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Readings for the Week of Prayer

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INTRODUCTION

ONCE AGAIN we have the privilege of receiving the spiritual blessings of a Week of Prayer. We shall be thankful to the Omnipotent for giving us this opportunity to gather together for united prayer. For an entire year we have experienced anew the protection of the Lord and received His blessings.

In reviewing the year that is now past, we can but acknowledge and exclaim, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." Lam.2:22,23.

Has this not been our experience? Could we not visibly see, day by day, the mercies and loving-kindness of God and partake of them? Yes, "The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Let us look back for a moment upon the first months. Did not one calamity follow another? On water, on land, in the air, by storms, and through other catastrophes unnumbered fellow human beings lost their lives. In how many families has suffering become the lot of their existence? For us the great question remains, Have these men and women heard of the message, or have they departed from this life unwarned? We carry a great responsibility. Are we aware of the magnitude of our appointed mission?

Our own condition, our want of righteousness, calls for a seeking after God. Without Him we are utterly lost. Many of our people are carried away by sin. The spirit of commercialism, fashion, and worldly mindedness is closing the door to God's Spirit. We are but a small and feeble people. Our doctrine, our knowledge of the truth or whatever it may be that lifts up our hearts in pride does not recommend us to God; we must recognize that our great need is entering His heart of infinite mercy. He asks us to do a great work, but the power and glory must remain His. Let us therefore *petition* great things of God, and let us also *expect* great things from him!

Each one of us is urgently in need of God that we may draw new strength to free us from sin, so that His love may be reflected in our purified hearts.

Our families need Him! In many families there are those who are without the ark of safety. Among these may be our own children, yes, even our own wives or husbands, our mothers and fathers, or our brothers and sisters and their children! Let us seek God for them! For many of us it might be the last opportunity to seek Him in this manner; and for many of them it might be the last opportunity to choose Him.

Our neighbors need Him! Their souls might be demanded of us on the great day of reckoning! Therefore seek God for them also!

The great world, without, needs God; and we are debtors to them—debtors both to "the Jews and the Greeks," to the Americans and Chinese, the Africans, the Indians, the Asiatics and Europeans! How can we meet this great and fearful responsibility to God without assistance?

What a great demand all this places before us, to separate ourselves from sin in order to serve God! What a call to consecration is here given, a consecration of the whole heart for the sake of our loved ones, our relatives, neighbors, and a world of dying souls—a consecration for the sake of Christ!

While God listens at all times to the prayer of every sincere soul, He honored Israel with particular blessings in a special manner when they sought Him with all their heart. When united prayer was offered, the armies of the Moabites and Ammonites were overcome, and cries of distress were changed to hymns of praise! (2 Chron. 20) In view of an earnest intercession with God, Sennacherib with his mighty army and in spite of his boastful arrogance was cast into perdition. (2 Kings 19) By fasting and prayer at the river Ahava the helpless little band of searching Israelites passed through the land of waylaying enemies. (Ezra 8) "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and wrath is against all that forsake him. So we fasted and besought our God for this; and he was intreated of us." And His word to the Remnant is, "Gather yourselves together, . . . seek righteousness, seek meekness."

Let us seek God in these days that His very great and precious promise might be fulfilled in us. He is waiting to be gracious. Do not disappoint Him! Let every one of us individually, church officers and servants of God, accomplish unitedly that which is in our power—to make these days of prayer what they ought to be to God's people in accordance with His will. "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you."

In a special manner let us also remember in prayer our believers in distressed areas where they are not permitted to assemble in freedom—where they live their faith under great difficulties. Also, do not forget the sick, the poor, the widows and orphans, and those in distress, all of whom need our prayers.

On the first Sabbath and after the first prayer reading, we ask that the gift envelopes especially prepared for the occasion be distributed among the believers, explaining the importance of their offerings. We also ask all believers to bring their gifts in an abundant manner, and they will be gathered after the reading on the second Sabbath.

We also ask the church officers to see that all believers receive the Week of Prayer Readings and the envelopes, so that no one is overlooked.

Sabbath, December 15, is a Sabbath of fasting and prayer.

May rich blessings of the Lord be poured out upon His people, and may He turn these days of prayer into a most wonderful season.

THE BRETHREN

Reading No. 1 – Friday, December 7, 1962

Homeward Bound

by E. G. WHITE

AS I hear of the terrible calamities that from week to week are taking place, I ask myself, What do these things mean? The most awful disasters are following one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of seemingly disorganized, unregulated forces, but in them God's purpose may be read. They are one of the means by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.

The coming of Christ is nearer than when we first believed. The great controversy is nearing its end. The judgments of God are in the land.

They speak in solemn warning, saying, "Be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44.

But there are many, many in our churches who know little of the real meaning of the truth for this time. I appeal to them not to disregard the fulfilling of the signs of the times, which says so plainly that the end is near. O, how many who have not sought their souls' salvation will soon make the bitter lamentation, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved!"

We are living in the closing scenes of this earth's history. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The hours of probation are fast passing. We have no time—not a moment—to lose. Let us not be found

sleeping on guard. Let no one say in his heart or by his works, "My Lord delayeth His coming." Let the message of Christ's soon return sound forth in earnest words of warning. Let us persuade men and women everywhere to repent, and flee from the wrath to come. Let us arouse them to immediate preparation; for we little know what is before us. Let ministers and lay members go forth into the ripening fields, to tell the unconcerned and indifferent to seek the Lord while He may be found. The workers will find their harvest wherever they proclaim the forgotten truths of the Bible. They will find those who will accept the truth and will devote their lives to winning souls to Christ.

The Lord is soon to come, and we must be prepared to meet Him in peace. Let us be determined to do all in our power to impart light to those around us. We are not to be sad, but cheerful, and we are to keep the Lord Jesus ever before us. He is soon coming, and we must be ready and waiting for His appearing. O, how glorious it will be to see Him, and be welcomed as His redeemed ones! Long have we waited; but our hope is not to grow dim. If we can but see the King in His beauty, we shall be forever blessed. I feel as if I must cry aloud, "Homeward bound!" We are nearing the time when Christ will come in power and great glory to take His ransomed ones to their eternal home. —*Testimonies*, Vol.8, pp.252,253.

THE LAST CRISIS

We are living in the time of the end. The fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.

The enemy has succeeded in perverting justice and in filling men's hearts with the desire for selfish gain. "Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity can not enter." Isa. 59:14. In the great cities there are multitudes living in poverty and wretchedness, well-nigh destitute of food, shelter, and clothing; while in the same cities are those who have more than heart could wish, who live luxuriously, spending their money on richly furnished houses, on personal

adornment, or worse still, upon the gratification of sensual appetites, upon liquor, tobacco, and other things that destroy the powers of the brain, unbalance the mind, and debase the soul. The cries of starving humanity are coming up before God, while by every species of oppression and extortion men are piling up colossal fortunes.

On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify their owners and builders. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used. Those to whom these buildings belonged were not asking themselves, "How can we best glorify God?" The Lord was not in their thoughts.

I thought: "O that those who are thus investing their means could see their course as God sees it! They are piling up magnificent buildings, but how foolish in the sight of the Ruler of the universe is their planning and devising. They are not studying with all the powers of heart and mind how they may glorify God. They have lost sight of this, the first duty of man."

As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in gratifying self and provoking the envy of their neighbors. Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding down the poor. They forgot that in heaven an account of every business transaction is kept; every unjust deal, every fraudulent act, is there recorded. The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah.

The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fireproof buildings, and said, "They are perfectly safe." But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire-engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.

I am instructed that when the Lord's time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of the proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God's appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law and for their selfish ambition.

There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis. If men would give more heed to the teaching of God's word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them.

The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before Christ's second coming. Of the men who by robbery and extortion are amassing great riches, it is written: "Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." James 5:3-6.

But who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times? What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noatic world. Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians "knew not until the flood came, and took them all away." Matt. 24:39. They had heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen. And to-day the world, utterly regardless of the warning voice of God, is hurrying on to eternal ruin.

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.

"Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof; . . . because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate. . . . The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth." Isa. 24:1-8.

"Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. . . . The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered. How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate." "The vine is dried up, and the fig-tree languisheth; the pomegranate-tree, the palm-tree also, and the apple-tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men." Joel 1:15-18, 12.

"I am pained at my very heart; . . . I can not hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled." Jer. 4:19, 20.

"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down." Verses 23-26.

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." Jer. 30:7.

Not all in this world have taken sides with the enemy against God. Not all have become disloyal. There are a faithful few who are true to God; for John writes, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12. Soon the battle will be waged fiercely between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. Soon everything that can be shaken will be shaken, that those things that can not be shaken may remain.

Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth. It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. And Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. God's people will not find their safety in working miracles; for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God's tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in Ex. 31:12-18. They are to take their stand on the living word, "It is written." This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely. Those who have broken their covenant with God will in that day be without God and without hope.

The worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandment, since this is the sign of God's creative power and the witness to His claim upon man's reverence and homage. The wicked will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial and to exalt the institution of Rome. In the issue of the conflict, all Christendom will be divided into two great classes, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark. Although church and state will unite their power to compel all, "both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond," to receive the mark of the beast, yet the people of God will not receive it. Rev. 13:16. The prophet of Patmos beholds "them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God," and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Rev. 15:2.

Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming, — a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation, — God's chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host can not destroy them; for angels that excel in strength will protect them.

God's word to His people is: "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch

not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters." "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 2 Cor.6:17,18; 1 Peter 2:9. God's people are to be distinguished as a people who serve Him fully, whole-heartedly, taking no honor to themselves, and remembering that by a most solemn covenant they have bound themselves to serve the Lord, and Him only.

"The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from

among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed." Ex.31:12-17.

Do not these words point us out as God's denominated people? and do they not declare to us that so long as time shall last, we are to cherish the sacred, denominational distinction placed upon us? The children of Israel were to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations "for a perpetual covenant." The Sabbath has lost none of its meaning. It is still the sign between God and His people, and it will be so forever. —*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, pp.11-18.

AMEN!

Reading No. 2 – Sabbath, December 8, 1962

Behold the Lamb of God!

by W. EGERTER, *Germany*

IT WAS the task of John to call the people of his time to a decision. Not sparing them he often spoke rather hard-appearing words, startling the bystanders by the power of his proclamations to yield willingly or reluctantly. And yet "Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan" listened to his revival preaching. "Then cometh Jesus. . . unto John." Jesus, the Son of God, came to this John who was regarded as a peculiar and odd person who kept himself aloof from the people. And John, filled with the Holy Ghost, pointed to this Christ as the One who should redeem Israel and judge the world. With Jesus John was not yet acquainted. Then it came to pass that this Promised One came near the Preacher in the wilderness. It was then that this solitary, misunderstood man, the "voice in the wilderness," rose to his entire prophetic greatness and declared, "Behold the Lamb of God!" And John saw still more. He alone had a vision of the mission and the path that this "Lamb" would walk.

But for John a decision had come as well. "... whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose." "He must increase, but I must decrease." This was John's decision.

O, that we might also make our decision today, as John did, when the Spirit of God brings us near to the Saviour that "He must increase, but we must decrease."

THE PRICE FOR OUR REDEMPTION

The apostle Peter understood in their full importance these words spoken by John when he writes, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1:18,19.

An indescribably high price was paid for our redemption. For gold, silver, or current money we at all times have something in exchange; we can purchase something of an equal value with it; we can buy so much with it. This comparison is completely ruled out and worthless when we sum up the price of our redemption. The price which God paid in giving His own Son is so high that nothing can be compared as an equal to it. The sacrifice of Christ is something singular which will be the object of the most profound interest throughout the ages. This redemption act will be the study of the redeemed throughout eternity. And already while here on earth we must learn to understand clearly the value of the price of redemption which beyond comparison exceeds all other values. It is only as we esteem Christ and His sacrifice as higher than all earthly things that we shall understand the true meaning of our assignment and the debt that we owe.

But how will we learn to estimate the price of

our redemption? It can only be done by constantly bringing to view the scenes of the sacrifice of Calvary. Then to our understanding new knowledge will be constantly imparted, and we will learn to understand better that the precious blood of Jesus Christ as the innocent and unspotted Lamb is indeed the price for our redemption. Let us for a moment permit the struggle at Gethsemane to pass before our eyes. In contemplating this greatest of all struggles ever fought, is not our heart deeply touched? This battle was for us! The Saviour went this difficult path for us, for our sake. Our salvation and redemption were at stake. In those hours of night the Saviour thought of and wrestled for you and me. He Himself decided to walk this difficult path of sacrifice, accompanied by human cruelty, in order that we might live. We hear His words, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done." Luke 22:42. To the disciples, full of sleep, He gave the counsel, "... rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Luke 22:46. Then the moment approached when the Son of Man was delivered into the hands of man.

At some time each one of us has experienced how much suffering, tears, anguish, and trouble can be crowded into one single day. Yet that day at Gethsemane climaxed all days of suffering and anguish of mankind. The great Sufferer, the Lamb of God, did not suffer for His own guilt. All that the Saviour had to endure He did for us. In his indescribable suffering He gained the victory for us and paid the price for our redemption. It is here that we can comprehend the importance of the words of Isaiah which we, in gratitude, should impress upon our minds: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: . . . but he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:4, 5.

We cannot think of the crucified Saviour without becoming conscious of His painful wounds inflicted for our sake.

Thorn-pricked, whipped, struck on the cheek, spit at, jeered and scoffed at, insulted, sorely beaten, pierced by cruel nails, wrestling in anguish and thirsting for your soul and mine—was there ever such suffering and pain equal to that which the Saviour endured?

It is for this reason that the earnest admonition is given, "In order to fully realize the value of salvation, it is necessary to understand what it cost. In consequence of limited ideas of the sufferings of Christ, many place a low estimate upon the great work of the atonement. The glorious plan of man's salvation was brought about through the infinite love of God the Father. In this divine plan is seen the most marvelous manifestation of the love of God to the fallen race. Such love as is manifested in the gift of God's beloved Son amazed the holy angels." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, p. 200.

"Who can comprehend the love here displayed! The angelic host beheld with wonder and with grief Him who had been the majesty of Heaven, and who had worn the crown of glory, now wearing the crown of thorns, a bleeding victim to the rage

of an infuriated mob, fired to insane madness by the wrath of Satan. Behold the patient sufferer! Upon His head is a thorny crown. His life blood flows from every lacerated vein. All this in consequence of sin! Nothing could have induced Christ to leave His honor and majesty in Heaven, and come to a sinful world, to be neglected, despised, and rejected, by those He came to save, and finally to suffer upon the cross, but eternal, redeeming love, which will ever remain a mystery.

"Wonder, O Heavens, and be astonished, O Earth!" —*Ibid.*, p. 207.

By His suffering and dying He purchased our redemption and paid for our sins. The Spirit of prophecy expresses this in the following words: "The price was paid to purchase the redemption of man, when, in the last soul-struggle, the blessed words were uttered, which seemed to resound through creation, 'It is finished.'" —*Ibid.*, p. 212.

"The scenes of Calvary call for the deepest emotion. Upon this subject you will be excusable if you manifest enthusiasm. That Christ, so excellent, so innocent, should suffer a painful death, bearing the weight of the sins of the world, our thoughts and imaginations can never fully comprehend. The length, the breadth, the height, the depth, of such amazing love we cannot fathom. The contemplation of the matchless depths of a Saviour's love should fill the mind, touch and melt the soul, refine and elevate the affections, and completely transform the whole character. . . ." —*Ibid.*, p. 213.

The questions which the Spirit of prophecy therefore directs to us are very earnest: "Considering at what an immense cost our salvation has been purchased, what will be the fate of those who profess to be followers of Christ, yet fail to bow in humble obedience to the claims of their Redeemer, and who do not take the cross as humble disciples of Christ, and follow him from the manger to Calvary?" —*Ibid.*, p. 213.

"Have you so deep an appreciation of the sacrifice made on Calvary that you are willing to make every other interest subordinate to the work of saving souls?" —*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 10.

"If you do not feel that it is an honor to be a partaker of the sufferings of Christ; if you feel no burden of soul for those who are ready to perish; if you are unwilling to sacrifice that you may save means for the work that is to be done, there will be no room for you in the kingdom of God." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 103.

"Behold him in the garden, sweating great drops of blood. . . . Follow him on his way to the judgment-hall, while he is derided, mocked, and insulted by that infuriated mob. Behold him clothed in that old purple kingly robe. Hear the coarse jest and cruel mocking. See them place upon that noble brow the crown of thorns, and then smite him with a reed, causing the thorns to penetrate his temples, and the blood to flow from that holy brow. Hear that murderous throng eagerly crying for the blood of the Son of God. He is delivered into their hands, and they lead the noble sufferer away, pale, weak, and fainting, to his crucifixion. He is stretched

upon the wooden cross, and the nails are driven through his tender hands and feet. Behold him hanging upon the cross those dreadful hours until the angels veil their faces from the horrid scene, and the sun hides its light, refusing to behold. Think of these things, and then ask, Is the way too strait? No, no." —*Testimonies*, Vol.1, pp.240,241.

How precious, how great, how incomprehensible, how unfathomable is this love and price for our redemption. And the word of God is calling upon us today, saying, "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands." Isa.49:16. Yes, we are engraved upon the hands of this faithful Redeemer. A serious event shall faintly illustrate to us what love is able to do: "Cromwell, the inexorable, and yet righteous Protector of England, had also pronounced the death sentence upon Richard N. for his rebellion. All in vain the pale wife of the condemned had sought to soften the stern mind of Cromwell. Comfortless the unhappy wife staggered home. The clock in the tower struck unmercifully. As soon as the last stroke would announce the sixth hour the evening bells would begin to toll, and this was the signal for her husband to die. The brazen sounds of the bell were to give the henchman on the nearby hill the signal to strike the deadly blow. In breathless fear the woman hastened up the stairs of the tower. Motionless she stared upon the heartless bell. It must not strike. A shock of joy flashed through her. 'If I hold the clapper, the bell cannot toll; and he will not have to die!' In the power of her love she executed her resolution. The heavy iron struck the end of the bell, yet the wife would not let go. The clapper mutilated her hands and arms, but the bell remained silent. Raising his brow and asking for an explanation, Cromwell looked from the place of execution to the old church tower. Then a woman, deadly pale, breaks through the crowd and casts herself at the feet of the Protector, lifting up her lacerated and bleeding hands to him. 'Sir,' she cries, 'the evening bell has tolled. But see here! My husband is free!' Cromwell inquires and hears of the connection; and overcome by the magnanimity of the woman, he shows his greatness by pardoning the condemned one. What eloquent language the hands of this loving wife speak! Even Cromwell could not keep aloof from this powerful speech." (Sel.) A more shocking, overpowering language is found in the hands of our Redeemer. Into the bleeding hands of our Redeemer our name has also been engraved, and in these hands lies the foundation of our redemption. The eloquence of these hands pronounces our pardon.

THE OBJECT OF THE SACRIFICE

If the ransom for our redemption becomes our constant study while we live in close communion with God, then our love and gratitude to Him will be expressed in our gifts and offerings. The Lord expects every one of us to become partakers of His offering by becoming co-workers in His plan of redemption. This Sister White tells us in the following words: "The Lord has made the proclamation of the gospel dependent upon the labors and

the voluntary gifts of all His people." —*Testimonies*, Vol.9, p.246.

This plan of supporting the gospel is applicable to all times. We are standing today under the same obligation as the believers of bygone eras, and yet we are often amiss in our privileges and duties. Consequently, we do ourselves harm, our spiritual development is hindered, and the proclamation of the gospel suffers. The sacrifice for the cause of God exerts an influence and instills in our hearts the things which we are urgently in need of. Shall we this morning place our hearts to the test and inquire into the causes why our offerings are so insufficient? Are these offerings and gifts so insufficient because we primarily lack spiritual strength? Have we not consecrated ourselves to God completely, because we do not want to give of our means? Or do we lack the true knowledge that we were redeemed with no less ransom than "the precious blood of Christ," and that such a love can never be repaid by any amount of compensation? Should not our sacrifices and gifts also show spiritual growth? It is by our gifts that we express our gratitude toward God.

Another cause might be found in sacrificing from an ulterior motive, because it is always requested to "give," and to give is a duty. In giving, only love must be the decisive factor; giving must be the fruit of love. We have the best object lesson our Redeemer and the immeasurable ransom paid for our redemption.

In like manner would not the object in giving and the duty enjoined to sacrifice be wrong if it became compulsory through erroneous methods? The propagating of the gospel and the saving of souls demands means. But since willingness to give is not always present as it should be, false methods have crept in to take care of the needed funds. It is well known to us how the churches are entering upon ways to directly or indirectly exact means. These methods might gather in money, yet they are far from suitable in educating church members in Christian giving. In fact the results are quite the opposite. The giving is hated, and what ought to be a joy becomes a great burden. Therefore in regard to giving, let us pay attention to the biblical principles and pointers and take them to heart. Then we shall also experience how Heaven regards the motive of giving.

Men often judge us by what we give, but God judges us by what we hold back. We also judge men's hearts by their actions, while a wise God judges actions by the heart. Many times how different our "offerings" would be if we could see the "sacrifice" that is brought for the spreading of the gospel and the salvation of souls. Here we should remember the mite of the widow. Does not this make us hang our heads in shame? Yes, there is reason to be ashamed on this point. For instance, let us draw a comparison to what we, today, "sacrifice" for dress, furniture, and other costly items, and then on the other side place the offering which we have left for our Redeemer and His cause! Let us carefully take time to ponder over this and give an account to ourselves. Is it not also necessary to thoroughly reform in this matter? We still have the opportunity and are well able to correct

our negligence of the past. There are but few matters about which the Lord has given such clear-cut and concise teachings as He has regarding money. Many places in the holy Scriptures touch this point. And the apostle Paul gives us the decisive word, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor.9:6,7. And wise Solomon writes for us, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." Prov.11:24.

It remains with us whether or not we will receive the blessings. "All that we do is to be done willingly. We are to bring our offerings with joy and gratitude, saying as we present them, Of Thine own we freely give Thee. The most costly service we can render is but meager compared to the gift of God to our world. Christ is a gift every day. God gave Him to the world, and He graciously takes the gifts entrusted to His human agents for the advancement of His work in the world. Thus we show that we recognize and acknowledge that everything belongs to God, absolutely and entirely." *Counsels on Stewardship*, p.198.

"Divine wisdom has appointed, in the plan of salvation, the law of action and reaction, making the work of beneficence, in all its branches, twice blessed." *Ibid.*, p.13.

From this we perceive that in freewill and cheerful giving there is great blessing. It depends on us whether or not we want to become partakers of this blessing. Or shall it be said of us that in all gifts, such as tithe, first fruit, first-day, and other offerings we are robbing God? Mal.3:8-10. In this the Spirit of prophecy also gives us exhaustive information and admonitions: "When all are faithful in giving back to God His own in tithes and offerings, the way will be opened for the world to hear the message for this time. If the hearts of God's people were filled with love for Christ; if every church-member were thoroughly imbued with the spirit of self-sacrifice; if all manifested thorough earnestness, there would be no lack of funds for home or foreign missions. Our resources would be multiplied; a thousand doors of usefulness would be opened, and we should be invited to enter. Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God." *Testimonies*, Vol.6, p.450.

"The consecration to God of a tithe of all increase, whether of the orchard and harvest-fields, the flocks and herds, or the labor of brain or hand; the devotion of a second tithe for the relief of the poor and other benevolent uses, tended to keep fresh before the people the truth of God's ownership of all, and of their opportunity to be channels of His blessings. It was a training adopted to kill out all narrowing selfishness, and to cultivate breadth and nobility of character." *Education*, p.44.

This procedure of God with ancient Israel shows how the Lord desired to educate them in order that

they might develop character and further their own happiness.

"There are only two places in the universe where we can place our treasures,—in God's storehouse or in Satan's; and all that is not devoted to God's service is counted on Satan's side, and goes to strengthen his cause. The Lord designs that the means entrusted to us shall be used in building up His kingdom. His goods are entrusted to His stewards that they may be carefully traded upon, and bring back a revenue to Him in the saving of souls." *Counsels on Stewardship*, p.35.

"The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven. Christ's self-sacrificing love is revealed upon the cross. That man might be saved, He gave all that He had, and then gave Himself. The cross of Christ appeals to the benevolence of every follower of the blessed Saviour. The principle there illustrated is to give, give." *Ibid.*, p.14.

"The Lord does not propose to come to this world and lay down gold and silver for the advancement of His work. He supplies men with resources, that by their gifts and offerings they may keep His work advancing. The one purpose above all others for which God's gifts should be used is the sustaining of workers in the harvest field. And if men will become channels through which heaven's blessing can flow to others, the Lord will keep the channel supplied. It is not returning to the Lord that makes men poor; withholding tends to poverty, . . ." *Ibid.*, p.36.

Many more admonitions and directions are given to us in the books of the Spirit of prophecy, and we can observe that faithfulness in giving is closely allied with the salvation of our own soul. We are not only pointed to our general gifts, but directions are also given concerning legacies and our properties; the Lord constantly points to our great responsibility in these matters, which is too often disregarded. May the Lord open our eyes that we may set these shortcomings in order before it is too late.

OUR OFFERINGS IN VIEW OF THE END

Brethren and sisters, "these are the last hours." There might be, at the present time, a feeling of general security and prosperity, since the economic conditions are favorable. It was so at the writing of this article. Perhaps at the end of the year it will be different. How soon matters can change. Only a few weeks were past in this new year, and yet how much suffering had already come to us. How will matters appear at the end of this year? And as we behold the things all around us, has the time not come that we should place our properties on the altar of the Lord, praying that He may lead us to dispose of them? The coming of the Lord has drawn so near that there is not so much faith needed in bringing sacrifices, as was the case at the beginning of the message. Let us overcome our love for the things of this world, separate from them, and leave them for the interests of the cause.

What we give we must give soon. In some countries it is already too late to give any help or support. If we have any properties that we could give to God's cause, we must give them soon,

otherwise our gifts for the salvation of dying souls may no longer be of use because the doors of opportunity are closing.

"If there was ever a time when sacrifices should be made, it is now." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 50.

From a small book I take the following note: "If one keeps in view that the blessing of the Lord is resting on the commandment to give the tithe, then all human calculations must stand in the background. The promise 'Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life' will scare away covetousness and fearful worries. God will 'never fear nor forsake' His faithful children. This experience has been made by all who have been faithful in this respect. How often they received tenfold in return for what they had given to God, either in health or earthly possessions. It would take too much time to bring all the testimonies of faithful Christians who were permitted to make deep experiences in giving tithes and offerings.

"May I be permitted to clarify my words in a figurative manner: The blessing of the Lord rests like a mountain of wheat heavily on the windows of heaven. Yet it cannot come down to us because we do not move the bolts on these windows. This is because the bolts—and this you must know—are not fastened on God's side, but on our side. Remove the bolt of your worries, your stinginess, your distrust, that the windows will open up, and I tell you that it will immediately begin to flood and stream upon you with blessings." —*Der Christ und das Geld (The Christian and Money)*, p. 26.

God cannot open the bolts because we are unfaithful. Therefore the world has not been warned yet as it should have been. Is it not time to overcome our unfaithfulness? How can we at an hour like this rob God? If we have been indifferent and selfish, shall we not set things in order with God and make things right? Shall we not make this resolution during our prayer meeting and keep it in the days to come? And if we, by the grace of the Lord, have been faithful, shall we not today renew our resolution of faithfulness, conscientiously give to the Lord His own, and determine to give with even greater joy? In this respect should we not, as parents, educate our children in faithfulness? Let us minimize our own presents that we may have more to give to the Lord's cause. Let our relationship toward God be embued with new fervor and freshness, and let all unfaithfulness be done away with. Let us treat Him as He has treated us and remember that Calvary is the measuring stick of our tithes and offerings.

It was long ago that the handmaid of the Lord warned us that in the time of trouble houses and lands will be of no benefit to us and that it will be impossible at that time to sell them for the cause of God. "I was shown that it is the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every encumbrance before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God through sacrifice. If they have their property on the altar and earnestly inquire of God for duty, He will teach them when to dispose of these things. Then they will be free in

the time of trouble and have no clogs to weigh them down." —*Early Writings*, pp. 56, 57.

In a different place Sister White writes that those who do not ask the Lord to reveal to them their duty will receive permission to keep their property, but in the time of trouble "it would come up before them like a mountain to crush them." Their lamentation will then be, "The cause was languishing, God's people were starving for the truth, and we made no effort to supply the lack; now our property is useless. Oh, that we had let it go, and laid up treasure in heaven." —*Early Writings*, p. 57.

"In the last extremity, before this work shall close, thousands will be cheerfully laid upon the altar. Men and women will feel it a blessed privilege to share in the work of preparing souls to stand in the great day of God, and they will give hundreds as readily as dollars are given now.

"If the love of Christ were burning in the hearts of His professed people, we would see the same spirit manifested today. Did they but realize how near is the end of all work for the salvation of souls, they would sacrifice their possessions as freely as did the members of the early church. They would work for the advancement of God's cause as earnestly as worldly men labor to acquire riches. Tact and skill would be exercised and earnest and unselfish labor put forth to acquire means, not to hoard, but to pour into the treasury of the Lord." —*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 40, 41.

Now, in these days of prayer, as the Spirit of God is touching our hearts and giving us many an admonition, let us look up in thankfulness to God who thought no sacrifice too dear to make for us. Let us pray much in the coming week that the Lord might reach our hearts and reveal our duty to us. Think of the needs of the cause and our great responsibility and duty; and above all, think of the great sacrifice of Calvary. For "Behold, the Lamb of God!" "This I did for you; what do you do for Me?"

May the Lord bestow on us His mercy and bless us abundantly.

AMEN!

Please consider this friendly reminder:

The coming Sabbath is the great Sabbath of fasting and prayer, at which time the offerings will be gathered. Will the church officers please see that the special envelopes are handed out today and that all members have them. Before the beginning of Sabbath the members should place the offering for the Lord into the envelopes with a suitable text or thought. In organized groups and churches the ingathering will take place after the reading, while isolated members will send their offerings to the central office. The gifts will be set aside for the spreading of the gospel in Asia.

"Love Not the World..."

by ANGEL CRAVIOTTO, *South America*

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15.

THIS subject is of great importance, giving food for much thought. As the church of God, favored with the light of truth, we must ponder earnestly upon this subject, for the love of the world separates us from God and leads us into forbidden paths. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:16.

The world and its manifold temptations brings many souls into perdition, for it hinders their full surrender to Jesus Christ. In this world all things will pass away. Those who will not give their hearts to the Lord are in harmony with the things on earth; they have become accustomed to these things and thus despise heavenly interests. But the voice of God is heard saying, "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:17.

LOVE OF THE WORLD

Under this caption we could mention many sins which today rule humanity, and even some who confess the name of the Saviour. As this world is one vast expanse, so are its temptations which the enemy of all righteousness presents to the followers of Christ beyond number. The so-called amusements and items of entertainment, which many believe are needful for children, are often of satanic origin and draw the thoughts away from spiritual matters. Now, let us penetrate deeper into the subject which absorbs our thoughts and see with open eyes the results of a life that yields to the longing for worldly pleasures.

The enemy of souls invents or perverts many modern contrivances. Some seem so good that God's children accept them. Satan is delighted, for by means of these apparently harmless items he has achieved his purpose, and because of them many will by and by neglect their Christian duties. If we would have an enlarged vision we would change our opinions and withdraw from such temptation and danger.

The television set has become an agent of Satan to the highest degree. This apparatus is the most modern invention found in hundreds of thousands of families—and among God's children also. May God protect us from the many devilish programs

which turn the thoughts of children, teenagers, grownups and even elderly people away from spiritual subjects and lead them wholly to earthly interests. Evening after evening, late into night, unnumbered families sit before this apparatus, which daily brings the theater and movies into the very home. Yet the eyes of the parents are blind. They cannot see that in this manner the home by and by becomes desecrated. Here children and youth are taught all the evil, all those things which draw the heart away from God. Added to this tragedy is the fact that parents are constantly lamenting the ill behavior of their children. This invention has been debased by Satan, and he is very happy to see it find wholesale entrance everywhere.

Radio also has been introduced to the whole world and is another powerful instrument in the hands of the enemy which subverts the thoughts of those who listen and turns them away from the word of God. Those who wish to purchase such instruments should earnestly ask themselves, "Would our Saviour, if He were here on earth in person, sit down before such a machine and listen to those things to which we lend our curious ears?" I believe that this question would be sufficient to arouse our consciences. To this, many may raise the objection, "Yes, but the radio brings many good programs to which we can listen." This is true, but if this is intermingled with evil material, the little good takes the back seat and without realizing it the Christian is slowly drawn away from the truth and becomes deceived. May the Lord help all our dear believers in all the world to consider this matter. (1 Thess. 5:22.)

"Love not the world!" is the heavenly message which is to find room in our hearts, for it is the Lord Himself who sounds it in our ears in these days of prayer. These words should cause us to ponder about our spiritual condition.

The theater, movies, coffeehouses, and all other forbidden places are usually filled to capacity. The people seemingly taste the cream of life. Their faces show their present joy, but how often this joy turns into sadness and depression. Dance halls are crowded. Stadiums for popular sports have to be constantly enlarged as the number of spectators constantly increases and people gather to see a few men race after a single ball. Outcries

of joy and triumph sound everywhere as if they were never to cease. Yet the word of God tells us clearly and distinctly that this apparent joy will soon be changed into lamentation intermingled with bitter tears: "Awake ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth. . . . Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God. Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord, Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come." Joel 1:5,13-15.

THE SPIDERWEB OF SATAN

The enemy of souls is enlarging his spiderweb to deceive many professed Christians, and if possible the very elect. If we neglect prayer, particularly secret prayer in the closet, we will not be able to withstand the terrible assaults of the enemy in the near future. If we notice a fly or any other insect trapped in a spiderweb, we pity the unhappy fate of it; yet do we not realize that we might also fall prey to such a similar, tragic fate if we neglect our duties toward God and man.

The web of a spider is generally spun in a rather confined area, but the enemy of souls spreads his nets far and wide over this whole world, trying to destroy each one of us. In a special way he tries to deceive the youth with his thousands of temptations. I shall not say that his deceptions are only against the youth—they are against all of us. But youth accepts these nets of Satan without thought, for they lack experience and in their human infatuation seek to enjoy life. Then often the wrong steps are taken, and too late are they seen and repented of.

FASHION

Fashion, the favorite idol of youth, causes dreadful destruction in the whole world. It leads to vice (passions) and crime! It separates the soul from God and lulls it to sleep in indifference. Many, probably unknowingly, are already in the net of the enemy, although they might think they are serving God.

The short skirts that do not coincide with our principles of faith, the too short sleeves, the high heels, and other fashions of our age are weapons that Satan uses to overcome us in the battle against evil. It is the duty of our ministers and Bible workers to see that these sins do not enter our churches, otherwise we would clasp hands with the world. At this time I shall introduce an important testimony which is a warning to everyone in the world: "Do not, my sisters, trifle longer with your own souls and with God. I have been shown that the main cause of your backsliding is your love of dress. This leads to the neglect of grave responsibilities, and you find yourselves with scarcely a spark of the love of God in your hearts.

Without delay, renounce the cause of your backsliding, because it is sin against your own soul and against God. Be not hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Fashion is deteriorating the intellect and eating out the spirituality of our people. Obedience to fashion is pervading our Seventh-day Adventist churches, and is doing more than any other to separate our people from God. I have been shown that our church rules are very deficient. All exhibitions of pride in dress, which is forbidden in the word of God, should be sufficient reason for church discipline. If there is a continuance, in face of warnings and appeals and entreaties, to still follow the perverse will, it may be regarded as proof that the heart is in no way assimilated to Christ. Self, and only self, is the object of adoration, and one such professed Christian will lead many away from God.

"There is a terrible sin upon us as a people, that we have permitted our church members to dress in a manner inconsistent with their faith. We must arise at once, and close the door against the allurements of fashion. Unless we do this, our churches will become demoralized." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, pp. 647, 648.

This testimony is clear and concise and needs no further explanation. Fashion is the modern idol. Many young ladies, professing to serve God, are so linked with the fashions of this world that the love they profess is literally zero. Their dress makes them an equal with the world, and their profession of faith is all in vain. God help our youth, who ought to be the champions of our Reform Movement, that their dress might reveal righteousness in their hearts. To many, this important subject might be unpleasant to hear. Others may reason that we should not come so close to fanaticism. Yet we are treating a matter entirely correct as God demands it of His people through the Scriptures and the Testimonies. If we wish to remain on the platform of truth, enjoined by the Lord, we have to hold in even balance the reins of our principles of faith. Let us stay away from the net of the enemy, for there is always danger that we may become ensnared in it.

THE WORLD PASSES AWAY QUICKLY

"Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity." Eccl. 1:2. As the grass and the flowers of the field suddenly fade, so with the human being. "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." Eccl. 11:9.

The end of all things is drawing nigh and our good Father in heaven expects a complete change in us, such a change that He may pour out upon us the fulness of His Holy Spirit, enabling us to finish the work in this world cursed by sin. It is rewarding, dear brethren and sisters, to do all to reach the goal that Christ has placed before us. Since all earthly joy vanishes away, as a vapor which soon disappears, let us then seek for heavenly joys that will remain forever and that God shall give to

those who come forth as overcomers in their struggle against the currents of this world.

THE DAY IS ALREADY APPROACHING

After journeying extensively on the open ocean and as the ship approaches the harbor of destination after passing through storms and gales, the passengers are extremely glad and count the minutes until their disembarkment. Then the disagreeable experiences of the journey are forgotten, for they have reached the blessed harbor. Hearts are filled with great joy in the knowledge that dear relatives and acquaintances await their arrival at the harbor. And, my dear brethren and sisters, shall we not experience much greater joy at the end of our journey as we enter the heavenly Canaan? Our Captain now points us to the harbor of salvation, explaining to us that the hour of our arrival is near. Already the walls of Jerusalem are visible in the distance, but a small stretch still remains. One or another storm may yet rob us of the sight of New Jerusalem, yet our Captain assures us of a safe arrival. Permit nothing to discourage you through these stormy waves of our highly excited world in these last days!

Without doubt, the harbor waiting for us is of indescribable glory to all true children of God. The City of Gold is incomparable. The cities on earth, compared with the New Jerusalem, are but villages built of inferior materials. The Capital of the new earth with its streets of gold and its sea of glass will forever reflect the incomparable love of God toward His children. There will be no more darkness, for Christ, the Sun of Righteousness will lighten the city—no more cemeteries, for death shall no longer be. Blessed are those who will be numbered with the inhabitants of the new earth. Since it is impossible to describe the glories of the earth made new, let us do all in our power to be found faithful before God in these last battles that we may inherit life eternal.

In closing I wish to reiterate, "Love not the world," dear brethren and sisters, if you desire to receive this glorious inheritance. May God help us to remain faithful until the dawning of that day when all will become a blessed reality is my desire and prayer for each one of us.

AMEN!

Reading No. 4 — Wednesday, December 12, 1962

Our Armor for the Last Battle - The Righteousness of Christ -

by A. RINGELBERG, *Holland*

"Clad in the armor of Christ's righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. 'Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners,' she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer.

"The darkest hour of the church's struggle with the powers of evil, is that which immediately precedes the day of her final deliverance." —*Prophets and Kings*, p.725.

*W*HAT A solemn prophetic account! With these words, comfort and hope are instilled in the hearts of the children of God today. Yet, what seriousness and what admonition are likewise held before us in this testimony by remembering that these promises and assurances of victory are closely allied with an impending battle with the powers of darkness.

Even now we can visualize the beginnings of these dark hours that loom up before the faithful believers. We perceive them in the happenings

which are visible in all the world. The great powers of darkness are concentrating more and more. They amalgamate into a wicked unity by which they create a foundation for the rule of antichrist. Soon this antichrist will achieve an all-embracing power. Satan, as never before, is endeavoring to bring all humanity under his rulership. He seeks to deceive the nations by persuading them to confederate, and humanity is led to believe that this is the unity of which Jesus spoke in His mediatorial prayer.

There are two outstanding currents to which we must pay attention in these days. On one hand it is the effort of the Roman Catholic Church to draw back into her bosom the Christians who were separated from her through the Reformation. Next, we see the great ecumenical movement of non-Catholic Christians which recently convened in New Delhi, India. Outside of these two movements we have a third one moving in approximately the same direction. It is the movement of Buchman for a moral re-armament. All have but one object in view:

to create a world Christianity after a modern, purely human pattern. In it, not the Creator and His truth is the focal point, but the human being himself. How much the world is actually taken up with these movements is clearly seen by the fact that 41 per cent of all actual news items published by the world's newspapers during the last months of the year 1961 concerned themselves with the papacy and its approaching council. 40 percent of all reports dealt with the Ecumenical Council at New Delhi. The Buchman movement distributed to every home in Europe a brochure about its own ideology.

We may be sure that by these things the way will be prepared for the setting up of the image to the beast and thus for the last great battle, of which the Bible and Testimonies speak. It is the great objective of Satan to counteract the work of the Holy Spirit. The great enemy of God is seeking to hinder the last work of sanctification of the remnant. He will try everything to stir up the whole world against the small company of God's children. "The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger,—a faith that will not faint, though severely tried." —*Great Controversy*, p.621.

This, dear brethren and sisters in all the world, is in reality the condition of the time we are living in. The last battle is indeed right before us. How serious, how sacred, and momentous is such a thought for every one who wishes to be saved. O, how many will be disappointed, not having made the needed preparation, although they have carried the name "Seventh-day Adventist." We ought to conduct a serious self-examination. How are matters standing with me? Will I be ready to endure the last battle? Am I an Adventist in name only? Am I only theoretically and in organization connected with this people? Or do I feel deep within my soul like a member of the wonderful body of Christ? Is my walk in the truth the fruit of really being born again and of true conversion? We should not forget that one can outwardly be a member of the church while his soul is not connected with it. If this is the case, such a brother or sister will lack the strength to conquer in the last battle.

THE UNENDING MERCY OF GOD

What causes the church of Christ to appear "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners"? It is the garment of the righteousness of Christ which is given to her as the best armor for the coming conflict. Clad in this armor she will move forward from victory to victory. The raiment of the righteousness of Christ is the life-preserver cast out within our reach. Are we acquainted with this righteousness? Do we already possess it? These are questions of utmost importance.

It has always been the effort of Satan to place the redemption of man in a false light. Ever since the fall of Adam he has obstructed every attempt of Christ to save the sinner. He did this by either placing the righteousness of Christ in doubt or renouncing or misrepresenting it. The vision of Zechariah the prophet is full proof of this. Zech. 3:1-5.

In this vision, Joshua, the high priest, is the representative of the people of God of all times. He is seen standing before the Angel of the Lord, Christ, clothed with impure garments. Jesus does not deny the uncleanness of the high priest and thus of the people, yet He rebukes the accuser and stands up as defender for His people to fight against the accusations of Satan. He issues the command, "Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." Zech.3:4. It is this very thing which Christ is accomplishing for all who stand before Him seeking to find help and salvation and coming to Him by faith in His atoning blood. It was nothing but grace which clothed the high priest Joshua with the garment of Christ's righteousness. "His own sins and those of his people were pardoned. Israel were clothed with 'change of raiment,'—the righteousness of Christ imputed to them. The mitre placed upon Joshua's head was such as was worn by the priests and bore the inscription, 'Holiness to the Lord,' signifying that notwithstanding his former transgressions, he was now qualified to minister before God in his sanctuary." —*Testimonies*, Vol.5, p.469.

That which was done to Joshua in this instance is a representation of God's course of action with His people. It has deep significance for us. The great work of the High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary will be completed in our day. "As Joshua was pleading before the angel, so the remnant church, with brokenness of heart and earnest faith, will plead for pardon and deliverance through Jesus their Advocate. They are fully conscious of the sinfulness of their lives, they see their weakness and unworthiness, and as they look upon themselves they are ready to despair." —*Testimonies*, Vol.5, p.473.

The church of the remnant will no longer resist the testimony of the Faithful Witness. She will be fully conscious of her poverty, nakedness and need of help. Stripped of all self-righteousness, freed from spiritual pride, from phariseism and hypocrisy, the remnant will know that their only safety is found in accepting the offer of Jesus and receiving the white robe of His righteousness. Rev.3:18.

RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPUTED

In his letter to the Romans the apostle Paul shows that no human being, whether a heathen, Jew, or Christian possesses a righteousness that counts before God. Every one is found guilty before God, and even our good works are mere "filthy rags." Isa.64:6. They cannot give us a called-for righteousness. It is, therefore, out of pure mercy bestowed and imputed to every repenting sinner who comes to God in faith. Such a righteousness man cannot earn for himself. It is the merit of our Saviour, the propitiation between God and man. Only faith, which in itself does not count as of value before God either, brings the sinner into such a relationship to the Father and Christ, that God is enabled to impute this righteousness unto him. What is it that we understand under the "Righteousness of Christ"? It is the fruit of His

complete obedience toward the commandments of God. And this fruit of obedience is imputed to the sinner. "The only way in which he (the sinner) 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." —*Review and Herald*, Nov. 4, 1890. What a precious gospel! The righteousness of Christ imputed is therefore a most precious message of heaven to His people today. Oh, what mercy it brings to us! We do not marvel that the Spirit of prophecy says of this message that it is "the third angel's message in verity." This means that men may preach this message and in the outer form fit into the framework of its demands. They may confess themselves as an organization to this message; yet if the faith in this message and the working out of its principles does not accomplish a complete sanctification and justification, if it does not make us possessors of the righteousness of Christ, which is an integral part of the latter rain and the loud cry, all will be in vain because we have failed to reach the nucleus, the accomplishment of the message. That this message is indeed "the third angel's message in verity" means that it must free us of all self-righteousness, of all spiritual pride, of all thoughts of self-redemption, of all feelings of superiority over others, and of all disputes of who should be the greatest in the church. It will cleanse our characters of pride, of all unloving criticism, of all flights of anger, of inclinations to follow fashion, and of all fanaticism. This message will bring every soul who accepts it, walking humbly under the knowledge of his burden of sin, to the foot of the cross, clinging securely to the promises of grace and hoping solely for the accomplished work of our Redeemer.

It may be, dear co-pilgrim, that you feel small and weak in faith, that you feel depressed because the forward move in the way of sanctification is so very slow. You may, perhaps, struggle with a weakness of character. It may be that Satan during wakeful hours of the night presents to you the sins of the past, bringing fear into your heart. Then look in faith to Jesus who is offering His righteousness to you. To you He says in like manner, Take the defiled garments from him and clothe him with change of raiment, and place a fair mitre upon his head! Grasp His promises in faith and He, who reads the intents of your heart, knowing that you love Him and that you desire to be saved, shall, out of pure mercy, account unto you His righteousness—a righteousness which is of worth before God. What Jesus said in His object lesson of the two worshipers is surely of great significance: "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other." Luke 18:14. The cry of the soul, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" is the key to this imputed righteousness of Christ.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST IMPARTED

By imputing the righteousness of Christ the work of redemption is not completed. The righteousness of the Redeemer imputed must take shape in us.

"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." —*Review and Herald*, June 4, 1895. The righteousness imputed, by which man is freed from sin, is the foundation for the righteousness imparted, which makes our life conduct worthy for heaven.

"No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation. The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven." —*Desire of Ages*, p. 555.

"We must be emptied of self. But this is not all that is required; for when we have renounced our idols, the vacuum must be supplied. If the heart is left desolate, and the vacuum not supplied, it will be in the condition of him whose house was 'empty, swept, and garnished,' but without a guest to occupy it. The evil spirit took unto himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they entered in and dwelt there; and the last state of that man was worse than the first.

"As you empty the heart of self, you must accept the righteousness of Christ. Lay hold of it by faith; for you must have the mind and spirit of Christ, that you may work the works of Christ. If you open the door of the heart, Jesus will supply the vacuum by the gift of His Spirit, and then you can be a living preacher in your home, in the church, and in the world." —*Review and Herald*, February 23, 1892.

"Because he (man) needs divine aid, it does not make human activity unessential. Faith on the part of man is required; for faith works by love and purifies the soul. . . . He has given every man his work; and every true worker sheds forth light to the world, because he is united with God and Christ and heavenly angels in the grand work of saving the lost. From divine association he becomes more and more intelligent in working the works of God. In working out what divine grace works in, the believer becomes spiritually great." —*Review and Herald*, November 1, 1892.

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature." —*Desire of Ages*, pp. 323, 324.

"Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without. He who is righteous within is not hardhearted and unsympathetic, but day by day he grows into the image of Christ, going on from strength to strength. He who is being sanctified by the truth will be self-controlled, and will follow in the footsteps of Christ until grace is lost in glory." —*Review and Herald*, June 4, 1895.

Righteousness imputed brings a visible fruit of sanctification in life and character. It is therefore no mere theory, but a fact, a reality. It proves the

fact by changing the sinner completely, making of a transgressor of God's commandments an obedient follower of Jesus.

Dear brethren and sisters in all the world: In the ensuing battle before us every one of us will have to stand alone. Then it will be revealed whether or not we are internally connected with Christ and His truth. Only if we have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ in its full significance shall we be able to muster enough strength and courage to come forth as God's victorious army out of this battle. How solemn is our time! Should we not, more than ever before, cast ourselves into the loving arms of our Saviour? May God help us in this Week of Prayer to overcome all insincerity, all spiritual dryness, all pride, formality, fanaticism, hypocrisy, and all hardness of

heart. These things are obstructing the righteousness of Christ so that it cannot be given or imparted to us.

Let us understand that the message of the righteousness of Christ is the beginning and the power of the loud cry and the latter rain, without which the cause of God can never be finished. May we pray and wrestle in our closets, in our churches and groups for the favor of God, for His assistance and His mercy, that we may be clothed with the wedding garment of pardoning grace. Then the work of God shall be speedily finished and we, as His people, shall be the favored victors and guests at the wedding feast of the Lamb.

AMEN!

Reading No. 5 - Friday, December 14, 1962

Pray Without Ceasing

by PAUL HEINK, *Eastern Germany*

NOTE: *During this hour of prayer let us remember in a special way our dear believers behind the Iron Curtain.*

"And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily." Luke 18:7,8.

"The idea that prayer is not essential is one of Satan's most successful devices to ruin souls. Prayer is communion with God, the Fountain of wisdom, the Source of strength, and peace, and happiness. Jesus prayed to the Father 'with strong crying and tears.' Paul exhorts believers to 'pray without ceasing,' in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, making known their requests to God. 'Pray for one another,' James says. 'The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much.' Hebrews 5:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16.

"By sincere, earnest prayer parents should make a hedge about their children. They should pray with full faith that God will abide with them and that holy angels will guard them and their children from Satan's cruel power." -*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, pp. 42, 43.

IF THERE was ever a time in which prayer was needed, it is now. Not mere formal prayer, offered as a habit in the morning and at eventide, but a fervent crying out of the soul after God and His help must become the necessity of every soul.

PRAYER IS GRACE

"He (Christ) is our example in all things. He is a brother in our infirmities, but not in possessing like passions. As the sinless One, His nature recoiled from evil. He endured struggles and torture of soul in a world of sin. His humanity made prayer a necessity and privilege." -*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, pp. 201, 202.

Have we given serious thought that it is a great mercy that we, sinful human beings, may have communion with a holy God? By sin, man severed the intimate connection which linked him with heaven, and the intimate relationship between God and man ceased to be. God's call for man in Paradise, "Where art thou?" shows how estranged Paradise had become from the holy God. The heavenly atmosphere had vanished. The children of God did not greet their Father with praise and thanksgiving as before; they evaded Him and were full of fear. O, Thou Father of mercy, what a precious, loving plan hast Thou entered upon to affect a reconciliation with man! The Lord grieved that such a change had come in. God's word could not be broken; man had to die. But by grace man was shown a way by which he could again come in contact with God.

How many tears our first parents must have shed in front of the garden of paradise! They now perceived that their sin and their disobedience had brought man into this desperate plight, from which he could not save himself. How soothing it must have been for them to know that "... the Lord had

respect unto Abel and to his offering." Thus the heavenly Father clearly showed how He regarded the sacrifice of our first parents. It was the way of pardon which the sinner was permitted to tread. Nevertheless the letter to the Hebrews states, "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God." Heb.7:19.

PRAYER—A LIVING CONNECTION

How simple is the way that Jesus has showed us. Although the sinner has no claim to forgiveness, mercy is offered to us in Christ. Through Him we may speak to our heavenly Father as friend to friend. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." John 14:13,14. Was this not the mission of our Saviour, to show to man the way by which he could again approach the heavenly Father? In this our Saviour was a worthy example. To the disciples it was a strange concept, and they cherished the desire to be able to pray like Jesus. They witnessed how His face was full of radiance when He returned from such prayer. And Jesus is also an example for us in persevering prayer. Whole nights He communed with His Father. Even in the darkest hour of death He could pray, "Thy will be done!"

Do we, dear brethren and sisters, keep up this living connection? Or do we pray merely because it is time to do so? Dutiful prayer has no meaning—it never brings us into the audience-chamber of our Father, but extends no higher than the ceiling of the room.

"There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God. There is **nothing** that can prevent us from lifting up our hearts in the spirit of earnest prayer. In the crowds of the street, in the midst of a business engagement, we may send up a petition to God, and plead for divine guidance, as did Nehemiah when he made his request before King Artaxerxes. A closet of communion may be found wherever we are. We should have the door of the heart open continually, and our invitation going up that Jesus may come and abide as a heavenly guest in the soul. . . .

"Let the soul be drawn out and upward, that God may grant us a breath of the heavenly atmosphere. We may keep so near to God that in every unsuspected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun." —*Steps to Christ*, pp.103,104.

TROUBLE TEACHES TO PRAY

Times of great stress are before us. If there ever was a time when persistent and earnest prayer was needed, it is now. Serious trials are before us and no one can escape them. Then we will learn to understand the words of David, the man of God, as he says, "I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God." Ps.69:3.

This prayer we will learn only as distress comes upon us and every other hold is taken away. Then

no other road is left open for us but to go on our knees. As a result, prayer will indeed become a communing of the heart with God. It will be the last way of escape to express our helplessness. Then we will not only pray, but commence to cry and agonize with God, "I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me!" Although the eyes might overflow and the mouth be faint during such prayer, the heart cries so much more and the whole inside of our being opens up to Jesus. To pray means to open up to Jesus and admit Him to our troubles. It is my helplessness which opens the door wide to Jesus, giving Him access to all my distress.

Have we ever prayed in such a manner? All things are faring too well with us, and we cannot place ourselves into the situation of those who *today* are crying so hard, yes, who are fainting because of internal woe.

Nevertheless prayer changes things, which can be proved by many experiences of the past. During the last period of persecution many of us were cast into prison. We were told after our dismissal that this one or that one had been scheduled to enter the concentration camp. After my dismissal, when I went to my attorney, he looked at me in astonishment and then said, "I can tell you now that you had been singled out to go to the concentration camp." Why was it? Because we remained faithful. We refused to cooperate in the things that were demanded of us. Later I heard that it fared the same with other brethren—*yet God heard their cries*.

One learns to pray at these times when he is delivered up to wicked men and stands without justice. Was it mere coincidence that we were not put into the concentration camp or that we were delivered from it? It was an answer to prayer! All the many prayers which ascended to the Throne of God were not in vain. Is not the same God still living today? This we assuredly believe, and He will not leave one prayer unanswered if it is spoken in earnest.

Such times of distress are often needed that we may learn how to pray and cling fast to God.

PRAYER OF FAITH

"Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that every one who would make his life work a success must understand. Christ says, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. . . .

"Faith is trusting God,—believing that He loves us, and knows best what is for our good. Thus instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way." —*Education*, pp.257,253.

We may today mention one man of faith, Elijah. At this moment I do not think of his first prayer when he prayed for the rain to come, but of the prayer after the decision of Israel. He was so convinced that God, after the turning of Israel, would send the long-expected rain that he said to Ahab, "Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain." Did Elijah say this

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because he heard the thunder or saw the clouds? No, for the sun still burnt down upon the arid countryside and nothing could be seen. Elijah believed and counted upon God as he made his way to the top of the mountain. He sent his servant to an elevated place from where he could scan the ocean. The servant returns with the message that nothing is in sight.

Elijah has told Ahab about the coming rain, yet nothing is in sight, not even after the servant returns for the sixth time. He does not flinch, for he knows the promise of God given to His children of old. If they are faithful they will have abundance of rain. For the seventh time he sends his servant to the mountain top and the servant reports a small cloud in sight, about the size of a man's hand. In spirit Elijah beholds an abundance of rain and commands Ahab, "Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not." This is one of the greatest examples of praying in faith.

"Faith such as this is needed in the world to-day, — faith that will lay hold on the promises of God's word, and refuse to let go until Heaven hears. Faith such as this connects us closely with Heaven, and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness." —*Prophets and Kings*, p.157.

Has God ever changed? Do we expect the same of Him today? Or must the Saviour also rebuke us by saying, "Where is your faith?" In spite of years of experience with their Saviour the disciples doubted in the days of trial. Can we not be compared with these disciples? Where is our faith when tribulations come upon us? Are we not at times guilty of planing off or trying to shorten the cross because it is too heavy for us? Why have we so little power? The Spirit of prophecy writes: "I asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel. He said, 'Ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them.' . . . I saw that we had doubted the sure promises, and wounded the Saviour by our lack of faith." —*Early Writings*, p.73.

Faith reaches out for the promises of God. The rope of faith is our connection with heaven on the narrow path. Faith must be exercised and will strengthen at every test withstood, but the opposite might be the result if we become weak.

"Courage, fortitude, faith, and implicit trust in God's power to save, do not come in a moment. These heavenly graces are acquired by the experience of years. By a life of holy endeavor and firm adherence to the right the children of God were sealing their destiny. Beset with temptations without number, they knew that they must resist firmly or be conquered." —*Testimonies*, Vol.5, p.213.

PRAYER IN THE CLOSET

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to

thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt.6:6.

There is one question I would like to ask each soul, Have you a personal contact with your Saviour? Or are you satisfied in morning and evening worship to have mother or father do the praying? True, the family might be surrounded with a hedge in this manner, yet the personal contact with God is absent. Every child must feel the necessity, "I need Thee, oh I need Thee!" If we have not done so yet, may this Week of Prayer spur us on to make up for our neglect of the past. Otherwise, we will stand without shelter and without strength in the trials that shall come upon us. It is just this personal prayer that is the source of strength for every soul who exercises it.

"It was in hours of solitary prayer that Jesus in His earth-life received wisdom and power. Let the youth follow His example in finding at dawn and twilight a quiet season for communion with the Father in heaven. And throughout the day let them lift up their hearts to God. At every step of our way He says, 'I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand; . . . fear not; I will help thee.' Could our children learn these lessons in the morning of their years, what freshness and power, what joy and sweetness, would be brought into their lives!" —*Education*, p.259.

PRAY AND WORK

He who does nothing but praying will soon cease to pray. And he who only works and takes no time for prayer will soon cease to work.

"Then He showed what it means to watch for His coming. The time is to be spent, not in idle waiting, but in diligent working. This lesson He taught in the parable of the talents." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p.327. Never was the commission of Jesus more earnest than it is today, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matt. 9:37,38.

Have we become conscious of this task? Do we believe that we are the reformatory people through whom the Lord will bring His glorious work to completion? Then it is now time to set to work, not only praying for workers, but for everyone to begin to work. This question ought to burn like fire upon every soul. Once our hands are tied and we have to do the work under forbidding circumstances we will say, "Oh, that I had gone somewhere to the heathens when I was able to do a work for the Saviour!" Shall we not rather take advantage of the blessed *today* instead of waiting for the time when we will have to say, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved"? Jer.8:20.

Today the last solemn duty before God and our fellow men is praying and working. Have we not seen workshops carrying the words, "Residence upstairs on the third or fourth floor"? So it must be with us, dear brethren and sisters. The workshop is downstairs, the residence upstairs. In the residence we rest up and strengthen ourselves, but

in the workshop below we have to fulfill our duty, doing our work. We cannot remain in the workshop alone to gather new strength; from above comes our strength, from below comes our work. Therefore, both work and prayer belong together. The disciples also had a longing to remain on the Mount of Transfiguration; but they had to come down, for they had received a commission from their Master which they must fulfill. This is what Enoch did, as well as did John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Saviour. It is said of Enoch that he sought the solitary places, yet he returned to warn the world and preach the message of the judgment.

May God grant His children a true spirit of prayer that they may constantly call upon the Lord.

"O that we as a people might humble our hearts before God and plead with Him for the endowment of the Holy Spirit! If we came to the Lord in humility and contrition of soul, He would answer our petitions; for He says that He is more willing to give us the Holy Spirit than are parents to give good gifts to their children." —*Review and Herald*, November 22 and 29, 1892.

May the Lord give us a spirit of unceasing prayer.

AMEN!

Reading No. 6 — Sabbath, December 15, 1962

Are You Ready?

by CARLOS KOZEL, *Central America*

IN THE life of man we find not only perilous things, but also questions which lead to deep, earnest thought. And indeed our dangerous circumstances cause these problems and questions. Pertaining to our salvation, the question which now faces us is, "Are we ready?"

As an example, when Adam found himself in such a predicament, the call from God, "Adam, where art thou?" came to him like a striking blow. Gen.3:9. This call from God brought Adam to a knowledge of himself. Blindness fell like scales from his eyes. This blindness, caused by his disobedience and yielding to the powers of darkness, had to disappear. True repentance and brokenheartedness was the result. Again his desire grew strong to be intimately connected with heaven. From that time on it was his ardent longing to enter there, well aware that this could only be accomplished by continued readiness.

I ask myself today, Where do I stand? And ask yourself also, Where do I stand? Yes, everyone should ask, Where are we? speaking individually and collectively. Are we ready? Are we what we ought to be? Are we converted disciples of Christ? Or does this deceptive world cling to us like leaden weights so that we are unable to move forward? Conditions in the world are indeed too earnest and too perilous for us to stand still, especially now when we are compelled by circumstances to advance rapidly. Today we are exposed to the same danger as Lot was at the destruction of Sodom. The angels even compelled him to move forward and come out from the Babylon of those days. It was only by the grace of God that the angels finally seized him by the hand and led him out of the city. Otherwise, who knows what might have happened to Lot! The

lingering of his wife and her fate are well known to us. This experience is to serve as a solemn warning to us. To all those among us who earnestly desire to prepare themselves the report of the angels' wise and merciful course of action toward Lot and his family is heart touching. Oh, that they, too, might proceed mercifully with you, with me, with all of us, that we might not fall short in the turmoil of these last days. "And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh not so, my Lord: Behold now thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar." Gen.19:15-22.

O, that the angels of God might proceed mercifully with us, taking us by the hand at the time

when our modern Sodom of today will suddenly be destroyed at the coming of Christ. "Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come." Rev.18:10.

How then will the fashion-minded, lukewarm Adventists weep and lament! How they will look longingly for help when there is none. The contagious, hypnotic lethargy of most Adventist people is caused by the enemy. Who can succeed in awakening them from the deep sleep of indifference and false security? They know it all; they are acquainted with every truth! They are wise and prudent! Yet, the pointed warnings of the Bible and the Testimonies leave no lasting impression on their minds, though they have heard and read them constantly. And this is exactly the great danger and cause why the way of earnest preparation is avoided.

Is it not dreadful for the Spirit of prophecy to proclaim already in the year 1893 that there was barely one soul among twenty prepared to close their earth's history and be saved? How would the divine judgment regard these matters today after another seventy years have gone by? Should we not shudder as if we were shaken by a sudden earthquake which could violently awake all people from sleep, no matter how sound it may be? At such a time, all people are afraid and, jumping out of their beds, seek an open space to avoid being struck dead by the collapsing houses. Then there is not time to look at ourselves in the mirror for hours to see whether the fancies of fashion are in place. During these terrible tremors most people call to God for help. For the time being stubborn "self" is forgotten. To remain alive is the sole heart desire of all. Yet as soon as the danger is past, incorrigible men continue in their sinful ways. And this condition will increase at a greater rate until our dear Saviour appears in the clouds of heaven. How deeply all heaven is saddened, desiring all men to be saved, when they see the incorrigible state of present society. O, that we as Adventists of the Reformation might not be found among the lukewarm in their unrighteous ways and actions. Jesus desires to see us, as His children, saved. He loves us. Again and again He sends His holy angels to help and assist us even when we are unaware of it. Yet in these perilous times of the end of this world's history, what more can He do for us if we will not get ready?

Sister White also asks these serious questions of us: "I saw that all heaven is interested in our salvation; and shall we be indifferent? Shall we be careless, as though it were a small matter whether we are saved or lost? Shall we slight the sacrifice that was made for us? Some have done this. They have trifled with offered mercy, and the frown of God is upon them. God's Spirit will not always be grieved. It will depart if grieved a little longer. After all has been done that God could do to save men, if they show by their lives that they slight Jesus' offered mercy, death will be their portion, and it will be dearly purchased. It will be a dreadful death; for they will feel the agony that Christ felt upon the cross to purchase for them the redemption which they have refused. And they will then realize what they have lost—eternal life and the

immortal inheritance. The great sacrifice that has been made to save souls shows us their worth. When the precious soul is once lost, it is lost forever." —*Testimony Treasures*, Vol.1, pp.23,24.

To play with time is certainly playing a losing game! And he who does not earnestly prepare himself right now is playing such a game. "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes." Luke 19:41,42.

How sad the Saviour must often be in regard to the lukewarm, disobedient condition of His children! He loves His children; He loves His people above all else! It therefore hurts Him so much if His tender, loving call for improvement and true obedience to the faith remains unheeded. "Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 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." Rev.3:20,21.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

Today we shall not discuss these or the other doctrines of faith. We know them all. We might know even more than we need to know. But we shall remain humble and place our hope not in our own strength but more and more in the strength of the Lord. Dear soul, keep yourself close to Him! He is great and mighty! By meditating upon the time of two thousand years ago when He walked simply, and unpretentiously and yet with mighty signs and wonders among poor humanity, helping them gladly and cordially, our hearts will be deeply touched. Then tears will fall from our eyes. Something will take hold of us which we cannot describe, yet which we may believe and must believe with all our hearts.

IF WE ARE WILLING, HE WILL HELP YOU AND ME, YES, EVERY ONE OF US

This positive hope, carried on wings that never grow tired, will one day make us ready. The Lord will accomplish righteousness in us because we hunger and thirst endlessly for it. And His loving promise is that we shall be filled. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matt.5:6. In reality, this important constant longing to get ready and be ready can only be fulfilled through the righteousness of Christ. Therefore, let us persevere more strongly in prayer. Pray without ceasing for a true preparedness. One day the Lord will fulfill His righteousness in us if we continually follow the prerequisite given to us by Isaiah, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with Him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isa.57:15.

How precious these words are! What wonderful confidence and hope they should instill in every one

of us who in increasing measure continues to walk the heavenly way! To walk joyfully forward in this path, according to Revelation 14:4, means to "... follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth." With this another mystery is also solved, which the prophet Isaiah mentions: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isa.40:31.

There is no time now to become weary and weak. Today the voice of God is most earnestly calling us to become co-workers with Him and to go forward in the cause of God joyfully and courageously. Only a few more battles and all will be finished. In closing let us hear what the Spirit of prophecy lays upon our hearts for our particular time: "My brethren, you are disregarding the most sacred claims of God, by your neglect to consecrate yourselves and your children to him. Many of you are reposing in false security, absorbed in selfish interests, and attracted by earthly treasures. You fear no evil. Danger seems a great way off. You will be deceived, deluded, to your eternal ruin, unless you arouse, and with penitence and deep humiliation, return unto the Lord.

"Again and again has the voice from Heaven addressed you. Will you obey this voice? . . .

"The deadly lethargy of the world is paralyzing your senses. Sin no longer appears repulsive, because you are blinded by Satan. The judgments of God are soon to be poured out upon the earth. 'Escape for thy life,' is the warning from the angels of God (as with Lot, ins.). Other voices are heard saying, 'Do not become excited; there is no cause for special alarm.' Those who are at ease in Zion cry peace and safety, while heaven declares that swift destruction is about to come upon the transgressor. The young, the frivolous, the pleasure-loving, consider these warnings as idle tales, and turn from them with a jest. Parents are inclined to think their children about right in the matter, and all sleep on at ease. Thus it was at the destruction of the old world, and when Sodom and Gomorrah were consumed by fire. . . .

"It is God who holds in his hands the destiny of souls. He will not always be mocked; he will not always be trifled with. Already his judgments are in the land. Fierce and awful tempests leave destruction and death in their wake. The devouring fire lays low the desolate forest and the crowded city. Storm and shipwreck await those who journey upon the deep. Accident and calamity threaten all who travel upon the land. Hurricanes, earthquakes, sword and famine, follow in quick succession. Yet the hearts of men are hardened. They recognize not the warning voice of God. They will not flee to the only refuge from the gathering storm.

"Many who have been placed upon the walls of Zion, to watch with eagle eye for the approach of danger, and lift the voice of warning, are themselves asleep. The very ones who should be most active and vigilant in this hour of peril are neglecting their duty, and bringing upon themselves the blood of souls.

"My brethren, beware of the evil heart of unbelief. The word of God is plain and close in its

restrictions; it interferes with your selfish indulgence; therefore you do not obey it." —*Testimonies*, Vol.5, pp.233,234.

"Let church members bear in mind that the fact that their names are registered on the church books will not save them. They must show themselves approved of God, workmen that need not be ashamed. Day by day they are to build their characters in accordance with Christ's directions. They are to abide in Him, constantly exercising faith in Him. Thus they will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ, — wholesome, cheerful, grateful Christians, led by God into clearer and still clearer light. If this is not their experience, they will be among those whose voices will one day be raised in the bitter lamentation, 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved! Why did I not flee to the Stronghold for refuge? Why have I trifled with my soul's salvation, and done despite to the Spirit of grace?'

"'The great day of the Lord is near, it is near and hasteth greatly.' Zeph.1:14. Let us be shod with the gospel shoes, ready to march at a moment's notice. Every hour, every minute, is precious. We have no time to spend in self-gratification. All around us there are souls perishing in sin. Every day there is something to do for our Lord and Master. Every day we are to point souls to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world.

"'Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.' Matt.24:44. Go to your rest at night with every sin confessed. Thus we did when in 1844 we expected to meet our Lord. And now this great event is nearer than when we first believed. Be ye always ready, in the evening, in the morning, and at noon, that when the cry is heard, 'Behold the Bridegroom cometh! go ye out to meet Him,' you may, even though awakened out of sleep, go forth to meet Him with your lamps trimmed and burning." —*Testimonies*, Vol.9, pp. 47,48.

Let us all fulfill the command of our dear Saviour to "watch and pray" (Matt.26:14), that we may receive help. This is my desire and prayer for us all.

AMEN!

Watch

and

Pray!

Ye Are My Witnesses

by A. W. DOERSCHLER

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9.

people for His glory. "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13.

CO-LABORERS WITH CHRIST

"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost."

Before Christ came to the world, His home was in the kingdom of glory among beings who had never fallen. They loved Him, and He could have stayed there and rejoiced in their love. But He did not do this. He left the royal courts and went without the camp, bearing the reproach of sin. He came to a world, all marred and seared by the curse, to save the lost sheep; and He gathered into His divine bosom all who would come to Him. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He trod the rugged path of self-denial Himself to set us an example. This was the work of Christ for us. Had He not done this, we would have been left to perish without hope in God.

We find here a duty that rests upon all; not one is excused. Those who see the preciousness of the Saviour's love as He hung upon the cross and who understand its value as there revealed will be in earnest; they will be anxious to become co-laborers with Christ in seeking for the lost and perishing.

OUR MISSION FIELD AT HOME AND ABROAD

Nineteen hundred years ago Jesus sat upon the curb of Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman, a stranger, came to draw water from the well. Jesus engaged her in conversation by asking for a drink of water. The request opened the way for conversation regarding the "water of life." So impressed was the woman by what she heard that she forgot her errand. Leaving the pitcher at the well, she ran back to the village and shouted to the people, "Come, see a man: . . . is not this the Christ?" The witness of this "stranger," who had met the Messiah and found in Him her Saviour, caused the entire city to go out to see Him. As Jesus looked over the fields of waving grain and saw the people approaching, He said: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35.

Here was a harvest of souls brought to the kingdom because Jesus had taken time to speak to one

THE preaching of the gospel of the kingdom is to do a work like that of John the Baptist, "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:17. They will be a people redeemed, transformed, united, living in expectation of the return of Christ. Their experience in Christ and their hope of His return lift them above the hatreds and the sordid affairs of this life. Their ears have heard God's message, they have seen a vision of Christ, and they long in spirit to be together with Him. The gospel has broken the spiritual power of Satan's bondage and it only remains for them to be released from the prison house of this sinful world and receive the righteous inheritance that is theirs.

"The power which stirred the people so mightily in the 1844 movement will again be revealed. The third angel's message will go forth, not in whispered tones, but with a loud voice."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 252. Again we read: "Light will be communicated to every city and town. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of salvation. So abundantly will the renewing Spirit of God have crowned with success the intensely active agencies, that the light of present truth will be seen flashing everywhere."—Mrs. E. G. White in the *Review and Herald*, Oct. 13, 1904.

As never before, we realize as we look out upon the world that the desired era of righteousness and peace cannot be established through human planning. Through human vision the outlook is one of gloom and foreboding. The solution to the world's problems will not be brought about through clever political arrangements, nor widespread social uplift. There is just one source of hope—the divine intervention of God in the affairs of this world, bringing about the end of the present world and the inauguration of the kingdom of Christ.

This gospel of the kingdom is a timely message, one that pierces through the confusions of today and gives new meaning to life. The great purposes of God are revealed, and those who accept them by faith are enabled to live above the overwhelming despair and frustration of our time. It becomes clear that not all the human race is doomed to perish, but that God will save and preserve a

of another race. Speaking of this experience, Ellen G. White writes in *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 8, page 31: "How much good might be accomplished if all who know the truth would labor for sinners, for those who need so much to know and understand Bible truth and who would respond to it as readily as the Samaritans responded to the words of Christ! . . .

"The work in foreign fields is to be carried forward earnestly and intelligently. And the work in the home field is in no wise to be neglected. Let not the fields lying in the shadow of our doors, such as the great cities of our land, be lightly passed over and neglected. These fields are fully as important as any foreign field."

CHANNELS OF LIGHT

A great work has been committed to the followers of Christ. Every one may do something to strengthen and build up the church and to enlighten those who are in darkness. But there must be a feeling of individual responsibility. Each must seek to maintain a close connection with God, that he may have strength to aid and counsel others. "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all." The heart in which His Spirit dwells will be a channel of light to others. It cannot be otherwise.

Those who do not preserve a living connection with God themselves will have little interest in the salvation of others. They have no light from heaven to reflect to the world. If these careless, irresponsible ones could see the fearful results of their course, they would be alarmed. Every one of us is exerting an influence upon some other soul, and we shall each be held accountable for the effect of that influence. Words and actions have a telling power, and the long hereafter will show the results of our life here. Yet how few consider these things. The members of the church listen to the word of God spoken by His servant, and then one goes to his farm, another to his merchandise; and by their absorbing interest in the affairs of life, they declare that eternal things are of secondary importance.

Oh, that we as a people might realize how much depends upon our earnestness and fidelity in the service of Christ! All who realize their accountability to God will be burden bearers in the church.

A HEAVEN-BORN IDEA

Our work has been marked out for us by our heavenly Father. Christ calls upon every man and woman to be clothed with the armor of His righteousness and begin to work in earnestness. Says the Spirit of prophecy:

"If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures. Missionary work—introducing our publications into families, conversing, and praying with and for them—is a good work."—*Christian Service*, p.145.

"This house-to-house labor, searching for souls, hunting for the lost sheep, is the most essential work that can be done."—*Evangelism*, p.431.

"It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p.69.

There are unlimited opportunities for presenting the truth with our literature. We are counseled to distribute our literature judiciously on trains, in the streets, on the great ships that ply the sea and through the mail. Surely this counsel is vitally important, especially at this time when the enemy is using the power of the press as never before. The servant of the Lord saw what literature will do. Note the following paragraphs:

"Satan is busy in this department of his work, scattering literature which is debasing the morals and poisoning the minds of the young. . . . Why should not every member of the church be as deeply interested in sending forth publications that will elevate the minds of the people, and bring the truth directly before them? These papers and tracts are for the light of the world, and have often been instrumental in converting souls."—*Christian Service*, p.146.

"Sometimes you will find it trying to do this kind of work; but if you go forth in faith, the Lord will go before you, and will let His light shine upon your pathway. Entering the homes of your neighbors to sell or give away our literature . . . you will be accompanied by the light of heaven, which will abide in these homes. . . . In the Lord's work there are to be no idlers."—*Evangelism*, pp. 114,115.

"Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God."—*Testimonies*, Vol.6, p.450.

"While the souls of men are dying,
And the Master calls for you,
Let none hear you idly saying,
'There is nothing I can do!'

Gladly take the task He gives you,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
'Here am I, O Lord, send me.'"

(Daniel March)

THE YOUNG AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE

Christ calls for volunteers to carry the banner of the cross in this world. The church is longing for young men and women to go into the work with burning fervor, to become a blessing for the church and to the world. There is a demand for youth who will resist worldly influences and raise their warning voice against the slightest approach of immorality and corruption.

"In the closing scenes of this earth's history, many of these children and youth will astonish people by their witness for the truth, which will be borne in simplicity, yet with spirit and power."—*Counsels To Teachers*, p.166.

"Today He is calling for young men and women who are strong and active in mind and body. He desires them to bring into the conflict against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness

in high places, their fresh, healthy powers of brain, bone, and muscle." —*Counsels to Teachers*, p.538.

"He calls for whole armies of young men who are large-hearted and large-minded, and who have a deep love for Christ and the truth." —*Testimonies*, Vol.6, p.411.

Dear Youth: What is your destination and aim in this life? Will you now reject the crown of life which the Lord has prepared for you? Why should we refuse the service with which the Lord has commissioned us? Have we not been partakers of great and precious privileges in the knowledge of the truth? Should we not pass them on to others?

How often have you intended to come to the aid of the Lord's cause but did not fulfill these intentions? Shall it remain like this forever? In this Week of Prayer we ask the Lord to forgive us all our failures and lack of activity, all our neglected duties toward our fellow men, and all our shortcomings. We shall begin the new year of mercy with the burning desire in our souls to arise and start to work in His vineyard and continue our work as long as the sun of probation shines. We shall petition the Lord for strength to fulfill our promises.

John says, "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, . . ." 1 John 2:14.

CALLED TO BE WITNESSES

The Spirit of prophecy admonishes every individual member to be faithful to his calling as a witness. "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. The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them. . . .

"So far as his opportunities extend, every one who has received the light of truth is under the same responsibility as was the prophet of Israel to whom came the word, 'Son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.' Eze.33:7-9.

"Are we to wait until the fulfilment of the prophecies of the end before we say anything concerning them? Of what value will our words be

then? Shall we wait until God's judgments fall upon the transgressor before we tell him how to avoid them? Where is our faith in the word of God? Must we see things foretold come to pass before we will believe what He has said? In clear, distinct rays light has come to us, showing us that the great day of the Lord is near at hand, 'even at the door.' Let us read and understand before it is too late. . . .

"It is not only by preaching the truth, not only by distributing literature, that we are to witness for God. Let us remember that a Christlike life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favor of Christianity, and that a cheap Christian character works more harm in the world than the character of a worldling. Not all the books written can serve the purpose of a holy life. Men will believe, not what the minister preaches, but what the church lives. Too often the influence of the sermon preached from the pulpit is counteracted by the sermon preached in the lives of those who claim to be advocates of truth. . . .

"The light that God has given His people is not to be shut up within the churches that already know the truth. It is to be shed abroad into the dark places of the earth. Those who walk in the light as Christ is in the light will co-operate with the Saviour by revealing to others what He has revealed to them. It is God's purpose that the truth for this time shall be made known to every kindred, and nation, and tongue, and people. In the world today men and women are absorbed in the search for worldly gain and worldly pleasure. There are thousands upon thousands who give no time or thought to the salvation of the soul. The time has come when the message of Christ's soon coming is to sound throughout the world. . . .

"As a people we greatly need to humble our hearts before God, pleading His forgiveness for our neglect to fulfil the gospel commission. . . . Let us now take up the work appointed us, and proclaim the message that is to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger. If every Seventh-day Adventist had done the work laid upon him, the number of believers would now be much larger than it is. . . .

"Eternity stretches before us. The curtain is about to be lifted. What are we thinking of, that we cling to our selfish love of ease, while all around us souls are perishing? Have our hearts become utterly callous? Can we not see and understand that we have a work to do in behalf of others? My brethren and sisters, are you among those who, having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not? Is it in vain that God has given you a knowledge of His will? Is it in vain that He has sent you warning after warning of the nearness of the end? Do you believe the declarations of His word concerning what is coming upon the world? Do you believe that God's judgments are hanging over the inhabitants of the earth? How, then, can you sit at ease, careless and indifferent?

"Every day that passes brings us nearer the end. Does it bring us also near to God? Are we watching unto prayer? Those with whom we associate day by day need our help, our guidance.

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They may be in such a condition of mind that a
word in season will be sent home by the Holy
Spirit as a nail in a sure place. To-morrow some
of these souls may be where we can never reach
them again. What is our influence over these
fellow travelers? What effort do we make to win
them to Christ?

"Time is short, and our forces must be organ-
ized to do a larger work." -*Testimonies*, Vol.9,
pp.19-21,24-27.

ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS

We all must be witnesses for Jesus if we are to
have greater power and become co-workers in the
finishing work of His cause. The soul which we
save shall lead others to Jesus, and joy will fill
the heavens.

"In the working for perishing souls, you have
the companionship of angels. Thousands upon

thousands, and ten thousand times thousand angels
are waiting to co-operate with members of our
churches in communicating the light that God has
generously given, that a people may be prepared
for the coming of Christ." -*Testimonies*, Vol.9,
p.129.

If you are fearful and weak in the faith, pray for
strength and courage, and arise to help souls find
the way of life. Dear brethren and sisters, the
perils of the last days surround us, and we should
have such an intense love for souls who Christ
died for that we cannot remain idle. The nearer
our lives approach the life of Christ, the more
helpful we shall be to those around us, and the
more happiness we can bring into their lives.

"None should wait in idle expectancy for the
baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is
given for service. As church members go forth at
God's bidding, the Holy Spirit comes to give effi-
ciency and power." -*Review and Herald*, July 21,
1896.

"Remember that the Lord Jesus is the Master
Worker. He waters the seed sown. He puts into
your minds words that will reach hearts." -*Testi-
monies*, Vol.9, p.41.

Therefore, dear soul, take to heart the words of
your Lord, "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 his glory shall be seen upon
thee." Isa.60:1,2. Now is the time. Today let
us hear the Master's voice; tomorrow may be for-
ever too late - "redeeming the time, because the
days are evil." Eph.5:16.

Dear fellow believer, examine your own heart
now, for everything is at stake, not only for others
but also for your own personal salvation; and your
salvation depends upon the missionary work which
you perform. "And they that be wise shall shine
as the brightness of the firmament; and they that
turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever
and ever." Dan.12:3.

AMEN!

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