the early rains caused the seed to germinate and the plant to shoot up and grow until the fruit was formed, it was the latter rains that caused the fruit to full out and ripen for the harvest. The Latter rain ripened the grain for the harvest. Hence, the Third Angel's Message IN VERITY, will be accompanied with the power of the Latter Rain.

It will ripen the world for the harvests. There will be only two harvests. One will be reaped by Christ with His sharp sickle. The other will be the harvest of “the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe”. Vs.18. These will be reaped by another angel with a sharp sickle. Vs.17. These will be cast “into the great winepress of the wrath of God”.

One harvest represents the reaping of God's people who have been ripened by the Third Angel's Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit, and the other represents the destruction of the wicked who have been ripened in unrighteousness by the rejection of the 3rd angel's message.

In the Bible "water" is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Water = Holy Spirit / Everlasting Life (See John 7:39; 4:14, Revelation 22:17, Ephesians 5:26)

Both the Early Rain and the Latter Rain showers represent two outpourings of the Holy Spirit. The First fulfilment of this prophecy involved a sealing. According to the Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter 1, it is called the "earnest", down-payment or guarantee (Greek) of the Holy Spirit. (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:16-18; Eph.1:13,14).

The Second Fulfilment of Joel's prophecy applies to the endtime mark of the Beast crisis. This also involves a sealing. (Ephesians 4:30-Sealed unto the day of redemption.) This is the final apocalyptic seal which the 144000 (God's endtime remnant) will have in their foreheads. Those who would have gotten the victory over the Beast. Revelation 14:1-5; 15: 3,4. (Joel 2:23; Rev.18:1-4; Eph.4:30; Rev.7:1-4)

"As the "former rain" was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the "latter rain" will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest..... The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening.....

“The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are “the times of refreshing” to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus.” Acts 3:19, 20.” GC 611,612

The Early Rain of the Holy Spirit is received from the time we are converted or born again when we received “the earnest” or down payment of the Holy Spirit. Eph.1:13,14. It is imparted to give God’s people victory over sin and to bring them to sinless perfection.

The Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit is poured out only upon those who are sealed with the Latter Rain of truth. It is not given to help us in overcoming sin, but is designed to develop or to achieve growth in perfection. Ehes.4:30. It is the same Holy Spirit that seals us unto the day of redemption.

“Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.....It is now that we must keep

ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character." {5T 214.2}

"Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God--candidates for heaven." {5T 216.2}

In Deuteronomy 32:1,2, rain is likened unto doctrine or teaching. So the Latter Rain TRUTH OR DOCTRINE is what will prepare God's people, cleansing them from all impurity of the flesh and spirit, perfecting them in holiness in the fear of God. Then, only when their vessels are "cleaned and turned right side up", will they receive the Latter Rain POWER (showers) for service, witnessing and for the finishing of God's work in the Loud Cry of the third Angel. See Zechariah 10:1

It is the Latter Rain Power that will "finish the work and cut it short in righteousness; because a short (quick) work will the Lord make upon the earth." Rom.9:28.

The Latter Rain ripens the harvest, while the Loud Cry reaps the harvest. It is only when the Latter rain is poured out during the Loud Cry, and God's people are equipped with the knowledge and sanctification of truth, that they will be used as powerful tools for the finishing of the work.

➤ THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE IS A DIVIDING OR SEPARATING MESSAGE

When the Third Angel's message is proclaimed under the power of the Latter Rain/Loud Cry the world will be divided into only two camps.

The sheep and the Goats,

The Wise and the Foolish virgins,

The Wheat and the Tares,

The Sealed and the Marked

Jesus said, "Think not I am come send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." Mat.10:34.

"The gospel is a message of peace. Christianity is a system which, received and obeyed, would spread peace, harmony, and happiness throughout the earth. The religion of Christ will unite in close brotherhood all who accept its teachings. It was the mission of Jesus to reconcile men to God, and thus to one another. But the world at large are under the control of Satan, Christ's bitterest foe. The gospel presents to them principles

of life which are wholly at variance with their habits and desires, and they rise in rebellion against it. They hate the purity which reveals and condemns their sins, and they persecute and destroy those who would urge upon them its just and holy claims. It is in this sense--because the exalted truths it brings occasion hatred and strife--that the gospel is called a sword." {GC 46.3}

➤ THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES WILL BE COUNTERFEITED (Rev.16:13, 14)

For everything God has that is real, Satan has a counterfeit.

While God has three angels messages which will be empowered by His Holy Spirit to enlighten the earth with the glory of God, Satan has three unclean spirits like frogs, which come “out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Rev.16:13,14.

The dragon is mentioned in Revelation 12.

The Beast is mentioned in Revelation 13:1-9, and

The false Prophet is mentioned in Revelation 13:11—17. (Two horns like a lamb, later speaks as a Dragon and calls down fire from heaven).

They all speak lies from their mouths, calculated to deceive and destroy.

- THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE PRODUCES VICTORY OVER THE BEAST, HIS IMAGE, HIS MARK, HIS NAME AND HIS NUMBER (Rev.15:2-4)

Revelation 14: 9-11 gives a dire warning against the beast system. It is a warning message against worshipping the beast or receiving his mark. It identified true worship and the reception of the Seal of God as the alternative to receiving the mark of the Beast. Only those who heed the third angel's message and allow its sanctifying truth to become a part of their experience, will develop patience, and will keep the commandments of God, and have the Faith of Jesus. Victory over the beast can only be had by the sealing in of truth and righteousness, "a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—".4BC 1161 (1902). {LDE 219.4

- THESE MESSAGES ARE CONNECTED TO CHRIST'S WORK IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE. (Temple open in Heaven -Rev.11:19)

In Revelation 11:19, we are told that "the temple of God was opened in Heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament. Our minds are here directed to the Most Holy Place of the heavenly Sanctuary (Heb.8:1,2). This is where the cleansing of the sanctuary took place for the people of God at the end of the Jewish year. This event took place on the Day of Atonement or the Yom Kippur.

In the time of ancient Israel as the great crisis day approached, the trumpets were blown throughout the land. In Leviticus 23 we are told that ten days before the Day of Atonement the trumpets blew, and they blew for ten days, telling the children of Israel that they must make preparation for the great Day of Atonement. The children of Israel heard the blowing of the trumpets. They went through their homes; they washed their clothes; they went through their families and put things in order. Those who had sins unconfessed came to the sanctuary, laid their sins upon the head of the sin offering, and transferred their sins into the sanctuary, ready for the Day of Atonement.

So the Day of Atonement was the Day of Judgment for all Israel.

“For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord. :” Lev.16:30.

Those who did not participate in this work (through prayer, fasting, deep-heart searching and afflicting their souls) and who had not sent their sins beforehand to Judgment in the Most Holy Place were cut off from the camp of Israel.

➤ THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE CALLS ATTENTION TO THE HOUR OF GOD'S JUDGMENT AND THE JUDGMENT OF THE LIVING.

This message is closely bound up with Cleansing of the sanctuary and the blotting out of sin from the characters of God's people and from the Most Holy

Place of the sanctuary itself. Hence the message is of endtime prophetic application. According to 1 Peter 4:17, “Judgment begins at the house of God”(the Church). “And if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel?” Right now, we are living in the assessment phase of the judgment of the living, when our lives are being measured daily. Soon, during the Mark of the beast crisis, when the final test will be brought upon the world, our names will come up in the final review of the Judgment of the Living. If we overcome and pass the test, our names will not be blotted out of the Book of Life. (Rev.3:5);

Measuring the Church of God.— “The grand judgment is taking place, and has been going on for some time. Now the Lord says, Measure the temple and the worshipers thereof. Remember when you are walking the streets about your business, God is measuring you; when you are attending your household duties, when you engage in conversation, God is measuring you. Remember that your words and actions are being daguerreotyped [photographed] in the books of heaven, as the face is reproduced by the artist on the polished plate. . . .” {7BC 972.1}

- THE MESSAGE WILL PRODUCE A FINAL GENERATION OF LIVING VICTORIOUS SAINTS (Rev.12:17; 14:12)

This Final generation will prove that God’s commandments can be kept in the New Covenant

experience, from the heart willingly and lovingly, trusting God to work in them “both to will and to do of His good pleasure” Phil.2:12,13. They will prove that the everlasting covenant can “make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ:” Heb.13:20,21.

They will stand victorious with the Lamb, having the Father’s name (character) written in their forehead. (Rev.14:1,2) . They will have a most holy experience in their character. They, the remnant, will go through the seven last plagues after the close of human probation and will be delivered by the voice of God. Rev.12:17; Dan.12:1,2.

- AFTER THE THIRD ANGEL HAS FINISHED HIS WORK, THE TEMPLE IN HEAVEN IS CLOSED (Rev.15; Rev.22:11)

Revelation 15 describes this event of the closure of human probation. God is not the one who will close anyone’s probation but will simply announce that every man’s mind has been made up for or against Him. After that, there is nothing more God can do for guilty man. They would have exhausted all of God’s efforts to save them and another lifetime or opportunity will be of no avail. Moreover, their mind will be fixed and irreversible made up against God and His ways.

Right now, the temple is open in Heaven. Everyone now has an opportunity to make their decisions and to fix them in the direction of their choice. God will not force anyone, neither will He be the one to determine if

they will be saved or lost but they will. God will simply respect their choice and be forced to give them up to the consequences of their choice.Rev.22:14.

➤ THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE WILL PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE FOR THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST AND FOR TRANSLATION. (1 Thess.4:15-17; 1 Cor.15:51-56)

"The character building is to go on during the hours of probation. Day by day their actions are registered in the books of heaven, and they will in the great day of God be rewarded as their works have been. It will then be seen who receives the blessing. "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" (Revelation 22:14)." {FW 43.3}

"It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change. . . ." {FLB 169.2}

"...the third angel was pointing them to the most holy place, and those who had had an experience in the past messages were pointing them the way to the heavenly sanctuary. Many saw the perfect chain of truth in the

angels' messages, and gladly received them in their order, and followed Jesus by faith into the heavenly sanctuary. These messages were represented to me as an anchor to the people of God. Those who understand and receive them will be kept from being swept away by the many delusions of Satan." {EW 256.2}

CHAPTER 10

THE SHAKING

The Final Shaking of The Mark of the Beast Crisis mentioned in Revelation Chapter 13:11-17, will be the final test that the People of God will have before they are sealed and before probation closes for the entire world. However, God had given a promise to His final remnant to deliver them during this final crisis.

“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the

name of the city of my God, [which is] new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and [I will write upon him] my new name.” Rev.3:10-12.

This Shaking is also known as the Sifting which will purify the people of God, His Church.

“For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as [corn] is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth. All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.” Amos 9:9.

The Apostle Paul referred to this Shaking in Hebrews 12 in these words,

“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: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this [word], Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.” Hebrews 12: 25-27. (See also Hebrews 12:18-22).

Jesus clearly illustrated this shaking as the testing of the faith of His disciples.

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired [to have] you, that he may sift [you] as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” Luke22:31, 32.

God's people will be **tested by the Image of** the beast in the endtime—

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided. . . . [Revelation 13:11-17 quoted.] . . . This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast.” (Letter 11, 1890) {7BC 976.3}

This test will try the faith of God's Remnant with increasing pressure developing until they are threatened with death. “It is in a crisis that character is revealed.”

Shaking reveals content. All that can be shaken, will be shaken, that those things that cannot be shaken may remain.

In the parable of Matthew 25 when the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event.

Both parties were taken unawares; but **one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation.** So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God.

This great final test, which is the final shaking comes at the close of human probation, when it will be but too late.

God wants His people to prepare for the soon-coming crisis.

Prepared or unprepared, they must all meet it; and only those who have brought their lives into conformity to the divine standard, will stand firm at that time of test and trial. At that time, secular rulers will unite with ministers of religion to dictate in matters of conscience, then it will be seen who really fear and serve God.

Satan will use his three most successful strategies from the past to the maximum.

It will NOT be Health Reform, Dress Reform, Irreverence. They will be

Bribery, Deception , and Force.

Bribery, deception and force will be employed by this archrebel to shake the faith of God's loyal people.

Those whom he cannot **bribe** with inducements, favours, or promotions, he will seek to **deceive** through his counterfeit miracles and spiritualism.

And those whom he cannot deceive, he will ultimately compel with **force and threat of death**. Rev.13:13-15. John 16:2,3.

This is the crisis which God's commandment keeping people will face which will cause the final shaking among God's people. This brings them to the darkest and the blackest hour of this earth's history.

At this time many will **abandoned the truth and joined the ranks of opposition.**

Some will become the most **bitter enemies against God's people.** They face the wrath of the whole Christian world .

“God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer.”

“If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a work to do to overcome. . . . Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol.”

“Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus.

- They prize **something higher than the truth,** and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. Individuals are **tested and proved a length of time** to see if they will sacrifice their idols. . . .”

“Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.” Maranatha
43.3

Some of the many different events that will cause the shaking include

- the straight testimony,
- false doctrines,
- love of the world,
- the National Sunday Law, and
- the death decree.

THE STRAIGHT TESTIMONY (REV.3:14-18)

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it **would be caused by the straight testimony** called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans.”

Because a message is **straight, plain or pointed** DOES NOT make it wrong.

Because it is **not said the way** you or some one else would have said it, DOES NOT make it wrong.

Because it causes **opposition** to a significant number of people or a number of significant people DOES NOT make it wrong.

Because it **offends** others DOES NOT make it wrong.

Because it cuts across **a cherished idol or a practising sin** DOES NOT make it wrong.

WHEN GOD MOVES A PERSON TO GIVE A MESSAGE, THE MESSAGE WILL BE AND MUST BE GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF GOD.

“The word of faith and power was upon his (Elijah’s) lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and press back the tide of evil. And while he came to the people as a reprover of sin, his message offered the balm of Gilead to the sin-sick souls of all who desired to be healed. . . .” {CC 205.2}

“True love seeks first the honour of God and the salvation of souls. Those who have this love will not evade the truth to save themselves from the unpleasant results of plain speaking. When souls are in peril, God’s ministers will not consider self, but will speak the word given them to speak, refusing to excuse or palliate evil.” {PK 141.3}

“This (straight testimony) will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to **exalt the standard** and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and **this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.**” EW 270.2

When this company is mightily shaken.....**The numbers will be lessened.**

Some will have been shaken out and left by the way.

- The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it.

These were “left behind in darkness, and **their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth** and coming into the ranks.” See EW 271

The final warning message will draw many and will have effect.

“Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The **honest** who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them.”

“They had been **hungering and thirsting for truth**; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, “It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel.” EW 271.2. See also Joel 2:15-17; James 4:7-10; Zeph.2:1-3.

FALSE DOCTRINES (ACTS 20:26-30 ;2 PETER 2:1)

“Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of **false prophecy** in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much. “If thou hadst known,” said Christ, “even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.” TM 409.3.

The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God's people should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. There is reason to fear that they may not be clearly discriminating between truth and error.

“When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves to make sure that they have the truth, there will be **many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition and worship they know not what.**” 5T 707.1

“I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth **know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith.** They have **no just appreciation of the work for the present time.** When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, **upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance.** And there are many in the church who **take it for granted that they understand what they believe;** but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness.

“When separated from those of like faith and compelled to **stand singly and alone to explain**

their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and **a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom.**" 5T 707.2

"God will arouse His people; **if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them,** separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time." 5 T 707.3

"When the shaking comes, by the **introduction of false theories**, these surface readers, anchored nowhere, are like shifting sand. They slide into any position to suit the tenor of their feelings of bitterness. . . ." TM 112.

LOVE OF THE WORLD-1JOHN 2:15

The Sifting Instrument.—"The world is the instrument that sifts the church and tests the genuineness of its members. The world holds out inducements that, when accepted, place the believer where his life is not in harmony with his profession. . . .If you go forward toward heaven, the world will rub hard against you."

"At every step you will have to urge your way against Satan and his evil angels, and **against all who transgress God's law.** Earthly authorities will interpose. You will meet tribulations, bruising of the spirit, hard speeches, ridicule,

persecutions. Men will require your conformity to laws and customs that would render you disloyal to God. Here is where God's people find the cross in the way to life." (MS 3, 1885). 6BC 1102.6.

"The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth and to sacrifice for God and His cause. The angel said, "Think ye that any will be compelled to sacrifice? No, no. It must be a freewill offering. It will take all to buy the field." EW 50-51.

THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW

"Much so-called Christianity passes for genuine, faithful soundness, but it is because those who profess it have no persecution to endure for the truth's sake. When the day comes when the law of God is made void, and the church is sifted by the fiery trials that are to try all that live upon the earth, a great proportion of those who are supposed to be genuine will give heed to seducing spirits, and will turn traitors and betray sacred trusts.

"They will prove our very worst persecutors..... All who study their convenience, their pleasure, their enjoyment, will not stand in their trial." (RH June 8, 1897) 6BC 1065.1.

"For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as [corn] is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth." Amos 9:9.

Remember Jesus to Peter. See Luke 22:31,32.

“God is now sifting His people, testing their purposes and their motives. Many will be but as chaff--no wheat, no value in them.” 4T 51.1.

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light;

and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren.” GC 608.

“The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone.”

“The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges.” 5T 463.2.

“Soon God’s people will be tested by fiery trials, and **the great proportion** of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers.” 5 T 136.

“The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. **Every wind of doctrine will be blowing**..... The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5 T 80-81.

“When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Instead of being strengthened when brought into strait places, many prove that they are not living branches of the True Vine; they bore no fruit, and the husbandman taketh them away.” 2SM 368.1

THE DEATH DECREE (REV.13:15-17).

There are two decrees which should not be confused with each other. There are as follows:

THE FIRST DECREE (REV. 13 :11-17)

- Made by the image beast (U.S.A in Bible prophesy)

“ By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation (USA) will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near. {5T 451.1}

- The test before we are sealed. Rev.7:1-4.

“This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast (Letter 11, 1890). {7BC 976.3} SDABC. 7 :976 .

- Followed by every nation on the globe. Rev.13:3 .

“Foreign nations will follow the example of the

United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world." {6T 395.1}

- Contains the threat of death. Rev. 13:15.

"The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men." 5 Test. p. 81 .

- Test for the church before the loud cry. Ezek. 9.

"When trees without fruit are cut down as cumberers of the ground, when multitudes of false brethren are distinguished from the true, then the hidden ones will be revealed to view, and with hosannas range under the banner of Christ. Those who have been timid and self-distrustful will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David--willing to do and dare. The deeper the night for God's people, the more brilliant the stars. Satan will sorely harass the faithful; but, in the name of Jesus, they will come off more than conquerors. Then will the church of Christ appear "fair as

the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.....The seeds of truth that are being sown by missionary efforts will then spring up and blossom and bear fruit. Souls will receive the truth who will endure tribulation and praise God that they may suffer for Jesus. “ 5T 81-2 (See also 6 T 401 and SM .Bk.2 p. 380) .

THE UNIVERSAL DEATH DECREE

- Made after the close of probation .See EW 282, 34, 37 ; GC . 615 .
- Made by a world-wide legislature . EW 282 ; PK . 512 .
- People given liberty to kill saints . GC 615 .
- Cannot be made before probation closes . GC 610-611 .
- Marks the commencement of the time of Jacob’s trouble . EW 36, 37 .

Satan has said,

“When death shall be made the penalty of violating our sabbath, then many who are now ranked with commandment keepers will come over to our side.” TM 473.1.

“The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have

yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be,

rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness.” PK 188.1.

- “In the last vision given me, I was shown the startling fact that **but a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved.** Many will get above the simplicity of the work. They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and become spiritually dead. The humble, self-sacrificing followers of Jesus will pass on to perfection, leaving behind the indifferent and lovers of the world.” 1T 608.3.
- “As trials thicken around us, **both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks....** Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us.” 6T 400.
- “Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord’s army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God.” 8 T 41.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

“When God's wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? Now is the time for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching.

“To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few--this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.” 5T 136.2.

“Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God.”

“The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement. We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises.” GC 622.1.

The “time of trouble, such as never was,” is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an

experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain. 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.

In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God. "Though Noah, Daniel, and Job" were in the land, "as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness." Ezekiel 14:20. {GC 622.4}

"The "time of trouble, such as never was," is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain. 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. In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God. "Though Noah, Daniel, and Job" were in the land, "as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness." Ezekiel 14:20.

"Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become

perfect in Christ." GC 622-623.

"It is natural for the wrongdoer to hold the messengers of God responsible for the calamities that come as the sure result of a departure from the way of righteousness. Those who place themselves in Satan's power are unable to see things as God sees them. When the mirror of truth is held up before them, they become indignant at the thought of receiving reproof. Blinded by sin, they refuse to repent; they feel that God's servants have turned against them and are worthy of severest censure." {PK 139.4}

These are the events which will cause a shaking amongst God's people. May the people of God prepare for such a trying hour.

CHAPTER 11

The Work of the Final Loud Cry Angel of Revelation 18

Timing & Nature of The Loud Cry of the Third Angel

Those who believe in the truth for this time believe that the angel of Revelation will join the third angel at the right time and after the national Sunday law decree.

At that time the earth will be lightened with the Glory of God (Character of God), which will be the present truth for that time. It will penetrate everywhere.

One of the main characteristics of present truth is here beautifully described,

“Truth is **straight**, **plain**, **clear**, and **stands out boldly** in its own defense.” EW 96

A careful comparison of Revelation 13: 11-17 with Revelation 18:1-5 reveal that it is only when Satan has built up his false

Babylonian system of worship and has fallen, that the people of God go forth to declare with a Loud Cry that Babylon has fallen, after Babylon has fallen, thus exposing the sins of Babylon.

Revelation 13 describes Protestant America from the time of its rise to the time it unites church and state and enforces the false Sabbath by a national decree.

- “And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast ; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live .” Revelation 13 :13, 14.
- It is the fire from heaven, the miracle working power of devils (compare Revelation 16 :13, 14), that deceives men, causing them to make an image to the beast . The Bible symbolism indicates that this fire from heaven is a religious deception - a great, false religious revival . This is what causes Protestant America to form an image to the beast, and to decree that all men should worship it.

As apostasy led the early church to form the papal system (the beast), so apostasy will cause the Protestant church to form an image to the beast .

Just as Satan will counterfeit the coming of Christ, so prophecy declares that he will counterfeit the great latter rain revival of Revelation 18 :1-5 .

And just as the false Christ comes before the true, so the false revival comes before the latter rain . It is the false, and not the true latter rain, which causes America to bring in the Sunday law decree .

Revelation 18 : 1-5 plainly states,

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory . And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird . For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues . For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”

Simply by remaining in her, religious people automatically become partakers of her sins.

The guilt of Babylon is imputed to them, just as surely as remaining in Christ causes the righteousness and merits of Christ to be imputed to the believer. Those who do not “come out of her” are responsible and equally as guilty as Babylon, hence they incur the same wrath of God upon them. (Rev.18:24).

The angel comes to announce the complete moral fall of Babylon. Three evidences of her ultimate apostasy are given:

1. She has “become the habitation of devils, and, the hold of every foul spirit.” This proves that the angel of Revelation 18 comes after the false, spiritualistic revival of Revelation 13:13, 14.
2. **“The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her.”** This proves that when the angel comes with his message, the political powers have already united with the church.
3. **“For her sins have reached unto heaven.”** This proves that the angel gives his message after the measure of Babylon’s guilt is full.

The great false revival of Revelation 13 :13, 14 comes before the true manifestation of God’s power in Revelation 18 :1-5. It is the false revival which causes America to pass the National Sunday law decree .

Then the angel of Revelation 18 announces that the ultimate apostasy is reached by -the union of the church and the state. It is then that the sins of Babylon are laid open.

“These announcements, uniting with the third angel’s message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth. Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that “all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond” (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally

be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts." {GC 604.2}

"A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With every rejection of truth the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches." {GC 603.2}

The final warning message of the third Angel will be given before the closure of human probation on planet earth, when every mind will be fully made up for or against God. Every one will either receive the seal of God in their foreheads or the mark of the beast in their foreheads or in their right hand. The world will then be divided into two classes at that time. Rev. 14:9-12.

When God has a chosen and purified ministry in the initial Loud Cry servants, He will through them, finish the work and cut it short in righteousness. Just like Gideon's army of the 300 well called, chosen and faithful were used by God to gain the victory over the 145000 Midianites, the Loud Cry servants will be qualified to get the victory over the beast, the world, the flesh and the devil at that time. They will call God's true people out of Babylon to form the final 144000 remnant by the time probation closes for the world at large.

They will be the first ones to receive the Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit, empowering them to proclaim the Loud Cry message with power, force and clarity, warning the world before Christ comes the second time.

They will be the first ones to be sealed and settled into the truth, intellectually and spiritually, so that they cannot be made to move.

“As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through **humble instruments**, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. **The laborers** will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions.”

“Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power - all will be unmasked.” GC 606

“The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power - all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred.” GC 606

So when the time comes for the loud cry to be given, God's servants will unmask "the fearful results of enforcing the law by civil authority" and they will "expose the sins of Babylon", lightening the earth with the knowledge of His character (glory).

"Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven." GC 606

Another passage of scripture evidence which gives us the sequence when the Loud cry angel will come in to expose Babylon, is found in Daniel 11: 40-44. The king of the north represents the Papal anti-Christ and the tidings from the east and north represent the latter rain-loud cry. Bible prophecy tells us that the king of the north sweeps back to world-supremacy. Many among God's people (the glorious land) are at that time swept away by the king of the north (Verse 41).

The wealth of spiritual Egypt is brought under his control. Only after all this happens is the 'but' of Verse 44 mentioned: "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him. . . " When exactly does the latter rain-loud cry message of the third angel surprise the king of the north? After she has made her conquests over those nations which are described in Verses 41-43, after the mighty sifting among God's people.

Just as Nebuchadnezzar became full of fury and went forth to destroy the three worthies, even so the king of the north will go forth with fury to throw the “three worthies” (the people represented by the three angel messages) into the fire of great persecution because they refuse to worship the image of Revelation 13.

Isaiah, the Gospel prophet clearly understood this sequence of events and therefore described it in Isaiah 59:19 to Isaiah 60 :3

“So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him . . . And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”

Just as in Daniel 11:40-44, God waits until the hour of utmost extremity before He springs His surprise attack on the enemy, so it is in the darkest hour of earth’s history that He causes His light to shine.

The king of the north comes in like a flood (Verse 40), he enters the glorious land (Verse 41), his triumph seems certain (Verses 42-43). Then the Spirit of God lifts up the standard against him. (Verse 44).

Isaiah even goes on to show what that standard is:

“And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My Spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the Lord,

from henceforth and for ever.” Verses 20, 21.

This is also stated in Isaiah 60:1-3:

“Arise, shine ; for thy light is come, and the glory of the .Lord is risen upon thee . For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people : but the Lord shall arise upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.” Isaiah teaches us that when the enemy comes in like a flood, then the Spirit of God will seal His people and thereby lighten the earth with His glory.”

Psalm 119:126 aptly expresses it this way: “It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law.”

So when the sins of Babylon have reach unto heaven, by their making void God’s law through legislation, the angel will descend to lighten the earth . When the king of the north comes in like a flood and bring the world under his banner, then tidings from the east and the north break forth to trouble him .

When the enemy comes in like a flood (which is a Biblical symbol of persecution), then the Spirit of the Lord will lift up the standard and cause God’s glory to be seen upon His people.

(See also the comparison between Ezekiel 43 :1-3 compared with Revelation 7 :2)

“...When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd’s voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and **many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow**

the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. No one of the true believers will say: "I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas." The testimony of one and all will be: "I cleave unto Christ; I rejoice in Him as my personal Saviour.....Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord." {6T 401.1} {See also 6T 400.3,

Review and Herald Dec 24, 1889 and Great Controversy page 611-612)

The sealing of God's people is brought to view in Ezekiel 9, Ezekiel 43, and Revelation 7. Ezekiel says:

"And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters : and the earth shined with his glory ." Ezekiel 43 :2.

Ezekiel tells us that the glory came by way of the east. This is the very same expression that is used in Revelation 7 :2 : "I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God ."

The question then is this? What is the relationship between this seal which rises like the sun and Revelation 18:1 ?

Compare the two Scriptures : Ezekiel 43 :2 and Revelation 18 :1

“And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.” Ezekiel 43:2.

“And after these things I saw another angel (came from the way of the east: and his voice) come down from heaven, having great power; (was like a noise of many waters:) and the earth was lightened with his glory (shined with his glory).“ Verses merged.

So the seal, rising like the sun in the east, lightens the earth with the glory of God. The sealing is likened to the rising sun. It is the rising of the sun (the ‘sealing’) which fills the earth with light and glory.

Just as physical light and glory come from the sun rising upon the earth, so the light and glory of the loud cry comes from the seal of the living God.

The loud Cry will have a very powerful effect against the Mark and Image to the Beast system, it will arouse their most bitter antagonism but will be triumphantly victorious. Dan.11:43. Alleluyah.

CHAPTER 12

THE NATURE OF CHRIST

The correct understanding of the Nature of Jesus Christ is essential and is directly connected to and part of the Third Angel's Message IN VERITY which the Lord in His great mercy sent to the church in the year 1888. When the 1888 message was rejected, the correct understanding of the nature of Christ, when He became a man, was also changed and rejected.

The man Jesus Christ was FULLY GOD and FULLY MAN in one person.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.....And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us..” John 1:1,14.

Jesus Christ, before His incarnation, was in the form (morphé) and nature of God. He was equal with God, and was of the same substance and essence of God. (Phil.2:5-7). He had by inheritance all the prerogatives, privileges, attributes and abilities as God. As the Son of God, he had the same life (original, unborrowed, underived), nature, image, character and likeness of God.

He was “ the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image” of the Father’s person. Hebrews 1:3.

He was the God of the Old Testament who related to the patriarchs and the prophets. He was the Jehovah of the Old Testament who became the Jesus Christ in the new Testament.

He said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58) and “I and my Father are one”. (John 10:30). See also 1 Cor.10: 3,4,9,10.

“The world’s Redeemer was equal with God. His authority was as the authority of God. He declared that he had no existence separate from the Father. The authority by which he spoke, and wrought miracles, was expressly his own, yet he assures us that he and the Father are one.”--The Review and Herald, Jan. 7, 1890, p. 1.

“Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the source and sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship.--Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 305.

“Jehovah is the name given to Christ.” {7ABC 439.2}

This same Jehovah of the O.T , became a man, laid aside the form of God which was His by right, and took on the form and nature of man. He was limited to the finite powers, nature and abilities as man. He fully identified with man.

It makes all the difference in the world whether Jesus was truly human or not. If He were not fully human as we are, then His beautiful life was not made from the same material that we are, nor burdened with the same limitations and stresses. Therefore His example would have little meaning.

Furthermore, how we understand Jesus' humanity has much to do with our own character development. IT REALLY MATTERS HOW WE REGARD JESUS.

In Selected Messages, Book 1,page 244, we are clearly told,

“The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. Christ was a real man..”

Jesus was no astronaut. No protective space suit –either visible or invisible –separated Him from our world and his friends.

“For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [are] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.” Heb.2:11.

“Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.” DA 664.

➤ HEBREWS 2:14-18.

“Christ did not make-believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature. “As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same.” He was the son of Mary; He was of the seed of David according to human descent. He is declared to be a man, even the Man Christ Jesus. “This man,” writes Paul, “was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honor than the house.” Lift Him Up page 74.

➤ ROMANS 1:2, 3.

The Scriptures not only says that Christ “was made flesh,” but that He was “made of the seed of David according to the flesh.” Romans 1:3. He was not only born of the line of David, but born of the flesh of the line of David.

In addition, He partook of the flesh the same way as all mankind partakes of it.

“God sent forth His Son made of a woman.” Gal.4:4.

Christ did in reality partake of the nature of Mary. Since Mary possessed the flesh that is akin to us all, and since Jesus was made of the flesh of such a woman, He was made to possess a flesh that is akin to the flesh of us all.

“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same nature” Heb.2:14. R.S.V.

➤ ROMANS 8:3

In spite of the fact that Christ appeared on earth possessing the fallen nature of man, He lived a victorious life, and offered to God on our behalf the sacrifice of a spotless life.

It was our fallen flesh that was in need of power to live in harmony with the divine will. But Christ coming to dwell in our fallen flesh kept perfectly the law of God.

Thus Jesus condemned sin in the flesh-in our flesh. He did not condemn us (He came to save us); but He condemned sin in us. He did this while having the same flesh and blood as those He came to save.

➤ COLOSSIANS 1:27 AND 1 TIMOTHY 3:16.

When Christ is living in us, Satan is a completely vanquished foe. Christ can defeat sin in our flesh today just as He defeated sin in our flesh two thousand years ago. THIS IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS.

“CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY” and that “GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH”. Col.1:27 and 1Tim 3:16.

➤ HEBREWS 2:10.

In contrast to Adam at Creation, Christ was made subject to suffering and death. Adam as he stood in Eden, was in no way subject to suffering and death. Since Christ was made “in all things like unto His brethren,” who are subject to suffering and death, it behoved Christ to be one with us in suffering and death.

Then also, “He (Christ) Himself hath suffered being tempted”. In no sense did the unfallen Adam suffered from temptation. His temptation involved no suffering. Yet was Christ was made so much like us that He experienced all our sufferings in temptation.

➤ HEBREWS 4:15,16.

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

“Of the bitterness that falls to the lot of humanity, there was no part which Christ did not taste. There were those who tried to cast contempt upon Him because of His birth, and even in His childhood He had to meet their scornful looks and evil whisperings. If He had responded by an impatient word or look, if He had conceded to His brothers by even one wrong act, He would have failed of being a perfect example. Thus He would have failed of carrying out the plan for our redemption. Had He even admitted that there could be an excuse for sin, Satan would have triumphed, and the world would have been lost. This is why the tempter worked to make His life as trying as possible, that He might be led to sin.” {DA 88.2}

Made in all points like unto us, and having the infirmities

and weaknesses of our flesh, Christ said of Himself, “ I can of mine own self do nothing.” John 5:30. This demonstrates that as pertaining to the flesh, He was on an equal footing with us, of whom Christ said, “Without Me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5.

“It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity...” Desire Of Ages page 49

“God permitted His Son to come, a helpless babe, subject to the weakness of humanity. He permitted Him to meet life's peril in common with every human soul, to fight the battle as every child of humanity must fight it, at the risk of failure and eternal loss.” {DA 49.1}

“In our humanity, Christ was to redeem Adam's failure. But when Adam was assailed by the tempter, none of the effects of sin were upon him.... He stood in the strength of perfect manhood, possessing the full vigor of mind and body. He was surrounded with the glories of Eden, and was in daily communion with heavenly beings. It was not thus with Jesus when He entered the wilderness to cope with Satan. For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental

power, and in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation." {DA 117.1}

"Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam's position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured." {DA 117.2}

"Christ was not in as favorable a position in the desolate wilderness to endure the temptations of Satan as was Adam when he was tempted in Eden. The Son of God humbled Himself and took man's nature after the race had wandered four thousand years from Eden, and from their original state of purity and uprightness. Sin had been making its terrible marks upon the race for ages; and physical, mental, and moral degeneracy prevailed throughout the human family." {ISM 267.1}

"Christ bore the sins and infirmities of the race as they existed when He came to the earth to help man. In behalf of the race, with the weaknesses of fallen man upon Him, He was to stand the

temptations of Satan upon all points wherewith man would be assailed." {1SM 267.3}

Christ laid aside His Divine prerogatives as God and functioned as a man totally depending on God His Father as if He were never God before.

He had an advantage because of His superior birth, but He never used that advantage to work any miracles for Himself. But He depended upon God to work in and through Him the mighty works and to reveal divine truths. John 5:19; See also 1 John 4:2, 3; 2 John 9,7.

“Christ was tempted by Satan in a hundredfold severer manner than was Adam, and under circumstances in every way more trying. The deceiver presented himself as an angel of light, but Christ withstood his temptations. He redeemed Adam's disgraceful fall, and saved the world. {YI, June 2, 1898 par. 7}

HOW WAS THIS POSSIBLE?

“Christ suffered keenly under abuse and insult. At the hands of the beings whom He had created, and for whom He was making an infinite sacrifice, He received every indignity. And He suffered in proportion to the perfection of His holiness and His hatred of sin. His trial by men who acted as fiends was to Him a perpetual sacrifice. To be surrounded by human beings under the control of Satan was revolting to Him. And He knew that in a moment, by the flashing forth of His divine

power, He could lay His cruel tormentors in the dust. This made the trial the harder to bear.” {DA 700.3}

“Thus when Christ was treated with contempt, there came to Him a strong temptation to manifest His divine character. By a word, by a look, He could compel His persecutors to confess that He was Lord above kings and rulers, priests and temple. But it was His difficult task to keep to the position He had chosen as one with humanity.” {DA 700.4}

“It was a difficult task for the Prince of life to carry out the plan which He had undertaken for the salvation of man, in clothing His divinity with humanity. He had received honor in the heavenly courts, and was familiar with absolute power. It was as difficult for Him to keep the level of humanity as for men to rise above the low level of their depraved natures, and be partakers of the divine nature.” {7BC 930.1}

“Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.” {DA 664.4}

Satan tried in every way possible to force Christ to reveal His divine nature and power to deliver Himself. Satan tried through temptations to get Christ to take Himself out of His Father’s hand, and respond by using His own divine

nature that He had laid aside.

“While as a member of the human family He was mortal, as God He was the fountain of life for the world. He could have withstood the advances of death, and refused to come under its dominion; but voluntarily He laid down His life, that He might bring life and immortality to light.”
DA 484.

Satan tempts the Christian the same way he tempted Christ. In both cases, he is trying to force the tempted ones to reveal their natural natures. The difference is that our natural spiritual nature is wicked, so we do not want to reveal it. Christ natural spiritual nature was divine, so He desired to reveal it. But both must rely on surrender to divine control out of and above themselves—Christ to His Father and us to Christ.

Christ surrender led Him to Calvary and apparent defeat from every human standpoint. Our surrender leads us to eternal life and peace with God.

But there is one vast difference Christ’s temptation and ours. If we fail, “.we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous.”¹ John 2:1. If Jesus had failed, all would have been lost! The entire plan of redemption would have failed and satan would have triumphed.

“In the wilderness of temptation the destiny of the human race had been at stake. Christ was then conqueror. Now the tempter had come for the last fearful struggle. For this he had been preparing during the three years of Christ’s

ministry. Everything was at stake with him. If he failed here, his hope of mastery was lost; the kingdoms of the world would finally become Christ's; he himself would be overthrown and cast out. But if Christ could be overcome, the earth would become Satan's kingdom, and the human race would be forever in his power. With the issues of the conflict before Him, Christ's soul was filled with dread of separation from God. Satan told Him that if He became the surety for a sinful world, the separation would be eternal. He would be identified with Satan's kingdom, and would nevermore be one with God." {DA 686.5}

"Through the victory of Christ the same advantages that he had are provided for man; for he may be a partaker of a power out of and above himself, even a partaker of the divine nature, by which he may overcome the corruption that is in the world through lust. In human nature Christ developed a perfect character. "For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted." "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and

supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; tho he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." {ST, January 16, 1896 par. 6}

"Christ's overcoming and obedience is that of a true human being. In our conclusions, we make many mistakes because of our erroneous views of the human nature of our Lord. When we give to His human nature a power that it is not possible for man to have in his conflicts with Satan, we destroy the completeness of His humanity. His imputed grace and power He gives to all who receive Him by faith. {7BC 929.5}

"The obedience of Christ to His Father was the same obedience that is required of man. Man cannot overcome Satan's temptations without divine power to combine with his instrumentality. So with Jesus Christ; He could lay hold of divine power. He came not to our world to give the obedience of a lesser God to a greater, but as a man to obey God's holy law, and in this way He is our example. The Lord Jesus came to our world, not to reveal what a God could do, but what a man could do, through faith in God's power to help in every emergency. Man is, through faith, to be a partaker in the divine nature, and to overcome every temptation wherewith he is beset." {7BC 929.6}

Therefore, “The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. Christ was a real man..” 1 SM.p.244.

This understanding of the Nature of Christ was a part of the 1888 most precious message the Lord sent to the church and it is also called the third angel’s message IN VERITY. When this message and experience becomes a part of our own experience, God will accomplish His work through His final remnant and thus bring the great controversy between Christ and satan to a close, and usher in the second coming of Christ.

CHAPTER 13

THE MIND OF CHRIST

“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of [his] time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.” 1 Peter 4:1, 2.

The Bible tells us that **GOD HAS A FORM**. A form like Jesus.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Phil.2:5-8.*

Scripture also tells us that **GOD HAS A SHAPE.**

“And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.” John 5:37

Then also we are told that **GOD HAS A FACE .**

“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow [was] upon his head, and his face [was] as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire..” Rev.10:1.

“And they shall see his face; and his name [shall be] in their foreheads.” Rev.22:4;

“Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 18:10.

In addition, the Bible states that the **HANDS** OF THE LORD ARE NOT SHORT NEITHER HIS **EARS** HEAVY THAT HE CANNOT HEAR....Isaiah 59:2,3.

Ezekiel’s vision of God, he saw uplifted high above the throne, above the angels, and principalities and powers the Form of a man, whom the Bible says was made in the image and likeness of God.Gen.1:26.

“And above the firmament that [was] over their heads [was] the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne [was] the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.” Ezek.1:26.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

God gave His Son to be one with the huMAN family. To take on their form and nature, to identify with and become one of them FOREVER. Heb.2:14-18. He did not lend us His Son, He gave Him to the human race to be one of them. Hence ‘Immanuel’ means “God with us”.

“He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. This is the pledge that God will fulfill His word.” DA 25.

Christ so blended his divinity with humanity that they were no longer two but one . A one that could never be divided into two again. Heb.2:11. He lived a victorious life and died for us and as us.

Hence the Apostle Paul says, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” Phil. 2:5.

This was no ordinary mind that is here mentioned, but was a MYSTERIOUS BLEND of the human and the Divine in one. IT WAS A BLEND OF THE HUMAN AND THE DIVINE.

“Such a union existed in the nature of Christ, who was the Son of God and the Son of man. Thus it is true of the Bible, as it was of Christ, that

“the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” John 1:14. {GC v.4} (SOP comments John 1:14.

“They (the disciples) were to keep distinctly before their minds the beauty and majesty of His life, the perfect harmony of all His attributes, and the mysterious union of the divine and human in His nature. . . . His visible ascent from the world was in harmony with the meekness and quiet of His life.” {AG 49.4}

“He veiled his divinity with the garb of humanity, but He did not part with His divinity. A divine-human saviour, He came to stand at the head of the fallen race, to share in their experience from childhood to manhood. That human beings might be partakers of the divine nature, He came to this earth, and lived a life of perfect obedience.--Ibid., June 15, 1905. {7ABC 444.6}

“In Christ, divinity and humanity were combined. Divinity was not degraded to humanity; divinity held its place, but humanity by being united to divinity, withstood the fiercest test of temptation in the wilderness.” {7ABC 445.1}

When He blended His divinity with humanity, IT WAS A NEW CREATION IN THE UNIVERSE OF GOD. 2 Cor.5:17

It was not a Divine mind , neither was it a human mind. What was it? IT WAS A DIVINE-HUMAN MIND.

The human mind is an invisible and spiritual organ. It is

our inner capacity to receive and respond to God. Man is composed of spirit, soul and body. 1 Thess. 5:23 (a spiritual, social and physical being). It is in the human mind and spirit that the human identity and character experiences are stored. This is what makes us unique individuals in the universe.

Christ condescended to become a real man, having a human identity and personhood, and developed His own character experiences and faith while in sinful fallen flesh. He actually became one of us, entering into our human life experience, and blending His divinity with humanity to become one with us. Hebrews 4:15,16.

In this way he developed a sinless mind in sinful flesh and became an example of us and to us. Hebrews 2:14-18. Through this means God is now acquainted with the feelings of our infirmities by experience. This was a unique and first time experience for the Godhead. Phil.2:5. The Second person of the Godhead becoming a man and sharing in the experiences of humanity, developing a mind, character and human identity on earth, all the while still being God.

This mind or character was formed at the incarnation when Christ became a creature. 1 John 5:20. From his birth to the cross the mind of Christ was formed. It was a self-emptying mind, a mind that kept self from asserting itself, that kept self under. (A.T.Jones, 1895).

This mind of Christ was full of Self-surrender, Self-sacrificing, Self-abnegation, Self-denying, Self-crucifixion, Self-humiliation (not exaltation), and Unselfish service for others. A mind of humiliation

Down– it’s the direction none of us want to go.

To go down.....we want to go up

To lose.....we want to win.

To descend low.....we want to rise high

To be weak....we want to be seen as strong.

To be poor.....we want to be rich.

Jesus understood this principle clearly He said,

“He that humbleth himself shall be exalted” Luke 14:11.

“He that would be first must be last”. Mat.19:30; 20:16.

“He that would be chief must be least of all.” Luke 7:28.

“He that would be greatest must be servant of all.” Mat.18:4;
20:26-28.

THE VERY PURPOSE OF THE THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE IN VERITY IS TO “LAY THE GLORY OF MAN IN THE DUST” AND ALLOW GOD TO DO FOR MAN THAT WHICH HE CANNOT POSSIBLY DO FOR HIMSELF.

When we compare the mind of satan with the mind of Christ in Isaiah 14:12-15 vs Phil. 2:5-11, we find some striking differences.

He, satan, wanted to ascend, to exalt, to sit, to be...in the place of God and to be above God. However, Christ humbled Himself, made Himself of no reputation, took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the

likeness of men, was obedient unto death, even the death on the cross. Philipians 2:5-11.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

The Scripture says of Satan, (vs 15)... “Yet thou shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”

But with reference to Christ, it says... “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philipian 2:9-11.

Amazing love. He who occupied the highest position in the universe, went down, humbled himself. Not by force or defeat, but by choice but willingly. It makes no sense to the natural way of thinking. Paul calls it a mystery, the mystery of his will, the mystery of godliness. See 1 Timothy 3:16. It is not called a mystery because God is deliberately hiding it from us! But simply because we don't understand it, we just don't get it, seems foolish to us, we can't fathom it. 1 Cor.2:9,10. But God did it in Christ for us. He willingly chose to descend to the very lowest place in all the universe (the cross). Phil.2:8.

“The story of Bethlehem is an exhaustless theme. In it is hidden “the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God.” Romans 11:33. We marvel at the Saviour's sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger, and the companionship of adoring

angels for the beasts of the stall. Human pride and self-sufficiency stand rebuked in His presence. Yet this was but the beginning of His wonderful condescension. It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life." DA 49.

God the Son literally did not regard his position of equality with God, the Father to be of greater value than our salvation or as something to keep grasping onto. Phil.2:6.

As Ty Gibson said, "He would rather give up himself and cease to live at all, than to let us perish in our sin. This was no self-centred calculation, no risk-free guarantee of return. He moved from his high throne to the edge of heaven and plunged himself into our dark world." See Ty Gibson's Book "An Endless Falling in Love." Rom.8:32.

He who was God essentially and in the highest sense , literally became a baby made of the dust of the ground. Gal.4:4. This is why the question was asked, "what is man that thou art mindful of him and the Son of man that thou visitest him." Heb.2.

GOD' S PLAN AT CREATION

“When Adam came from the Creator's hand, he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a likeness to his Maker. “God created man in His own image” (Genesis 1:27), and it was His purpose that the longer man lived the more fully he should reveal this image--the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator. By infinite love and mercy the plan of salvation had been devised, and a life of probation was granted. To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized--this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life.” Education page 15

GOD' S PLAN IN REDEMPTION

“Satan in his efforts to deceive and tempt our race had thought to frustrate the divine plan in man's creation; but Christ now asks that this plan be carried into effect as if man had never fallen. He asks for His people not only pardon and justification, full and complete, but a share in His glory and a seat upon His throne.” GC 484.

“By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man;

but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken." DA pg.25.

EVEN EARTH ITSELF WILL BE EXALTED

"The work of redemption will be complete. In the place where sin abounded, God's grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honored above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died,--here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall be with men, "and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God." And through endless ages as the redeemed walk in the light of the Lord, they will praise Him for His unspeakable Gift,--Immanuel, "God with us." {DA 26.3}

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

"The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. Christ was a real man; He gave proof of His humility in becoming a man. Yet He was

God in the flesh. When we approach this subject, we would do well to heed the words spoken by Christ to Moses at the burning bush, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place where on thou standest is holy ground." We should come to this study with the humility of a learner, with a contrite heart. And the study of the incarnation of Christ is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth.--The Youth's Instructor, Oct. 13, 1898. {7ABC 443.1}

"The only plan that could be devised to save the human race was that which called for the incarnation, humiliation, and crucifixion of the Son of God, the Majesty of heaven. After the plan of salvation was devised, Satan could have no ground upon which to found his suggestion that God, because so great, could care nothing for so insignificant a creature as man."--The Signs of the Times, Jan. 20, 1890. {7ABC 443.2}

"In contemplating the incarnation of Christ in humanity, we stand baffled before an unfathomable mystery, that the human mind cannot comprehend. The more we reflect upon it, the more amazing does it appear. How wide is the contrast between the divinity of Christ and the helpless infant in Bethlehem's manger! How can we span the distance between the mighty God and a helpless child? And yet the Creator of worlds, He in whom was the fullness of the Godhead bodily, was manifest in the helpless babe in the manger. Far higher than any of the

angels, equal with the Father in dignity and glory, and yet wearing the garb of humanity! Divinity and humanity were mysteriously combined, and man and god became one. It is in this union that we find the hope of our fallen race. Looking upon Christ in humanity, we look upon God, and see in Him the brightness of His glory, the express image of His person."--The Signs of the Times, July 30, 1896. {7ABC 443.3}

"That God should thus be manifest in the flesh is indeed a mystery; and without the help of the Holy Spirit we cannot hope to comprehend this subject. The most humbling lesson that man has to learn is the nothingness of human wisdom, and the folly of trying, by his own unaided efforts, to find out God."--The Review and Herald, April 5, 1906. {7ABC 444.2}

"It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity..... He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life." DA 49

"It was not thus with Jesus when He entered the wilderness to cope with Satan. For four thousand years the race had been decreasing

in physical strength, in mental power, and in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succour us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured." DA 117.2

"Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person--the man Christ Jesus. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. . . ." {7ABC 444.3}

"But although Christ's divine glory was for a time veiled and eclipsed by His assuming humanity, yet He did not cease to be God when He became man. The human did not take the place of the divine, nor the divine of the human. This is the mystery of godliness. The two expressions human and divine were, in Christ, closely and inseparably one, and yet they had a distinct individuality. Though Christ humbled Himself to become man, the Godhead was still His own. His Deity could not be lost while He stood faithful and true to His loyalty..... He was ready to take once more His divine glory when His work on earth was done." ST, May 10, 1899 par. 11

“This is a great mystery, a mystery that will not be fully, completely understood in all its greatness until the translation of the redeemed shall take place. Then the power and greatness and efficacy of the gift of God to man will be understood. But the enemy is determined that this gift shall be so mystified that it will become as nothingness.”--The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1113. {7ABC 444.4}

“We cannot explain the great mystery of the plan of redemption. Jesus took upon himself humanity, that He might reach humanity; but we cannot explain how divinity was clothed with humanity. An angel would not have known how to sympathize with fallen man, but Christ came to the world and suffered all our temptations, and carried all our griefs.”--The Review and Herald, Oct. 1, 1889. {7ABC 444.5}

MIRACULOUS UNION OF HUMAN AND DIVINE

“Laying aside His royal robe and kingly crown, Christ clothed His divinity with humanity, that human beings might be raised from their degradation and placed on vantage-ground. Christ could not have come to this earth with the glory that he had in the heavenly courts. Sinful human beings could not have borne the sight. He veiled his divinity with the garb of humanity, but He did not part with His divinity. A divine-human saviour, He came to stand at the head of the fallen race, to share in their

experience from childhood to manhood. That human beings might be partakers of the divine nature, He came to this earth, and lived a life of perfect obedience."--Ibid., June 15, 1905. {7ABC 444.6}

"Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person--the man Christ Jesus. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. When Christ was crucified, it was His human nature that died. Deity did not sink and die; that would have been impossible.--The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1113. {7ABC 446.2}

"In Christ, divinity and humanity were combined. Divinity was not degraded to humanity; divinity held its place, but humanity by being united to divinity, withstood the fiercest test of temptation in the wilderness....But the plan of God, devised for the salvation of man, provided that Christ should know hunger, and poverty, and every phase of man's experience.--Ibid., Feb. 18, 1890." 7ABC 445.1

"The more we think about Christ's becoming a babe here on earth, the more wonderful it appears. How can it be that the helpless babe in Bethlehem's manger is still the divine Son of God? Though we cannot understand it, we can believe that He who made the worlds, for our sakes became a helpless babe. Though higher

than any of the angels, though as great as the Father on the throne of heaven he became one with us. In Him God and man became one, and it is in this fact that we find the hope of our fallen race. Looking upon Christ in the flesh, we look upon God in humanity, and see in Him the brightness of divine glory, the express image of God the Father.--The Youth's Instructor, Nov. 21, 1895. 7ABC 445.2

“No one, looking upon the childlike countenance, shining with animation, could say that Christ was just like other children. He was God in human flesh. When urged by His companions to do wrong, divinity flashed through humanity, and He refused decidedly. In a moment He distinguished between right and wrong, and placed sin in the light of God's commands, holding up the law as a mirror which reflected light upon wrong.--Ibid., Sept. 8, 1898. {7ABC 445.3}

“As a member of the human family He was mortal, but as a God He was the fountain of life to the world. He could, in His divine person, ever have withstood the advances of death, and refused to come under its dominion; but He voluntarily laid down His life, that in so doing He might give life and bring immortality to light. . . . What humility was this! It amazed angels. The tongue can never describe it; the imagination cannot take it in. The eternal Word consented to be made flesh! God became man!”--The

Review and Herald, July 5, 1887. {7ABC 445.4}

“The apostle would call our attention from ourselves to the Author of our salvation. He presents before us His two natures, divine and human. . . . He voluntarily assumed human nature. It was his own act, and by His own consent. He clothed His divinity with humanity. He was all the while as God, but He did not appear as God. He veiled the demonstrations of Deity which had commanded the homage, and called forth the admiration of the universe of God. He was God while upon earth, but He divested Himself of the form of God, and in its stead took the form and fashion of a man. He walked the earth as a man. For our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. He laid aside His glory and His majesty. He was God, but the glories of the form of God He for awhile relinquished. . . . He bore the sins of the world, and endured the penalty which rolled like a mountain upon His divine soul. He yielded up His life a sacrifice, that man should not eternally die. He died, not through being compelled to die, but by His own free will.--Ibid. {7ABC 446.1}

GOD’S ETERNAL PURPOSE FOR HUMANITY WAS FULFILLED IN THE INCARNATION, LIFE AND DEATH OF HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. DIVINITY HUMBLLED ITSELF INFINITELY TO THE DUST THAT HUMANITY MADE OF THE DUST COULD BECOME ONE WITH DIVINITY.

“As His representatives among men, Christ does not choose angels who have never fallen, but human beings, men of like passions with those they seek to save. Christ took upon Himself humanity, that He might reach humanity. Divinity needed humanity; for it required both the divine and the human to bring salvation to the world. Divinity needed humanity, that humanity might afford a channel of communication between God and man.” DA 296.

Let us contemplate solemnly in closing, the promise given to the ultimate overcomers found in Revelation 3:21,

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

The very purpose of the third angel’s message is for the mind of Christ to be fully formed in His people, and to develop a perfect, righteous character that He may “come to claim them as His own”. COL.p.69.

CHAPTER 14

THE FAITH OF JESUS

The Third Angel's message closes with a people in whom the Faith of Jesus is fully developed.

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

The Greek word for “keep” literally means “hold to” or “make it a habit of keeping” the faith of Jesus. Other passages of Scripture which mention the Faith of Jesus are:

“Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:” Romans 3:22.

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law,

but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” Galatians 2:16.

“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:” Philippians 3:9.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

The Greek word “Pisteos” is the word used for faith in these passages which is a noun, hence it is The Faith of Jesus.

This is not to be confused with “Pistos” which means faithful. Examples:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].1Cor.10:13.

“God [is] faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 1Cor.1:9.

“Let us hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering; (for he [is] faithful that promised;)”. Heb.10:23.

The Faith of Jesus was developed by His faithfulness to God. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit. By His obedience

and submission to God, Jesus “learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” Christ obeyed for us. That is, He exercised faith to God and in God on our behalf, and now offers it to us as a free gift. He desires to place this gift in us that he may reproduce this same mind and all its works, victory and submission IN us.

“Let this mind (attitude) be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 2:5,*

*“For it is **God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure.”* *Philippians 2:13;*

*“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, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, **working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ;** to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* *Hebrew 13:20,21*

*“To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:** Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:”* *Colossians 1:27*

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; *that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what [is] the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.* *Ephesians 3: 17.*

“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.” FLB 111.2

So we exercise faith in God to receive the Faith of Jesus which saves us, and enables us to manifest His righteousness through us.

Ephesians 2:8 tells us, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God.” Faith is simply the medium by which we receive Grace that saves us. It is our human response to the love of God upon our hearts and is itself a gift from God.

“Faith is the medium through which truth or error finds a lodging place in the mind. It is by the same act of mind that truth or error is received, but it makes a decided difference whether we believe the Word of God or the sayings of men.”
1 SM. 346.

“Feeling is not faith; the two are distinct. Faith is ours to exercise, but joyful feeling and the blessing are God’s to give. The grace of God comes to the soul through the channel of living faith, and that faith it is in our power to exercise. True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt.” {CET 126.1}

“Through faith we receive the grace of God; but faith is not our Saviour. It earns nothing. It is

the hand by which we lay hold upon Christ, and appropriate His merits, the remedy for sin. And we cannot even repent without the aid of the Spirit of God." {DA 175.4}

Hence, we exercise faith IN Jesus in order to receive the FAITH OF JESUS. The Faith of Jesus is saving faith. It is an overcoming faith.

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith.” 1 John 5:4,5.

Such faith saved Jesus from sin. It protected, guided, and kept Him unspotted from sin and the world. (seeJohn 17:6-21).

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed [himself] to him that judgeth righteously:” 1 Peter 2:21-23.

The Scriptures tell us that by faith Jesus “grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men” (Luke 2:52) into a powerful and gracious person. This kind of faith will do the same for you and me if we have it and hold it to the end. Rev.14:12.

“Christ did not fail, neither was He discouraged, and His followers are to manifest a faith of the same enduring nature. They are to live as He lived, and work as He worked, because they depend on Him as the great Master Worker.

Courage, energy, and perseverance they must possess. Though apparent impossibilities obstruct their way, by His grace they are to go forward. Instead of deploring difficulties, they are called upon to surmount them. They are to despair of nothing, and to hope for everything.” D.A. p. 680.

The Faith of Jesus was developed in a weak, sinful, fallen degenerate flesh and blood body while Christ was upon the earth. He overcame sin for us and became our example. Rev.3:21; 1 Peter 2:21. This was no ordinary measure of faith but faith without measure, faith fully developed: THE GOLD STANDARD FAITH OF JESUS. See 1 Peter:1:7. Philippians 3:14.

God is not asking us to emulate the faith of Abraham, even though the Scripture calls him the “The Father of the faithful”. He is not even holding up Moses as the high challenge before the last generation, although many of us would settle for his meekness and endurance. Though they put our faith to shame, neither Abraham nor Moses had the faith that will characterize “those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”. THESE WERE CHAMPIONS OF FAITH MENTIONED IN HEBREWS 11 AND THEIR FAITH WAS ONLY A TYPE OF CHRIST. John 13:16.

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off.....And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” Hebrews 11:13,39, 40.

The Bible tells us that Abraham's faith was "counted for righteousness". Romans 4:3,5,9. What was the faith of Jesus counted for? Phil. 3:9. It was counted for righteousness, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST.

"Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine." {COL 312.2}

The righteousness or right doing of Christ was His depending upon and putting His trust and confidence in His Father to work in and through Him to manifest His works. Jesus said, "I do always those things that please Him" (John 8:29), and "without faith, it is impossible to please Him (God)". Heb.11:6. In other words, Christ's Righteousness was in exercising faith in His Father.

THEREFORE, THE FAITH OF JESUS IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD EXERCISED AND REVEALED. THE FAITH OF JESUS PRODUCES THE CHARACTER OF JESUS, AND IT IS THE CHARACTER OF JESUS THAT ALL HEAVEN WAITS TO SEE REPRODUCED IN THOSE PEOPLE WHO CALL THEMSELVES COMMANDMENT-KEEPERS AND LOOK FOR THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS.

(Character= thoughts and feelings)

NOT ONE PERSON WILL HAVE THE IMAGE OF JESUS FULLY FORMED IN HIM UNLESS THE VERY FAITH OF JESUS IS FULLY DEVELOPED IN HIM.

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” COL 69.1

“The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. The honor of God, the honor of Christ, is involved in the perfection of the character of His people.” DA 671

In this way he developed a sinless faith and mind in sinful flesh and became an example of us and to us. Hebrews 2:14-18. 1 Peter 2:21,22.

“Who did no sin, neither was any guile found in his mouth...”. He “suffered for us leaving us an example...” that we should walk in His steps. And the Apostle Peter says, “Arm yourself with the same mind..”1Peter 4:1.

This Faith Or Character began to be Formed At The Incarnation when Christ Became A Creature.1 John 5:20. From His Birth To The Cross The Faith Of Christ Developed Progressively. It Was An Overcoming Faith Which Gives The Victory. Rev.3:21. When Jesus was upon the earth, He conquered all sin and defeated the temptations of Satan utterly. When Christ is living in us, Satan is a completely vanquished foe. Christ can defeat sin in our flesh today just as He defeated sin in our flesh two thousand years ago. If we take His life of faith, we will know His victory.

**THE FAITH OF JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND SORELY TRIED.
HEBREWS 2:18.**

Jesus was really tempted. He could have sinned, but he chose not to sin, but to depend on His Father to keep Him from sin. Temptation is not temptation unless there is a real possibility of yielding (drawn away of his own lust and enticed) and manfully resisting the urge of the flesh. Hebrews 4:15,16

Jesus was really tempted as a human being to sin through the many temptations of Satan. These were not make-believe or play-acting temptations. The devil knew he had a real chance of victory in overcoming Christ through the medium of His human nature which was fallen and depraved.

Christ was not tempted as God for “God cannot be tempted with evil” (James 1:13), but as humanity and divinity were mysteriously blended in one person, He, as a person could be tempted as man with the real possibility of yielding.

But what really is Temptation? In James 1:15-17 we are told,

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Hebrews 2:18 says “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” See also 1 Peter 4:1 and 2 Peter 1:4.

“Unless there is a possibility of yielding, temptation is no temptation. Temptation is resisted when man is powerfully influenced to

do a wrong action and, knowing that he can do it, resists, by faith, with a firm hold upon divine power. This was the ordeal through which Christ passed. He could not have been tempted in all points as man is tempted, had there been no possibility of His failing." 5 BC 1082.

Temptation only exists when there is a "powerful influence to do a wrong action." Christ, in order to be tempted as we are, must have had a strong desire to do a wrong act, but resisted by trusting in His Father. That was the FAITH OF JESUS.

"He was a free agent, placed on probation, as was Adam, and as is every man. In His closing hours, while hanging upon the cross, He experienced to the fullest extent what man must experience when striving against sin." (YI July 20, 1899). 5BC 1082.4}

"The Son of God was assaulted at every step by the powers of darkness. After His baptism He was driven of the Spirit into the wilderness, and suffered temptation for forty days. Letters have been coming in to me, affirming that Christ could not have had the same nature as man, for if He had, He would have fallen under similar temptations. If He did not have man's nature, He could not be our example. If He was not a partaker of our nature, He could not have been tempted as man has been. If it were not possible for Him to yield to temptation, He could not be our helper. It was a solemn reality

that Christ came to fight the battles as man, in man's behalf. His temptation and victory tell us that humanity must copy the Pattern; man must become a partaker of the divine nature." {5BC 1082.1}

"The first Adam was created a pure, sinless being, without a taint of sin upon him; he was in the image of God. He could fall, and he did fall through transgressing. Because of sin his posterity was born with inherent propensities of disobedience. But Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature, and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity. He was assailed with temptations in the wilderness, as Adam was assailed with temptations in Eden." {5BC 1128.4}

"If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succour us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured." DA 117.2

"The temptations to which Christ was subjected were a terrible reality. As a free agent, He was placed on probation, with liberty to yield to Satan's temptations and work at cross-purposes

with God. If this were not so, if it had not been possible for Him to fall, He could not have been tempted in all points as the human family is tempted". YI Oct. 26, 1899; 5BC 1082.5.

"For a period of time Christ was on probation. He took humanity on Himself, to stand the test and trial which the first Adam failed to endure. Had He failed in His test and trial, He would have been disobedient to the voice of God, and the world would have been lost (ST May 10, 1899)." {5BC 1082.6}

"Of the bitterness that falls to the lot of humanity, there was no part which Christ did not taste. There were those who tried to cast contempt upon Him because of His birth, and even in His childhood He had to meet their scornful looks and evil whisperings. If He had responded by an impatient word or look, if He had conceded to His brothers by even one wrong act, He would have failed of being a perfect example. Thus He would have failed of carrying out the plan for our redemption. Had He even admitted that there could be an excuse for sin, Satan would have triumphed, and the world would have been lost. This is why the tempter worked to make His life as trying as possible, that He might be led to sin." {DA 88.2}

"Genuine faith appropriates the righteousness of Christ, and the sinner is made an overcomer with Christ; for he is made a partaker of the

divine nature, and thus divinity and humanity are combined.” {RH, July 1, 1890 par. 10

“...the plan of God, devised for the salvation of man, provided that Christ should know hunger, and poverty, and every phase of man’s experience. He withstood the temptation, through the power that man may command. He laid hold on the throne of God, and there is not a man or woman who may not have access to the same help through faith in God. Man may become a partaker of the divine nature; not a soul lives who may not summon the aid of Heaven in temptation and trial. Christ came to reveal the source of His power, that man might never rely on his unaided human capabilities. {5BC 1082.2}

“As the Son of God lived by faith in the Father, so are we to live by faith in Christ. So fully was Jesus surrendered to the will of God that the Father alone appeared in His life. Although tempted in all points like as we are, He stood before the world untainted by the evil that surrounded Him. Thus we also are to overcome as Christ overcame.” {DA 389.4}

“By faith He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as in submission He committed Himself to God, the sense of the loss of His Father’s favor was withdrawn. By faith, Christ was victor.” {DA 756.3}

“Christ did not fail, neither was He discouraged, and His followers are to manifest a faith of the same enduring nature. They are to live as He lived, and work as He worked, because they depend on Him as the great Master Worker. Courage, energy, and perseverance they must possess. Though apparent impossibilities obstruct their way, by His grace they are to go forward. Instead of deploring difficulties, they are called upon to surmount them. They are to despair of nothing, and to hope for everything... They are to have power to resist evil, power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master, power that will enable them to overcome as Christ overcame.” DA 679,680. .

“He trusted in the Father’s might. It was in faith--faith in God’s love and care--that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God. As Jesus rested by faith in the Father’s care, so we are to rest in the care of our Saviour.” . {DA 336.1}

Christ condescended to become a real man, having a human identity and personhood, and developed His own character experiences and faith while in sinful fallen flesh. He actually became one of us, entering into our human life experience, and blending His divinity with humanity to become one with us. Hebrews 4:15, 16. As a child Christ gained knowledge like any ordinary child of humanity. He had to study the many scriptures and learn things that he had revealed to the ancient prophets.

“The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at His mother’s knee. As He advanced from childhood to youth, He did not seek the schools of the rabbis. He needed not the education to be obtained from such sources; for God was His instructor.” {DA 70.1}

On the other hand,

“No one, looking upon the childlike countenance, shining with animation, could say that Christ was just like other children. He was God in human flesh. When urged by His companions to do wrong, divinity flashed through humanity, and He refused decidedly. In a moment He distinguished between right and wrong, and placed sin in the light of God’s commands, holding up the law as a mirror which reflected light upon wrong.”—The Youth Instructor Sept. 8, 1898. {7ABC 445.3}

“...God permitted His Son to come, a helpless babe, subject to the weakness of humanity. He permitted Him to meet life’s peril in common with every human soul, to fight the battle as every child of humanity must fight it, at the risk of failure and eternal loss.” {DA 49.1}

Christ laid aside His Divine prerogatives as God and functioned as a man totally depending on God His Father as if He were never God before. He had an advantage because of His superior birth, but He never used that advantage to work any miracles for Himself. But He depended upon God to work in and through Him the mighty works and to reveal divine truths. John 5:19; John 8. Through this means God is now acquainted with the feelings of our infirmities by experience.

THIS WAS A UNIQUE AND FIRST TIME EXPERIENCE FOR THE GODHEAD. PHIL.2:5.

The Second person of the Godhead becoming a man and sharing in the experiences of humanity, developing a mind, character and human identity on earth, all the while still being God. This was THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS.

THIS WASHOW THE FAITH OF JESUS WAS DEVELOPED AND FORMED. CHRIST LAID ASIDE FOREVER THE FORM OF GOD WHICH HE HAD AND TOOK ON THE FORM OF MAN FOREVER. THAT IS WHY RIGHT NOW IN HEAVEN SEATED ON THE HIGHEST THRONE OF THE UNIVERSE THERE IS A MAN—THE MAN CHRIST JESUS, FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN IN ONE PERSON. IN THE FORM OF MAN, IN HIS HUMAN FORM, HE CLOTHED HIS DIVINITY AND NATURE.

On earth He clothed His Divinity with humanity. In Heaven He clothes His humanity with Divinity and Divine nature. Christ said, “Glorify Thou me with thine own self with the glory that I had with Thee before the world was.” John 17: 7, 8.

“It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man’s nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life.” DA 49.

This was a reality and possibility only because of THE FAITH OF JESUS which He developed while on earth.

“The Saviour was deeply anxious for His disciples to understand for what purpose His divinity was united to humanity. He came to the world to display the glory of God, that man might be uplifted by its restoring power. God was manifested in Him that He might be manifested in them. Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.” {DA 664.4}

“The prince of this world cometh,” said Jesus, “and hath nothing in Me.” John 14:30. There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan’s sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it

may be with us. Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character." {DA 123.3}

"And how this is accomplished, Christ has shown us. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the word of God. Only by the word could He resist temptation." D.A.p. 123.

"Though Christ humbled Himself to become man, the Godhead was still His own. His Deity could not be lost while He stood faithful and true to His loyalty..... He was ready to take once more His divine glory when His work on earth was done." ST, May 10, 1899 par. 11.

Since his divinity and humanity were mysteriously blended in one person, it means that the faith, character and life-experiences that He would have developed while here on earth would be unique to Himself as the God-man or as our Divine-Human Saviour. Hence the faith of Jesus was uniquely His, fully God and fully man, and was developed from His birth till the Cross. This is distinct from faith in God or simply faith in Jesus which are both necessary and essential. IT IS THE FAITH OF JESUS.

“He veiled his divinity with the garb of humanity, but He did not part with His divinity. A divine-human saviour, He came to stand at the head of the fallen race, to share in their experience from childhood to manhood. That human beings might be partakers of the divine nature, He came to this earth, and lived a life of perfect obedience.”--Ibid., June 15, 1905. {7ABC 444.6}

“But the plan of God, devised for the salvation of man, provided that Christ should know hunger, and poverty, and every phase of man’s experience.--Ibid., Feb. 18, 1890.” 7ABC 445.1

Christ’s faithfulness to God, His dependence upon His Father produced the faith of Jesus. It Is The Faith Of Jesus That Justifies Us Because Only His Righteousness Is Accepted By The Father. May His Promise Be Fulfilled In Our Lives.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

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PUBLICATIONS (TRACTS & LEAFLETS)

BY SAME (AUTHOR)
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1. God's New Spiritual Israel
2. The 144000 and the Great Multitude
3. The Law of Freedom in Justification by Faith
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