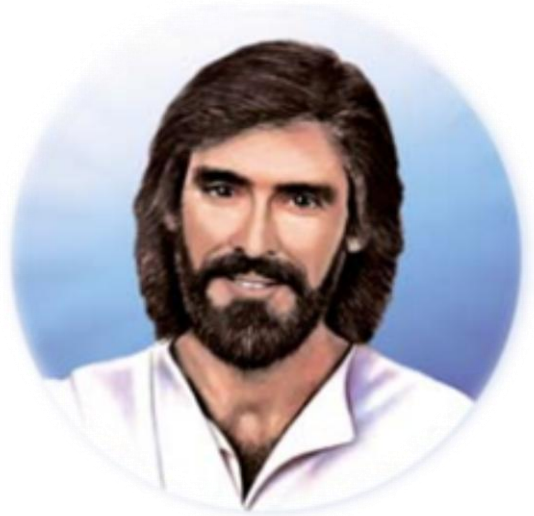


The Faith of Jesus



**A Christian doctrine course based on
the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to the Holy Scriptures.**

CARLOS A. AESCHLIMANN

STUDENT'S NAME _____

INSTRUCTOR _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ DATE _____

PRINTED IN -----

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT ITS OWN VALUE

I



REVEALED BY GOD

1. Who revealed the Holy Scriptures?
All scripture is God-breathed. God revealed them.
2. Who received the revelation?
The prophets

2 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 1:1

SOURCE OF GUIDANCE AND SOLUTIONS

3. What is the Holy Bible compared to?
A lamp and a light
4. What benefit does one receive from studying the Bible?
Makes us wise unto salvation, teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness, equips us for good work.
5. What blessings does the Holy Bible offer?
They provide encouragement and hope.
6. How long will the Bible endure?
The word of God endures forever.

Psalms 119:105

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Romans 15:4

Isaiah 40:8

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Have a Bible and read it every day.
2. Study it regularly.
3. Accept it with joy and gladness.
4. Practice its teachings.

Deuteronomy 17:19

John 5:39

Jeremiah 15:16

Revelation 1:3

I believe that the Holy Bible is inspired by God. I accept it as my rule of faith. I promise to read it daily.

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THE BIBLE IS THE SOURCE OF TRUTH.

(John 17:17; Isaiah 8:20). It was inspired by God and the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Samuel 23:2). Therefore we must not reject its teachings (1 Samuel 15:23).

IT HAS POWER TO TRANSFORM LIVES.

(Hebrews 4:12). It produces rebirth and spiritual growth (1 Peter 1:23; 2:2).

IT CONTAINS REMARKABLE SCIENTIFIC

FACTS. The earth hangs on nothing (Job 26:7). Air has weight (Job 28:25). The number of stars is incalculable (Jeremiah 33:22).

IT MUST BE STUDIED AND OBEYED.

Invitation to study the Bible (John 5:24, 39; Isaiah 28:13). We must obey its counsel (John 14:23). By reading it we are participants of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).

What Is The Bible?

The Bible is the holy book of the Christian. It also is called the Holy Scriptures. It is the most precious jewel of Western thought and culture. More than that, it is the revelation of God to man.

Actually, the Bible is a collection of books. It contains 66 books in two "testaments". The Old Testament was written before Christ and the New Testament is the story of Christ and the development of Christianity. The Bible was written over a period spanning some 1,500 years by about 40 authors, including wise men, kings, shepherds, farmers, doctors and lawmakers

The Opinion Great Men Had About It

Emilio Castelar, famous Spanish writer and politician: "The Bible is the purest revelation that shows God exists." Emmanuel Kant, famous German philosopher: "The existence of the Bible as a book for the people, is the greatest benefit that the human race has ever experienced." Count Leo Tolstoy, a prominent Russian writer: "The moral development of man and child is impossible without reading the Bible."

ADVICE ABOUT STUDYING THE BIBLE

Every Christian should own and study the Holy Book of God. Jesus said, "Search the scriptures" (John 5:39). Jerome, the translator of the version of the Bible called the Latin Vulgate: "We must cultivate intelligence through the reading of the Holy Books". Cardinal Garibi Rivera, former archbishop of Guadalajara, said: "If the faithful propose to read Scripture regularly, they will have a deeper understanding of the divine revelation, taken from the written Word of God. Prayer on the one hand, and reading the Bible on the other, are a Christian conversation with God, used to nourish your spiritual life." The Second Vatican Council said this about the Bible: "The Church has always venerated the Scriptures ... Likewise, the Holy Council strongly urges all Christians, especially the religious, to learn "the sublime knowledge of Jesus Christ" by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures."

Illustrations

An ancient Roman legend says that a young man named Fortunato possessed a magic bag that contained a single gold coin, which miraculously renewed itself each time he took it out and spent it, because the currency had the rare virtue of always returning to the bag. The Holy Bible is similar, because as we open its pages we are enriched by its teachings. Then we close it, and when we open it again we find the same riches. The Bible always has untold treasures of advice and guidance.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF GOD 2



GOD

1. How many gods are there?

There is only one God.

Ephesians 4:6

2. What is the nature of God?

God is spirit.

John 4:24

3. Who are the three persons of the Trinity?

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Matthew 28:19

4. What is God's character like?

God is love.

1 John 4:8

GOD AND MAN

5. How does God consider Himself towards man?

We are children of God; He is our Father.

1 John 3:1, 2

6. Does God care about our problems?

Yes, He hears our cry.

Psalm 40:1-3

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Respect the name of God.

Exodus 20:7

2. Obey God.

Acts 5:29

3. Put God in first place.

Matthew 6:33

4. Love God with all your heart.

Matthew 22:37

**I believe in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I
promise to love and obey Him, as my heavenly Father.**

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WE BELIEVE IN ONLY ONE GOD. (1 Corinthians 8:6).

Manifested in three persons (Matthew 28:19).

CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE. (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 45:18; Hebrews 1:10).

WHAT IS GOD LIKE? He is immortal (1 Timothy 6:16). He is spirit (John 4:24). He is eternal (Isaiah 57:15). He is love (1 John 4:8).

How God reveals himself in nature (Psalm 19:1). In the Bible (Revelation 1:1). In the Lord Jesus (John 14:6).

GOD IS OUR FATHER. He worries about our problems (Psalm 46:1). He supports us with mercy (Jeremiah 31:3). He comforts us in our pain (2 Corinthians 1:3). He supplies all we are lacking (Philippians 4:19).

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD. We must trust in Him (Psalm 52:8). Keep his commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). If we obey Him, things will go well for us (Romans 8:28).

The Need Of God

Humanity's hardships and sufferings are the result of its separation from God. The prophet Jeremiah speaks about this terrible error: "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." (Jeremiah 2:13).

The only solution is to return to God. Doctor Andrew Conway Ivy, renowned professor from the University of Illinois said: "Believing in God provides the only, the most complete, essential and rational significance to existence". Philosopher Hill Durant adds: "The great problem in our day is not Communism versus individualism, not Europe versus America, not even East versus West, our problem is whether man can bear to live without God".

The wonderful thing is that as soon as we take one step towards God, we will find that he is waiting for us with love and mercy (Ephesians 2:4, 5).

The Existence of God

Some say: "I do not believe in God because I do not see him." But there are many things we believe in without seeing. For example: electricity, wind, love. Others say; "I do not believe because I do not understand God".

Who does not believe in God? "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Psalm 14:1). What do men of science say about God? Sir Isaac Newton, famous for discovering the universal law of gravity stated: "This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent being. Therefore God is in fact a divine, wise and omnipotent God, a being that is above all things and is infinitely wise".

Trust in God

Dr. Wernher Von Braun, inventor of interplanetary rockets, said: "Our need for God is not just based on admiration and fear. Man needs faith as much as he needs food, water and air."

In the Bible there are wonderful promises for those who trust in God, "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28). "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). God can supply all our needs (Philippians 4:19).

What must we do for God to be with us and protect us? Yearn wholeheartedly for God (Psalm 42:1). Obey God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Put God above all things (Matthew 6:33). Love him with all our heart (Matthew 22:37).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

3



THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Besides the Holy Spirit, who forms part of the Godhead?
The Father and the Son
2. Who sends the Holy Spirit and what is He called?
The Son sends the Holy Spirit. He is called the Advocate.

Matthew 28:19

John 15:26

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

3. The Holy Spirit guides us to what?
He will guide us unto all truth.
4. What does the Holy Spirit convict us of?
He will convict us about sin, righteousness and judgment.
5. What assurance does the Holy Spirit give us?
We have the assurance that we are children of God.
6. How long will the Holy Spirit be with the faithful?
He will be with the faithful forever.

John 16:13

John 16:8-11

Romans 8:14, 16, 17

John 14:16

RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

7. What is the condition for receiving Holy Spirit?
God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.
8. What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

Acts 5:32

Galatians 5:22-26

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Not grieve Him.
2. Not blaspheme or speak against the Holy Spirit.
3. Ask God for Him.

Ephesians 4:30

Matthew 12:31-32

Luke 11:13

I believe that the Holy Spirit is real and I desire that he take possession of my life.

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OTHER NAMES FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Spirit of Christ.** (1 Peter 1:11).
- **Spirit of Truth.** (John 14:17; 15:26).
- **Spirit of God.** (Exodus 31:3)
- **Spirit of Jehovah.** (1 Samuel 16:14)
- **Spirit.** (Luke 4:1).

THE DIVINITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

He is God (Acts 5:3, 4). He is eternal like God (Hebrews 9:14). He is omnipotent and omnipresent like God (Psalm 139). He is omniscient (1 Corinthians 2:10, 11). He is Creator like God (Job 33:34).

THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Gives gifts.** (1 Corinthians 12:11).
- Intercedes.** (Romans 8:26).
- Can be grieved.** (Ephesians 4:30).
- Speaks.** (1 Timothy 4: 1).
- Has knowledge.** (1 Corinthians 2:11).
- Teaches.** (1 Corinthians 2:12).
- Approves.** (Acts 15:28).
- Bears witness.** (Romans 8:16).
- Commissions.** (Acts 13:2)
- Impedes.** (Acts 16:6, 7).
- Administers, distributes.** (1 Corinthians 12:1).
- Can be resisted.** (Acts 7:51).

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gives gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). Reveals Christ to us (John 16:14). Inspires the prophets (2 Samuel 23:2; 2 Peter 1:21). Transmits the love of God to human beings (Romans 5:5).

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF CHRIST ON EARTH (JOHN 14:26)

Dwells in human beings (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Can be sinned against (Matthew 12:31; Hebrews 10:26).

Commentary

“There are three living persons of the heavenly trio: The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight.

The Son (of God) is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested....

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour.”

God is not a magnified or sublimated man. God alone has perfect personality. His perfect personality has existed since the days of eternity, long before a single human being, with his limitations, came to be. There are four things that are predicated of personality: 1) Will; 2) Intelligence; 3) Power; 4) Capacity for love. Personality involves a self-conscious, self-knowing, self-willing, and self-determining being.

A person is therefore a being who is approachable, who can be trusted or doubted, loved or hated, adored or insulted. These essentials of personality are but limited and imperfect in man, but limitless and perfect in God. So the personality of the Holy Spirit is not to be confined to comparisons with man. It will help us to listen to Jesus on this point here in these two chapters of John, the fourteenth and sixteenth. Not a word does Jesus utter that can be construed as implying that the Holy Spirit is simply an influence. He addresses Him and treats Him as a person. He calls Him the Paraclete, which is the title of a person.”

The Holy Spirit is more than a personality. He is a divine personality. He is called God (Acts 5:3, 4) the third person of the Godhead —Ellen G. White, *The Coming of the Comforter*, pages 43-45.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

4



PRAYER

1. How do we communicate with God?
In prayer and petition
-

2. What is prayer?
Prayer is pouring out our soul to the Lord.
-

3. How much power does sincere prayer have?
Prayer is powerful and effective. Prayer can bring healing.
-

4. In whose name should we pray?
We should pray in the name of the Son, Jesus.
-

5. Does God answer prayers?
Yes, He answers our prayers.
-

FAITH

6. How is faith described?
Faith is confidence in what we hope for, assurance about what we do not see.
-

7. How is faith developed?
Faith comes from hearing the message, the message is heard through the word about Christ.
-

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Pray three times a day.
2. Practice private prayer.
3. Ask for convenient things.
4. Ask with faith.

Daniel 9:3

1 Samuel 1:9-15

James 5:16

John 14:13

Matthew 7:7-11

Hebrews 11:1, 6

Romans 10:17

Psalms 55:17

Matthew 6:6

Matthew 21:22

James 4:3

**I believe that God hears and answers prayers.
I will pray with faith every day.**

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WE SHOULD PRAY REGULARLY. (Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12). The best plan is to pray three times a day (Daniel 6:10). One must have a spirit of constant prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

WHAT TO PRAY ABOUT: Gratitude (Philippians 4:6). Various petitions (James 1:5; John 5:17). Confession of sin (Daniel 6:10; Psalm 32:36). Pray for the needs of others (Job 42:10).

CONDITIONS FOR GOD TO ANSWER PRAYERS: Ask with faith (Matthew 21:22). Ask well (James 4:3). Ask according to God's will (Luke 22:41, 42). Manifest a forgiving spirit (Mark 11:25). Be perseverant (Luke 18:1). Keep the commandments (1 John 3:22).

OBSTACLES THAT KEEP GOD FROM ANSWERING: Asking selfishly (James 4:3). Doubts (James 1:6). Lack of a forgiving spirit (Matthew 6:14, 15). Cherished sin in the heart (Psalm 66:18). Disobedience to God's holy law (Proverbs 28:9).

GOD PROMISES TO ANSWER PRAYERS. (Psalm 3:4; 40:1, 2; Matthew 7:7-12).

What is Prayer?

"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend... prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence".—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, pp. 93, 94).

Types of Prayer

Some prayers consist in reciting a prayer that is already written. The most famous of these is *The Lord's Prayer*, given by Jesus. Prayer is speaking to God with our own words, to tell Him the needs that afflict us.

There are several types of prayer. Public prayer is for collective matters. In family prayer, the problems of the home are mentioned. Prayer for a meal is for thanking God for the meal and asking for his blessing (Luke 24:30; 22:19). The most beneficial prayer for the soul is private prayer.

There is also mental prayer, which is prayed without using audible words.

Parts of the Prayer

You begin by saying: "Our Father" (Matthew 6:9), and then continue with what you desire to say or ask from God. You end in Jesus' name (John 16:23) and with the word *amen*, which means *so be it*.

The Wonderful Effects of Prayer

The famous physician, Alexis Carrel, stated: "Prayer is the most powerful form of energy that can be generated. It is as real a force as gravity. As a physician, I have seen men who after the failure of all medical procedures have overcome disease and melancholy through the serene effort of prayer."

"Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God [in prayer]. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him... His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear... Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice... No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest."— Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 100

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING 5



JESUS PROMISES TO RETURN

1. What wonderful promise did Jesus make?
He will come back to take us to be with Him.
2. How should we consider this promise?
It is our blessed hope.

John 14:1-3

Titus 2:13

HOW JESUS WILL COME

3. In what way will Jesus return?
On the clouds of heaven in power and great glory.
4. How many will see his glorious advent?
Every eye will see Him.

Matthew 24:30

Revelation 1:7

WHY JESUS WILL COME

5. What is the objective of Christ's coming?
He is coming to reward each person according to what they have done.
6. What will happen with the righteous dead?
The dead in Christ will rise first.
7. What will happen with all the righteous?
We will all be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. We will be with the Lord forever.

Matthew 16:27

1 Thessalonians
4:13-16

1 Thessalonians
4:17

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Desire the coming of Jesus.
2. Prepare myself to be ready.
3. Help with the preaching of the gospel.

2 Timothy 4:8

1 John 3:2, 3

Matthew 24:14

I believe in Jesus' second coming. I want to prepare myself to be with Him in heaven.

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JESUS PROMISES TO RETURN.

- a) The promise in the Old Testament (Jude 14,15; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 96:13; Isaiah 26:21; 40:10; 62:11; 66:15).
- b) The promise in the New Testament (Matthew 24:30, 16:27; 25:31; 26:64; Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 Corinthians 1:7, 8; 2 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 1:7; 22:12, 20).

HOW AND WHY WILL JESUS RETURN?

His coming will be personal and visible (Acts 1:11). With all his angels (Matthew 25:31). Like lightning (Matthew 24:27). In order to destroy the wicked (2 Thessalonians 2:8, 9). To resurrect the righteous and transform the living (1 Corinthians 15:51-55).

ATTITUDE AT THE COMING OF JESUS

- a) The wicked will be desperate (Revelation 6:15-17).
- b) The righteous will rejoice (Isaiah 25:9).
- c) The believers prepare for the glorious advent (Matthew 24:42; 2 Peter 3:14; Titus 2:11-14).

A NEW WORLD OF JOY In the new world there will be amazing wonders (2 Corinthians 2:9). Nature will be transformed (Isaiah 11:6-9). There will be no more suffering, sickness or death (Revelation 21:1-4). We will be with Jesus forever (Revelation 22:1-6).

The Blessed Hope

One of the wonderful Christian doctrines is the glorious advent of the Lord Jesus. It is said that the primitive Christians would greet each other with the word *maranatha*, which means *the Lord is coming*.

The second advent is a Christian and biblical doctrine. Millions have prayed *The Lord's Prayer* and have said: "Thy kingdom come." By repeating this, they have declared: "He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

This doctrine is found throughout the Bible. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about this extraordinary event. The majority of the Old Testament prophets referred to end time events and the coming of Jesus. In the New Testament, the events that will take place at the end of the world are an important part of the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. Revelation ends with a poignant plea: "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20).

Testimonies

Christians in general believe in the coming of Jesus. "It is a truth of faith that Jesus Christ will return at end of the world to judge the living and the dead ... In that last day all justice shall be completed. Reward will be given even to the last fruits of good works and the latest scandals of the evil deeds of sinners will be punished."—*Catechism of Christian Doctrine* p. 141.

"With firm faith we wait for the fulfillment of the 'blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.' (Titus 2:13). "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body" (Philippians 3:21), and will come "to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe" (2 Thessalonians 1:10)".—*Vatican Documents II*, p. 70.

"The fabulous future that we expect as Christians will not be the natural development of history... It will come with the establishment of the Kingdom of God, by the direct intervention of God."—Billy Graham, *World Aflame*, p. 194.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE SIGNS BEFORE CHRIST'S RETURN

6



WHEN WILL HE COME?

1. What did Jesus' disciples ask?
When will it happen and what are the signs?
2. Is the date of Jesus' return known?
No one knows the day or the hour.
3. Are we in darkness regarding the Jesus' coming?
No, we are not in darkness

Matthew 24:3

Matthew 24:36

1 Thessalonians
5:1-4

SIGNS THAT ANNOUNCE JESUS' RETURN

4. What signs did Jesus predict?
Wars and rumors of wars, nation against nation, famines, earthquakes.
5. What will be the prevalent social conditions?
Wealth has rotted, gold and silver are corroded.
6. What will be the moral condition of humanity? **People will be lovers of themselves and of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, treacherous, rash, conceited.**
7. What will happen with knowledge?
Knowledge will increase.
8. What signs would be seen in the stars?
The stars would fall from the sky.

Matthew 24:6, 7

James 5:1-5

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Daniel 12:4

Matthew 24:29

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Be aware of the signs of the times.
2. Watch and be prepared.

Luke 21:28-31

Matthew 24:42, 44

I believe that Jesus will come very soon. I decide to prepare myself to be ready and go with Jesus to the New Earth.

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THE TIME OF HIS ADVENT. We do not know the exact moment of his coming (Matthew 24:42, 44). Determining the time of his coming is something that only God can do (Acts 1:7). His coming will be surprising (Luke 12:40; 21:34). As a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). But we are not in darkness because Jesus gave unmistakable signs (Matthew 24:33; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4).

SIGNS THAT ANNOUNCE JESUS' RETURN. Rise of immorality (Luke 17:26, 27; Micah 7:1-3). Fear and anguish (Luke 21:25, 26; Matthew 24:21, 22). Natural disasters (Luke 21:11). False christs (Matthew 24:5, 23, 24). Generalized apostasy (Matthew 24:11; 2 Peter 3:3, 4). Preaching of the gospel worldwide (Matthew 24:14).

PREPARATION FOR JESUS' RETURN. Waiting and speeding up our preparation (2 Peter 3:12). We have to always be prepared (Luke 12:40) We have to be diligent to be found without spot (2 Peter 3:14).

According to the Holy bible, we do not know the exact day nor hour of Jesus' return. However, just as there were clear prophecies about Jesus' first advent, there are clear signs for the Second Advent. The fulfillment of the signs indicate *the time of the end* and the imminence of Jesus' return.

Cosmic Signs

- a) **GREAT EARTHQUAKE.** "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth" (Revelation 6:12, 13). This earthquake happened on November 10, 1755; it destroyed Lisbon and shook Europe and northern Africa.
- b) **DARKENING OF THE SUN.** (Isaiah 24:23; Joel 2:30, 31; Mark 13:24; Matthew 24:29). This extraordinary event happened on May 19, 1780. The day started normally, but midmorning a strange darkness covered a great part of the United States.

The celebrated astronomer Herschel said: "It was a marvelous natural phenomenon, and this story will always be read with great interest and no philosophy will ever be able to explain it."

- c) **FALLING STARS.** (Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:13). This remarkable sign happened on the night of November 13, 1833. An eyewitness said that the stars fell so abundantly that you could read the newspaper by their light.

Knowledge Shall Be Increased

Daniel predicted that in the time of the end "knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). This clear sign is fulfilled dramatically before our eyes. "Human knowledge doubles every fifteen years, and in less than two generations man has gone from horse-drawn carriages to remote-control missiles".—Billy Graham, *The World Aflame*, p. 225.

A Glorious Dawn Approaches

The exact fulfillment of the signs announced by Jesus and the prophets indicate to us that the long and devastating night of pain and death will soon come to an end. We can see glimpses of the radiant dawn of the new world offered by Jesus to "all who love his coming".

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF SIN AND EVIL

7



THE BEGINNING OF SIN

1. When and where did sin begin?
In heaven.
2. In whom did sin originate?
In the guardian cherub.

Revelation 12:7-10

Ezekiel 28:14-17

SIN ON EARTH

3. What sign of obedience did God give to Adam and Eve?
They were not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
4. What did the first sin consist of?
The woman took fruit from the tree and ate it, and gave to her husband.

Genesis 2:15-17

Genesis 3:1-6

THE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

5. What is sin?
Breaking the law; lawlessness
6. Who does the sinner submit to?
The devil
7. What is the final result of sin?
The wages of sin is death.

1 John 3:4

1 John 3:8

Romans 6:23

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Resist Satan in God's name.
2. Not compromise with sin.
3. Overcome, with Jesus' help.

James 4:7

Romans 6:12

Romans 8:37

**I will try, with God's help, to cleanse my life
from all sin.**

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SATAN (LUCIFER) IS THE AUTHOR OF SIN. Lucifer was created perfect (Ezekiel 18:14, 15). He wanted to be equal with God (Isaiah 14:13, 14). A battle took place in heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). Lucifer did not remain in the truth (John 8:44). He sinned from the beginning (1 John 3:8).

WHAT IS SIN? It is the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4). Every injustice is sin (1 John 5:17). Knowing to do right and not doing it (James 4:17). Reject Jesus' message (John 15:22).

THE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN. Takes away peace from the soul (Isaiah 57:20, 21; Romans 2:9). Separates the person from God (Isaiah 59:2). Turns the sinner into a servant of Satan (1 John 3:8). Causes eternal death (Romans 6:23).

EFFECTIVE HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SIN. We have a constant battle against the devil's snares (Ephesians 6:11, 12). But if we are with God, the devil flees (James 4:7). We have a full armor to defend us from the evil one's attacks (Ephesians 6:11-18). Christ's blood cleanses us from sin (1 John 1:7).

Who Created Satan?

God did not create Satan (adversary), but rather Lucifer (bright star), a creature of extraordinary beauty and intelligence. Little by little Lucifer began to cultivate envy, hatred and pride. He desired to be equal to God. He rebelled against God, accusing Him of tyranny and lack of love. God did not destroy Satan, in order to allow that over time he would manifest the cruelty of his actions and there would be no doubt about divine love and justice.

Original Sin

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him". "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." (Genesis 1:27, 31). Man was given, by his Maker, intelligence, reasoning, and the capacity to freely choose his destiny.

Confronting Satan and falling into temptation, she committed the sin of disobedience to a definite command from God. Also, she exercised her power of choice mistakenly. She believed Satan and mistrusted God. In this way, she rejected her Father God and put herself under Satan's control.

The Seriousness of Sin

"From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." (Isaiah 1:6). The prophet compares sin to the terrible sickness called leprosy. God hates sin, but he loves the sinner. He wants to see the sinner free of the horrible consequences.

Sin always causes tragedy and problems. "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer." (Psalm 32:3, 4). The worse consequences of sin are the destruction of the spiritual life and estrangement from God.

The End of Sin

The disastrous experience of sin will come to an end along with its author, the devil: Satan and his angels are reserved for the judgment of the great day (Jude 6). Ultimately, they will be destroyed in the great lake of fire (Revelation 20:10). Sin will be eliminated and it will never again appear (Malachi 4:1).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE GIFT FROM GOD FOR OUR SALVATION

8



THE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

1. What is the final consequence of sin?

The consequence of sin is death.

Romans 5:12

2. Can man resolve the problem of sin?

No, man cannot cleanse himself of sin.

Jeremiah 2:22

JESUS SAVES THE SINNER

3. What provision did God make to save man?

He gave his only begotten Son.

John 3:16

4. How did Jesus describe his mission?

He came to seek and save the lost.

Luke 19:10

5. Did Jesus commit any sins?

No, He did not sin.

Hebrews 4:15

6. How did Jesus pay for man's debt?

He was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities.

Isaiah 53:3-7

7. What act assured our salvation?

The death and resurrection of Christ.

1 Corinthians
15:20-22

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Believe in Jesus.
2. Accept Him as my only Savior.
3. Open the door of my heart to Him.

Acts 16:30, 31

Acts 4:12

Revelation 3:20

I believe that Jesus died for me. I accept Him as my only Savior. I surrender my life and heart to Him.

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Sin And Its Terrible Consequences. All human beings have sinned (1 John 1:8). The sinner is in servitude to Satan (2 Peter 2:19). The sinner's final fate is death (Romans 6:23). The sinner cannot do anything to save himself (Jeremiah 2:22).

Love's Plan. The plan to save man through Christ was conceived since eternity (2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 3:8, 9).

Jesus Is The Only Savior. The apostle Peter declared that Jesus is the only Savior (Acts 4:12). How did Jesus save us? Let's look at 7 redeeming acts:

- 1. Incarnation.** Jesus, being God, became man (John 1:1-4; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:14).
- 2. Life without sin.** (Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:22).
- 3. Vicarious death.** (1 Peter 2:24; 1 Timothy 1:15; Romans 5:8).
- 4. Resurrection.** (Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:5, 13, 14).
- 5. Ascension to heaven.** (1 Timothy 3:16).
- 6. Intercession.** (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25).
- 7. Advent.** (Hebrews 9:28).

We are saved by grace. Salvation is freely granted (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8). In order to obtain it, you have to believe in Jesus (Acts 16:30, 31; Hebrews 4:16).

The Plan Of Salvation

If a child falls in a chasm, the parent will do everything possible to get him out. If a child is kidnapped, parents will pay any amount to rescue him. If the child is sick, they will hire the best doctor and buy all the medication. God lost his children. They fell in the chasm of sin. They were kidnapped by Satan. They were sick because of sin. But God, like a good father, took all measures to save them. The cost of the redemption of humanity was nothing less than the precious blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

The plan to save man is a plan of love (1 John 3:16). It consisted in God giving his Son (John 3:16), the Son was coming to seek what had been lost (Luke 19:10), and would give his life as the price to rescue the sinner (1 Timothy 2:6).

Jesus, Only And Sufficient Savior

If we are sick, we can choose any physician, and even change doctors. In the disease of sin, there is only one physician that can save us: Christ. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [besides Christ] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).

We Are Freely Saved By The Grace Of God.

No treasure could pay for the indescribable gift of salvation. That is why God grants salvation freely. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). But we must believe in Jesus and have faith in his power to save us (Acts 16:31; Romans 5:1).

The End Of Sin

Neither root nor ranch of sin will remain (Malachi 4:1). The earth shall be purified (2 Peter 3:10). All things will be made new (Revelation 21:5). There shall be no more curse or sin (Revelation 22:3).

Quotes About Salvation

"We firmly believe that the Father loved the world so much that he gave his own Son to save it. Through his Son, He freed us from the chains of sin...in order for us to be called sons of God, and truly be sons". "Only Christ is the mediator and the way to salvation".—*The Vatican Documents II*, p. 23).

"The heart of God yearns over His earthly children with a love stronger than death. In giving up His Son, He has poured out to us all heaven in one gift. The Saviour's life and death and intercession, the ministry of angels, the pleading of the Spirit, the Father working above and through all, the unceasing interest of heavenly beings,—all are enlisted in behalf of man's redemption".—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 21).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS

9



THE ONLY WAY TO SALVATION

1. Thanks to whom and to what are we saved?
Thanks to Jesus and the cross.

1 Peter 2:24

2. How much does salvation cost?
Salvation is given freely.

Romans 3:24

OBTAINING FORGIVENESS

3. What does the sinner need to sincerely recognize?
His sinful condition and need of God's mercy.

Luke 18:10-14

4. What deep feeling is indispensable?
The need for repentance.

Acts 2:37-38

5. What must be done with sins?
They must be confessed to the Lord.

Psalms 32:3-5

THE SWEET CERTAINTY OF FORGIVENESS

6. What marvelous offer does God make?
Our sins will be white as snow and like wool.

Isaiah 1:18

7. How complete is divine forgiveness?
It is so complete that He remembers our sins no more.

Isaiah 43:25

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Repent with all my heart.
2. Confess all my sin.
3. Experience conversion.

Acts 3:19

1 John 1:9

Ezekiel 36:25-27

I ask forgiveness for my sins. I believe that God will forgive me. I want to live a holy life in Jesus.

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Steps For Obtaining Forgiveness

- 1) Recognizing the condition of the sinner.** (1 John 1:8; Psalm 51:2, 3).
- 2) Sincere repentance.** (Acts 3:19; Luke 3:8; 13:3-5).
- 3) Accepting Jesus as the only Savior.** (Acts 4:12; 5:31; 10:43).
- 4) Confession.** Confession is indispensable (Psalm 32:1-5; Proverbs 28:13). Must name the sin that was committed (Leviticus 5:5). Will pay for the damages caused (Leviticus 6:4). Confession must be made to God (1 John 1:9; Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 103:3).
- 5) Conversion.** (2 Chronicles 7:14; Acts 3:19).

God's Marvelous Forgiveness. God forgives completely (Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17). Forgiveness is free (Romans 3:24). We are forgiven in the act (Luke 23:39-43).

Obtaining forgiveness is like fixing a pending account. The sinner does not have something to pay the debt with; but Jesus paid for him on the cross at Calvary and offers the merits of his sacrifice to whomever wishes to accept them.

Forgiveness. True repentance consists of sincere and deep pain for having sinned (2 Corinthians 7:10). Repentance is indispensable for obtaining forgiveness (Acts 2:37, 38).

Confession. Sins must be declared to God because only He can forgive them. There cannot be forgiveness unless there is sincere and complete confession (Proverbs 28:13). "Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way... True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins... Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin."—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, pages 38, 39).

Conversion. As a direct result of repentance and confession a radical change happens in the sinner's

character. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

"Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, 'love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.' They will no longer fashion themselves according to the former lusts, but by the faith of the Son of God they will follow in His steps, reflect His character, and purify themselves even as He is pure. The things they once hated they now love, and the things they once loved they hate. The proud and self-assertive become meek and lowly in heart. The vain and supercilious become serious and unobtrusive. The drunken become sober, and the profligate pure."—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, pages 58, 59).

Justification. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly... But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him". (Romans 5:1, 6, 8, 9).

"God's forgiveness goes far beyond the forgiveness of sin. God not only forgives, He justifies. This means that man is truly without fault before God".—Billy Graham, *The World Aflame*, p. 167).

Sanctification. After justification with God's help, we must maintain ourselves without falling (Jude 24). There should not be voluntary sin (Hebrews 10:26). The secret of sanctification is to grow in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10). The only way to have this experience of continuous progress is to be intimately connected to Jesus and to trust in his power (Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:37).

"Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness,—all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly,—by abiding in Him,—that we are to grow in grace... Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work."—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, page 69.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT JUDGMENT FOR ALL OF HUMANITY

IO



THE JUDGMENT

1. What will God judge?
He will bring every deed into judgment. Ecclesiastes 12:14
2. How many will appear before the judgment?
We will all appear before the judgment. 2 Corinthians 5:10

THE JUDGMENT IN ACTION

3. Who is the judge?
The Son is the judge. John 5:22
4. Where are our actions recorded?
In the books. Revelation 20:12
5. Who are the witnesses?
The angels. Matthew 18:10
6. Who is the lawyer?
Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1 John 2:1
7. By what code will we be judged?
The law that gives freedom. James 2:12
8. What will be the sentence?
For the righteous, eternal life. For the unrighteous, eternal punishment. Matthew 25:31-46

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Believe and obey Jesus. John 5:24
2. Love God and keep the commandments. Ecclesiastes 12:13

I accept Jesus as my lawyer. I desire to be faithful to God and respect all his commandments.

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There Will Be A Judgment. God has established a day to judge (Acts 17:31). Even hidden things will be judged (Romans 2:16).

Everyone Will Appear Before The Judge. We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (Romans 14:10). Even the evil angels will be judged (Jude 6). Each one will have to answer for their actions (Matthew 12:36; Romans 14:12; Ecclesiastes 11:9). The judgment will begin at the house of God (1 Peter 4:17). The just and the wicked will be judged (Ecclesiastes 3:17). It is impossible to deceive God (Galatians 6:7).

The Records. The judgment is carried out with the help of the records that are in heaven. (Revelation 20:12). There are several books:

- a) The Book of Life (Revelation 20:12).
- b) The Book of Remembrance (Malachi 3:16).
- c) The Book of Sins (Isaiah 65:6, 7; Matthew 12:36, 37).

The Standard of Judgment. The supreme standard is God's holy law (Romans 7:7; James 2:12; Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14). We will also be judged according to the teachings and the gospel of Jesus (John 12:48; Romans 2:16).

The Reality of the Judgment

The prophet Daniel saw the dramatic moment of the beginning of the judgment (Daniel 7:9, 10).

Diverse religious authorities refer to that moment. "And each one shall have to give account before God's tribunal, of their own life, according to how they chose to do good or evil". — *The Vatican Documents II*, p. 209.

"Jesus will return to the world at the end of time, to exercise his power as sovereign judge. That judgment called public, universal, ultimate, is necessary to justify Divine Providence, glorify Jesus Christ, gladden the just and confuse the wicked." — Hillaire, *Religion Demonstrated*, p. 500.

The Time of the Judgment

Daniel, in his prophecy in chapter 8 verse 14, establishes that at the end of the period of 2,300 years "the sanctuary would be purified".

The sanctuary was the Jewish house of worship. Once a year, a very important judgment ceremony would take place. But the Bible explains that the true sanctuary is in heaven (Hebrews 8:2, 5). The purification of this heavenly sanctuary is nothing else than the beginning of the investigative judgment, the one that began at the end of the 2,300 years, in other words, in 1844.

The Defense Attorney

The Lord Jesus plays an important role in the judgment. The Father assigned Him the specific task of judging (John 5:22, 27; Acts 10:42). "God, in order to glorify the humanity of his divine Son, entrusted to him the judgment of men. We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ". — Hillaire, *Religion Demonstrated*, p. 508.

However, Jesus' most important task is that of lawyer and intercessor. Daniel tells that with the judgment in action, our Lord Jesus Christ presents himself and is taken to the Father (Daniel 7:9, 13). There he intercedes for us (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25).

The sinner must come to Jesus with confidence, his lawyer (Hebrews 4:16). When we have sincerely repented, after confessing all our sins, Jesus takes care of our cause and acts as our effective lawyer (1 John 1:9; 2:1).

Assurance In The Judgment

The assurance for the judgment consists in separating completely from sin (Ezekiel 18:20-22, 27).

Then Jesus will come and reward each according to their works (Matthew 16:27). But there will be no problem with all who have stayed firm and faithful until the end (Revelation 2:10; 3:5).

Believing in Jesus, walking in his light and trusting fully in Him, we can have absolute certainty of having a favorable outcome at the judgment (1 John 1:7; John 5:24).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT
**THE 10
COMMANDMENTS
FOR OUR GOOD**

11



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. Who wrote them and how?
The Lord wrote them on a tablet of stone with his finger.
2. What other name do the 10 Commandments have and what do they reveal?
The law, it reveals our sin.
3. To whom does the law take us?
To Christ.
4. The Ten Commandments.

VALIDITY OF THE HOLY LAW

5. What was Jesus' attitude towards the law?
He wants us to keep the commandments just as He does.
6. Did Jesus make any changes to the commandments?
He did not make any changes. He fulfilled the law.
7. Can anyone change the 10 Commandments?
No, nothing can be added to them and nothing taken away.

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Love God and keep his law.
2. Keep the commandments.
3. Respect all the commandments.

Exodus 31:18

1 John 3:4

Galatians 3:24

Exodus 20:3-17

John 15:10

Matthew 5:17, 18

Ecclesiastes 3:14

John 14:15

Psalms 119:44

James 2:10

I accept God's holy law. I will strive, with God's help, to respect the 10 Commandments.

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The Importance of the Law. It is the standard of truth (Isaiah 8:20). The law is the copy of God's character. Both of them are:

- a) Holy (1 Peter 1:6; Romans 7:12).
- b) Righteous (John 17:25; Psalm 119:172).
- c) Perfect (Matthew 5:48; Psalm 19:7, 8).
- d) Eternal (Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 111:7, 8).

Validity of God's Law. God is eternal (Malachi 3:6), his law is also eternal (Psalm 119:152). Christ did not change the law, he confirmed it (Matthew 5:17, 18; Isaiah 42:21). Jesus' mother and the disciples respected the holy law (Luke 23:56; Romans 7:22; 2 Peter 2:21; James 1:25; 1 John 2:3, 7).

The Christian Must Keep The Holy Law. The Law is of great usefulness for the Christian (Romans 2:18; Psalm 119:104, 165). The true demonstration of God's love is to keep his commandments (John 14:15, 21; 15:10). The redeemed will keep the holy law (Romans 2:13; Revelation 14:12, 1 John 2:3-6). God helps us to respect the holy law (Hebrews 10:16; John 15:5; Romans 8:3, 4).

Blessings We Receive When We Keep the Commandments

The universe, God's creation, is ruled by natural laws. All moral, social, commercial and international order is governed by laws. Likewise, God instituted moral and spiritual laws. These are like the wise rules of a father for the upright formation of his children. The biblical teaching is clear about the need to respect the holy commandments. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Since God will bring all works to judgment, we must all keep the commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Blessings are promised to those who keep the law: they will have peace (Isaiah 48:18; Psalm 119:165); Jehovah shall exalt them (Deuteronomy 28:1).

The Law and Grace

Nobody is saved by keeping the law, but rather by the redemptive grace of Jesus (Galatians 2:16).

However, the law has an important and necessary part in salvation: it indicates to us what sin is (1 John 3:4). Like a mirror, it shows us our desperate condition (James 1:23-25). Then it takes us to Christ who saves us (Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:24). Saved, with God's help, we will respect the holy law, because grace does not invalidate God's law (Romans 3:31).

God's Law Has Not Been Abolished

Jesus taught with clarity that God's holy law does not change (Matthew 5:17, 18). Therefore, in order to not be confused, it is good to differentiate between the God's moral law that is eternal and the ceremonial laws that represented Christ and his sacrifice, and that therefore, ended with his death on the cross (Colossians 2:14; Ephesians 2:15).

Differences Between The Moral And Ceremonial Laws

Moral Law

1. It is spiritual. (Romans 7:14).
2. Royal law. (James 2:8).
3. Given by God. (Deuteronomy 4:12).
4. Written in stone. (Exodus 31:18).
5. It is unchanging. (Psalm 111:7, 8).
6. It was not abolished. (Romans 3:31).

Ceremonial Law

1. It is carnal. (Hebrews 7:16).
2. Ritual law. (Colossians 2:14).
3. Given by Moses. (Leviticus 1:1-3).
4. Written in a book. (Deuteronomy 31:24).
5. It is temporal. (Hebrews 10:1).
6. It was abolished. (Colossians 2:14).

God's 10 Commandments

The 10 Commandments are recorded in Exodus 20:3-17.

Nobody has the right to change these commandments, neither should anybody add nor remove anything (Ecclesiastes 3:14; Revelation 22:18, 19). Jesus never authorized anybody to make any change; on the contrary, He energetically rebuked whoever tried to exchange the law for human tradition (Matthew 15:3, 6, 9).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE BEST DAY TO REST 12



THE DAY OF REST GIVEN BY GOD

1. According to God's law, which day is the day of rest?
The seventh day Sabbath.
2. Who does the Sabbath benefit?
The Sabbath is for the benefit of man.

Exodus 20:8-11

Mark 2:27

THE HISTORY OF THE SEVENTH DAY: THE SABBATH

3. Who instituted the Sabbath and when did He do so?
God instituted the Sabbath at creation.
4. What day did our Lord Jesus Christ respect?
The Sabbath.
5. What day did the Virgin Mary keep?
The Sabbath.
6. What day did Jesus' apostles keep?
The Sabbath.
7. What day will be kept in heaven?
The Sabbath.

Genesis 2:1-3

Luke 4:16

Luke 23:56

Acts 17:2

Isaiah 66:22, 23

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Be careful to not desecrate the Sabbath.
2. Honor the Sabbath, doing God's will.
3. Obey God rather than men.

Isaiah 56:2

Isaiah 58:13, 14

Acts 5:29

**I believe that the Sabbath is the day of the Lord. I
desire to be faithful to God and observe it correctly.**

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Venerable History of the Sabbath. It was given at creation (Genesis 1:1-3). Abraham respected it (Genesis 26:5). It was sanctified by the Hebrews before the written law was given (Exodus 16:21-30). Established in the holy law (Exodus 20:8-11). It was kept by Jesus (Luke 6:5; 4:16; Mark 1:21). Respected by the Virgin Mary (Luke 23:56). Kept by the Apostles (Acts 13:14, 44; 17:2; 18:4). It will be respected in heaven (Isaiah 66:22, 23).

No One Has The Right To Make Changes To It. God is unchangeable (Malachi 3:6). Jesus is unchanging (Hebrews 13:8). Neither men nor institutions have the right to make changes to the law of God (Matthew 5:18, 19; 15:6, 9; Ecclesiastes 3:14).

The Christian Must Follow The Example Of Jesus. Jesus respected the commandments and kept the holy Sabbath (Luke 4:16). The true Christian follows Jesus' example in all things (1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6; 3:3; John 14:15).

The Lord's Day

The title *Day of the Lord* legitimately corresponds to the Sabbath (Revelation 1:10; Matthew 12:8). The Sabbath is a perpetual reminder of God's creative power.

Through the centuries, the Sabbath has occupied the seventh place in the week. The Bible identifies it as the seventh day in several texts (Exodus 16:26; 20:8-11; 35:2; Leviticus 23:3; Ezekiel 46:1; Luke 13:14). "Sabbath in the Hebrew language means rest, and it is the seventh day of the week". — *Back's Theological Dictionary*

Sunday Is Not The Day Of Rest

In the New Testament the expression "first day of the week" appears eight times, referring to Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). Every time it is given the name "first day of the week", without giving any religious significance. On the other hand, the Sabbath is referred to 59 times, using the word *sabbaton*, which means rest.

"You can read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you will not find a single line that authorizes the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures talk about the religious observance of the Sabbath, the day that we never sanctified". — Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 98.

How Was the Change Made?

The Bible predicts serious attacks against God's law (Daniel 7:25; 8:12). Likewise, the apostles warn Christians about the apostasy and the introduction of heresies into the bosom of the church (Acts 20:28, 30; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4; Romans 1:25).

The change was not made by Christ or the apostles; rather it came on little by little in a church that had separated itself from the eternal principles of God's law. Thousands of pagans who were not fully converted and worshiped the sun came into the church. The worship of the sun was on the first day of the week. For some time, both days were kept. Until Constantine issued his famous decree ordering to sanctify only Sunday.

Constantine's decree states: "Let all the judges and town people, and the occupation of all trades, rest on the venerable day of the sun".

Neander, a renowned Church History professor from Berlin states: "The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a divine command in this respect, far from them, and from the early apostolic church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday." God could never approve of these changes. Our Lord Jesus severely rebuked anyone who placed human teachings above divine ones (Psalm 89:33, 34; Matthew 15:3, 9).

The Seal of God

God has established tests of obedience and loyalty to determine who his faithful children are. In Eden, it was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now, the Lord has a *seal*, by which he knows who are his own (2 Timothy 2:19). With this seal he will indicate or sea his children (Revelation 7:2, 3). Because of this, sanctifying the Sabbath is a sign between God and his children (Ezekiel 20:12; 20).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH

13



THE CORRECT WAY TO RESPECT THE SABBATH

1. What did God do with the Sabbath?
He blessed it, made it holy, and rested on the Sabbath.
2. On what day should preparations be made?
The sixth day is the day to prepare.
3. When does the Sabbath begin?
It begins in the evening, at sunset.
4. What must we abstain from on the Sabbath?
We shall not do any work on the Sabbath.
5. Where must we attend on Sabbath?
The synagogue, church.
6. What can be done on Sabbath?
We should do good on the Sabbath.

Genesis 2:1-3

Exodus 16:22, 23

Leviticus 23:32

Exodus 20:10

Luke 4:16

Matthew 12:12

BLESSINGS FOR THOSE WHO OBEY GOD

7. What is God's promise for those who are faithful?
He will not forsake us.
8. What protection will God give to those who obey Him?
He will provide rain for our land and grass for our cattle.

Psalms 37:25

Deuteronomy
11:13-15

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Faithfully obey what God commands.
2. Trust fully in Jesus.

James 4:17

Philippians 4:13

I decide to be obedient to God and to faithfully keep the holy Sabbath, following Jesus' example.

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The Way to Respect the Sabbath. God requires that we cease doing regular work (Exodus 20:8- 11; 31:13-18, 34:21). We must not buy nor sell (Nehemiah 10:31; 13:15-20). The most appropriate thing is to attend a religious worship service (Leviticus 26:2; Hebrews 10:2-5; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2). It is also good to do acts of goodness (Mark 3:4; Matthew 12:12).

God Helps Those Who Obey Him. It is necessary to do God's will (Matthew 7:21). We have to obey everything God commands (James 2:10). The reason for obedience is love (John 14:15). When we keep the Sabbath we receive the promised blessings (Deuteronomy 11:26, 27; Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 37:25; Isaiah 58:13, 14).

The Restoration of the Sabbath

Due to the apostasy of the Christian church, the Sabbath was changed for the "Venerable Day of the Sun", in other words Sunday. But the Holy Bible had predicted that the observance of the holy commandment would be restored by a people that would be called "repairers of the breach" (Isaiah 58:12, 13). These people "keep the commandments of God" (Revelation 12:17; Isaiah 66:23).

That is why the Seventh-day Adventist Church respects the day of the Lord. Each Sabbath, in every corner of the world, millions of people gather together to praise and worship God.

Sabbath Worship

The main part of Sabbath celebration is the worship service to God. It takes place in the morning and consists of school for the study of the Holy Bible. Afterwards, comes the worship service, with the main portion being the preaching done by a minister or layperson. The faithful participate actively through song, prayer, Bible reading and offerings. The afternoon is dedicated to rest, reading, meditation, missionary outreach and a meeting for the youth.

What is the Truth?

Since so many millions of Christians observe Sunday as holy, many ask themselves: "Who is right?" It's very easy to resolve.

We must ask ourselves with absolute sincerity: "What is the truth?" Then when we have discovered it in the Bible, we have to obey it faithfully.

We know that the Bible contains the truth (John 17:17). The Bible establishes the Sabbath as the only day of rest. And God's word endures forever (Isaiah 40:8).

Jesus is the most pure revelation of the truth. His mission was to "bear witness unto the truth" (John 18:37). And Jesus only kept the Sabbath. He taught us that we are to follow his example (John 13:15, 17). "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

The law of God is the truth (Psalm 119:142). The law specifies clearly the sacredness of the Sabbath. And the commandments have been established forever (Psalm 119:152).

God is the supreme source of truth; Jesus, the Bible and the law exponents of the truth, and they teach definitely the sacredness of the Sabbath. What shall we do? Hopefully we will say: "I have chosen the way of truth". (Psalm 119:30).

Why Do I Keep the Sabbath?

If someone were to ask us: "Why do you respect the Sabbath?" We could give 6 indisputable reasons.

1. Because I believe that there is one day of the Lord, the Sabbath (Mark 2:27, 28).
2. Because I want to be an upright Christian. That is why I have to follow in Jesus' footsteps (1 Peter 2:21). Jesus zealously respected the Sabbath, and He said that He had not come to change the commandments (Matthew 5:17, 18). Therefore, I must respect it.
3. Because there is no doubt that if Christ, the Virgin Mary and the apostles were on the earth today, they would faithfully keep the Sabbath (Hebrews 13:8).
4. Because I want to be a faithful child of God; He created the Sabbath.
5. Because I believe in the Bible. It tells me explicitly that the Sabbath is holy.
6. Because I want to be with Jesus in heaven. Sabbath will be kept there (Isaiah 66:22, 23).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRUE CHURCH

14



FOUNDATION AND BASIS

1. Who founded the Christian church?

Christ founded the Christian church.

Matthew 16:16-18

2. Who is the foundation of the church?

Christ Jesus is the cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:20

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

3. Who are the leaders of the church?

The apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers

Ephesians 4:11, 12

4. What is the triple mission of the church?

Teaching, proclaiming the gospel and healing.

Matthew 4:23

5. How should the church be governed?

The apostles told the disciples to choose seven honest men to be appointed over church business.

Acts 6:1-4

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRUE CHURCH

6. What example should the church follow?

We should follow Jesus' example.

John 13:15

7. What is the standard of conduct for the church?

Michael and the angels fought against the dragon.

Revelation 12:7

8. What gift will the church possess?

The Spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 19:10

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Join the true church.
2. Stay faithful and firm.

Acts 2:41

2 Peter 1:10-12

**I believe that Jesus founded the church. I desire to
join it and be faithful to the end**

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Christ, the Foundation. Christ is the true foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20). Nobody can put down a different foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11).

The Church and its Leaders. Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22). List of authorities (Ephesians 4:11, 12). Qualifications of ministers (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). Deacons and their qualifications (1 Timothy 3:8-13). The deaconesses (1 Timothy 3:11). Members call each other brothers and sisters (Matthew 23:8, 9).

Rites of the Church. 1) Baptism by immersion (Matthew 3:13-17). 2) Lord's Supper or Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-29). 3) Foot washing. (John 13:4-17). 4) Placing of hands to ordain ministers or deacons (Acts 6:1-6). 5) Anointing of the sick (James 5:14, 15). 6) Holy matrimony (Matthew 19:4-6).

The Mission of the Church. To be a pillar and bastion of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15). To be pure and holy (Ephesians 5:27). To preach the gospel (Matthew 24:14).

The Christian Church

The church was founded by Jesus. The word church comes from the Greek *ekklesia*, and it means *assembly or congregation*. It is a group of human beings that believe and obey Jesus and his doctrine.

The Great Drama of the Church

During the first century, the church stayed faithful to Jesus' genuine doctrine. However, heresies and serious errors started to come in which the apostles had rebuked (Romans 1:21, 22, 15; 2 Peter 2:1, 2; Titus 1:14; Colossians 2:8). The errors included capital doctrines and they also altered the church's form of government. So much so that "it cast down the truth to the ground" (Daniel 8:12). This unfortunate situation would last 1,260 years (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5), in other words, from the year 538 until the year 1798.

The Restoration of the Truth

After that long period of spiritual darkness, the truth would revive gloriously to be preached in the form of the triple message (Revelation 14:6-12).

Characteristics of the True Church

The true church must possess the faith of Jesus (Revelation 14:12). It will respect the commandments of the law of God (Revelation 14:12). It will have the visible manifestation of the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10). It will respect the holy Sabbath of the Lord (Exodus 20:8-11). It will be guided in everything by what God's Holy Word says (2 Timothy 3:16). It will have a dynamic and triple evangelism program (Matthew 4:23). It will announce the imminent judgment (Revelation 14:7). It will preach with power about the second coming of Jesus (Titus 2:13).

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church (SDA)

The SDA church emerged at the moment indicated by prophecy and as a result of a deep study of the Holy Bible. He possesses the four distinctive characteristics of a true church: 1) *Unity* of doctrine, rites and regulations (Ephesians 4:3-6). 2) *Holiness* in the life and conduct of the members (1 Thessalonians 4:2-7). 3) *Universality* (Matthew 24:14). 4) *Apostolicity* (Jude 3).

The SDA church develops its apostolate in the triple phase that our Lord Jesus Christ commanded. Thousands of ministers preach the gospel, aside from radio, television and publications edited by more than 50 publishing houses. The field of education, the church has many universities, 360 high schools and 4,500 elementary schools. In the health field, the church maintains 114 hospitals and sanitariums, several dozen medical launches, mobile clinics and health airplanes.

The authorities of the church are those indicated in the Holy Bible. The church is governed with the council of all its members, just as it was in the time of the apostles. Likewise, the church practices all the rites prescribed by our Lord Jesus Christ and the holy apostles.

The SDA church has restored the eternal truths of the gospel. The Holy Bible, the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and the holy apostles and the law of God, these are the standard of conduct of the church and the believers.

The SDA church is the historic continuation of the permanent people that God has had as proclaimers of the truth. It maintains that the Christian doctrines must be practiced in every aspect of life.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE DISCIPLESHIP OF THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

15



THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

1. What is the mission of God's children?
To make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. What missionary goal has God given us?
To preach the gospel of the kingdom in the whole world.
3. How does God consider us when carrying out the mission?
We are Christ's ambassadors.

Matthew 28:19

Matthew 24:14

2 Corinthians 5:20

THE METHODS WE ARE TO FOLLOW

4. What two qualities must the disciple have?
Shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves.
5. What are the two phases that the mission must have?
Preaching and teaching and proclaiming the good news of Jesus.
6. How does God want us to carry out this work?
We are to go two by two to every town and place.

Matthew 10:16

Acts 20:20 & 5:42

Luke 10:1

THE SOURCE OF SUCCESS IN THE MISSION

7. What promise did Jesus give us?
He is with us always, until the very end.
8. What is the secret of power?
The Holy Spirit is the secret of power.
9. Who guarantees the result?
God is the one who makes things grow.

Matthew 28:20

Acts 1:8

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Accept the invitation that God extends to me.
2. Have a joyful attitude to carry out this work.
3. Abide in Jesus every day, in order to have the desire to testify.

Matthew 4:19

Isaiah 52:7

John 15:27

I desire to become a part of the mission by being a disciple of Jesus Christ, preach the gospel and win people for his kingdom.

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The Call to Service

Every follower of Jesus Christ is called specifically for a mission (1 Peter 2:9). The mission is worldwide and it will continue until Christ returns (Matthew 24:14). It is the same mission that the Father entrusted to Christ (John 17:18, 20:21); and it must be carried out in a public and private way (Acts 20:20 and 5:42).

Whoever participates in this ministry, participates of the supreme heavenly joy (Lucas 15:7 and 10). It produces satisfaction and joy for the disciple (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 and Psalm 126:5-6). It was the same joy as Jesus Christ's (Hebrews 12:2).

God capacitates us with gifts for the ministry (Ephesians 4:8, 11-13, 17). In this work each one has a designated place (Mark 13:34). We are sent with the power of Christ, in his name and we will have his company (Matthew 28:18-20). For the apostle Paul, this was a "necessity" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Whoever fulfills this ministry has a reward (Daniel 12:3).

The New Testament and History

They show that the passion to save others, the fruit of the presence of the Holy Spirit, was evident in both the primitive church and the post-apostolic one.

The desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ has characterized all true believers throughout history.

Preaching the gospel for them was not just one more option within the value scale of the Christian life, rather it was the main purpose of their life. It was the essence, the basis, the foundation or backbone of believing and trusting in God.

Passion for Discipleship

This is what led George Whitfield, the famous British evangelist to say: "Oh, Lord, give me souls or take mine", and missionary Henry Martin to say in India: "Here I will burn for God".

Dwight Moody expressed similar sentiments: "My Savior, use me for whatever purpose and in whatever way you need me", and John Mackenzie prayed on his knees on the banks of the Lottie River: "Oh, Lord, send me to the darkest place on earth".

John Hunt, a missionary in the Fiji Islands, prayed while he was dying: "Lord, save Fiji: save these people; Oh Lord, have mercy on Fiji."

David Brainard, a well-known missionary, while he was working among the Delaware Indians, said: "I don't care where I live or what hardships I go through, as long as I win souls for Christ. While I sleep, I dream about this. As soon as I wake up, the first thing I think about is this great work."

The Greatest Work

The prolific Christian author, Ellen G. White, in the May 4, 1893 issue of *The Youth's Instructor*, expressed this:

"The work above all work,—the business above all others which should draw and engage the energies of the soul,—is the work of saving souls for whom Christ has died. Make this the main, the important work of your life. Make it your special life-work. ."

The Best Profession of All

It was the passion for the discipleship that burned in Spurgeon's heart that led him to prepare a series of topics with the purpose of presenting them to the students at the Theological Seminary that he called "The greatest of all professions: winning souls." Entitled *What is Soul Winning?*, he said: "my purpose, dear brethren, if God allows me to offer a brief evangelistic discourse."

And he adds: "Soul winning is the main occupation of the Christian minister; and it certainly should be for every true believer. Each one of us should say like Simon Peter: "I will go fishing", and like Paul our sights should be set on "that some may be saved."

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE HAPPY OCCASION OF BAPTISM

16



TRUE BAPTISM

1. Why must we get baptized?

To fulfill the commission Jesus gave us.

Matthew 28:18-20

2. What is the correct way to baptize?

Submerged in the water.

Matthew 3:13-16

3. Is baptism indispensable to be saved?

Yes, whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

Mark 16:16

4. What does baptism symbolize?

Being baptized into the death of Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:3

5. What statement does God make on the occasion of baptism?

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17

THE WONDERFUL RESULTS OF BAPTISM

6. What two blessings are received with baptism?

Forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38

7. What divine institution do the baptized join?

God's church

Acts 2:41, 42, 47

8. What glorious experience does the baptized individual obtain?

Living a new life, just as Christ was raised from death to life.

Romans 6:4

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Believe in the Lord Jesus.
2. Abandon sin.
3. Ask for holy baptism.
4. Respond to God's calling without delay.

Acts 8:37

Romans 6:11-13

Acts 8:35-38

Hebrews 3:15

**I believe in baptism by immersion. I wish to get
baptized following the example of Jesus.**

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What is Baptism?

The word baptism comes from a Greek word meaning “to sink,” “to submerge.” Baptism is a symbol of death to a life of unbelief, and birth to a new experience in Christ. It is a reminder of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3, 4). Our Lord Jesus Christ, even though he did not need to be baptized, he did so as an example for us (John 3:15). We are baptized because Jesus indicated we should be and in name of the holy Godhead (Matthew 28:19).

Who Can Be Baptized?

All who meet with the required conditions. Among those conditions are: Believing in the Lord Jesus (Acts 8:36-38). Repenting of all sin (Acts 2:38). Confessing all sin (Proverbs 28:13). Knowing doctrine (Matthew 28:20). Practicing doctrine (Matthew 7:21). Asking for holy baptism (Acts 8:36).

When we apply these conditions, it is clear that a young child cannot be baptized. But a minor that understands doctrine can be. If we have been baptized without our consent, without a complete comprehension of all truth, in an incorrect way, or if we have gone away from the truth, the Bible authorizes a new baptism (Acts 19:1-5).

Forms of Baptism

According to the meaning of the word, with Jesus’ and the apostles’ custom, and with its symbolism, the baptism must be by immersion, in other words, covering the person completely with water. Jesus “went up out of the water” (Matthew 3:16). John baptized where “there was plenty of water” (John 3:23). “They went down both into the water” (Acts 8:38). There is only one true baptism (Ephesians 4:5).

Cardinal James Gibbons says: “For several centuries, after the establishing of Christianity, baptism was ordinarily conferred by immersion, but since the 12th century the practice of baptism by infusion has prevailed in the Catholic Church...”—*The Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 256.

Monsignor John Straubinger, commenting on a verse about baptism, says: “It refers to the baptism of the early Christians, which were baptized by completely submerging in water. Just as Christ was buried upon his death, we are buried in the waters of baptism.”—*New Testament*, p. 614.

The Result of Baptism

When this ritual is done sincerely, it is a public testimony of turning away from the sinful past life and the birth of a new life in Christ. The forgiveness of past sins is promised as well as an abundant measure of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Also, the baptized individual has a new relationship with Christ (Galatians 3:27). He becomes a member of Christ’s church (Acts 2:41).

After Baptism

The old life has been buried in the liquid tomb. Now a new life begins (Romans 6:4). Henceforth, the way of living must change completely (Ephesians 4:22-24). Normally, there should be no more sin (1 John 3:9). Now we have to be careful with evil, trust in God and the evil one will not touch us (1 John 5:18). The great work of sanctification begins now (Romans 6:22); this consists of a constant perfecting of our character. This task lasts the whole life. There must not be standstills or relapses (Proverbs 4:18).

The secret of sanctification consist in a perfect union with our Lord Jesus (John 15:4, 5). Without Him, we can do nothing. With Him, everything is possible (Philippians 4:13). There will be a constant struggle with the “old man,” who we should “crucify,” and allow that Christ live in us (Galatians 2:20). We must never lose heart, but rather persevere until the end (Matthew 24:13).

THE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE 17



NEW LIFE

1. What change happens when I accept Jesus?

I am a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

2. What wonderful experience will we have?

God will sanctify us.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

3. What is the correct attitude when facing trials?

We should not be surprised and we should rejoice.

1 Peter 4:12, 13

DEVOTIONAL LIFE

4. What is the indispensable daily spiritual food?

Spending time with Him and following all the words of his law.

Deuteronomy 17:19

5. How do we establish communion with God?

Through prayer.

1 Peter 4:7

A LIFE OF WORSHIP

6. What day is dedicated to worshipping God?

The Sabbath.

Isaiah 58:12-14

7. What is the ideal place for worshipping God?

The synagogue, church.

Luke 4:16

A LIFE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS

8. What transcendental mission did God entrust to us?

Preaching the gospel, making disciples, baptizing the new disciples

Matthew 24:14 & 28:19

9. What essential preparation must we have?

Be prepared to give the reason for the hope we have, gently and respectfully.

1 Peter 3:15

SPIRITUAL GUIDES

10. Who are our human guides?

Those who care for us in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13

11. Who is our supreme guide?

Christ Jesus

Colossians 2:6, 7

I believe in God's help, and following Jesus, I will strive to live as an upright Christian.

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A Holy Life

By surrendering ourselves to the Lord and joining his church, a new life begins. There have been changes in our conduct, character and ideals. Before, our first interest was in material things, now we live the way Jesus shows us: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). We have before us the lofty goal of being holy (1 Peter 1:15, 16), because that is the will of God for our lives (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5).

Life at Home

The new life can be seen at home. The relationship between spouses will be guided by respect, understanding and love (Ephesians 5:22-29). The education of the children will be of primary interest, the parents will be firm and wise (Ephesians 6:4). The children will respond by obeying gladly (Ephesians 6:1).

Social Life

The Christian life is not only lived in the church, but in every place and at every moment. It is an emotional adventure to live like Christ. The Bible recommends that we are to work (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).

As far as our relationship with everyone else, Christ established the precious golden rule: whatever we wished to have done to us, we must do with others (Matthew 7:12). It is recommended to be very careful with the tongue and with words (Matthew 5:37; Colossians 4:6).

The authorities deserve our respect and obedience (1 Peter 2:13, 14; Romans 13:1-3), without forgetting that God is above all (Acts 5:29).

Spiritual Life

The spiritual life is private and public; publicly it is developed centering on the church activities, the ones that have been planned to benefit, nourish, encourage and perfect the faithful.

Main Worship Services. a) Sabbath School. It takes place every Sabbath morning and consists in the systematic study of the Bible. Every member studies at home every day a portion of the lesson for the week

b) Worship Service. Takes place after Sabbath School, and consists of songs, reading the Bible and the preaching of a spiritual topic. It is the main service that all members and friends attend. c) AYS. Usually this takes place on Sabbath afternoon, and it is a special meeting for young people and children. d) Prayer Meeting. Takes place on Wednesday nights and is dedicated to Bible study and prayer.

Authorities of the church. The leader in charge of the spiritual wellbeing of the members is the pastor or elder. The pastor is named by the conference. All church matters are decided by the church board.

Offerings. The church is supported by the members, who voluntarily give tithes, which belong to God, and offerings that are used to support the various activities of the church in the world as well as locally. One of the great privileges of being a Christian is to give generously for God's work.

Missionary Work. Every member of the church is called to cooperate in the sacred and emotional task of sharing with others the message of salvation. One of the deepest joys in life is taking others to the feet of Jesus.

The Universal Church. The Adventist Church has extended throughout the world. It is perfectly organized to fulfill the commission given by Jesus to preach the gospel.

The Members. The members of the church call themselves brothers and sisters (Matthew 23:8). United by the same faith and the same hope, they help each other and love each other with brotherly love (1 Peter 1:22).

The Triumph of the Church

The church that works now will achieve a glorious triumph. It will be when Christ comes for the second time. The church will not be free of problems, anguish, dangers and cruel persecution; but the Lord will take care of it and preserve it until the end (Matthew 28:20). Those who stay faithful to God and his church will triumph with her.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT HEALTH PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR LIVING

18



THE BODY IS GOD'S TEMPLE

1. How does God consider the human body?
The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
-

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

2. In what two aspects is God interested?
Health and the prosperity of our soul.
-

3 John 2

HEALTH PRINCIPLES

3. What is the basic principle for eating?
Do it all for the glory of God.
-

1 Corinthians 10:31

4. What meats are not convenient?
Those that do not have a divided hoof nor chew the cud.
-

Leviticus 11:3-20

5. Why do we stay away from alcoholic beverages?
Wine is a mocker and those who use it are not wise.
-

Proverbs 20:1

6. Why is it best not to use tobacco, coffee and stimulating beverages?
Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we should not destroy them
-

1 Corinthians 3:16, 17

STANDARDS OF LIVING

7. What should personal appearance be like?
Modest, decent, proper.
-

1 Timothy 2:9, 10

8. Why do we not attend inappropriate shows?
Because we should follow Christ's example.
-

1 Peter 2:21

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Strive to live a perfect Christian life.
2. Follow Jesus' example in all things.

Matthew 5:48

1 John 2:6

I believe that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I will abstain from all harmful foods or beverages.

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A Pure and Spotless Church. We are a chosen people (1 Peter 2:9). The Christian is in the world but is not of the world (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4). The church must be holy and spotless (Ephesians 5:25-27). It must be an example for the world (Matthew 5:16). We must abstain from all evil (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).

Dynamic Christianity. The Christian has integrity (Psalm 15:1-5). He is honest in his business transactions (Proverbs 20:10). His thoughts are elevated (Philippians 4:8). The Christian is careful with words (Ephesians 4:25-29). The Christian avoids the fruits of the flesh and practices the ones of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-26).

Christian Modesty. Christian modesty is recommended (1 Timothy 2:9, 10). Dispense with superfluous external adornment (Isaiah 3:18-23; Genesis 35:1-4; Jeremiah 4:30). True beauty emanates from a life consecrated to God (Proverbs 31:30).

The Christian and Health

When worshiping God we do it with our spirit and our body, therefore both must be irreproachable (1 Thessalonians 5:23). On the other hand, God considers our body to be a temple (1 Corinthians 6:19). Any attack against the health of the body is a grave sin before God (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17). "Our bodies must be kept in the best possible condition physically, and under the most spiritual influences... Those who thus shorten their lives by disregarding nature's laws are guilty of robbery toward God."—Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Health*, p. 41). An important principle in the life of the Christian is temperance (Luke 21:34).

The Use of Meat

It was not God's plan that meat would be consumed. The diet given by the Lord was natural (Genesis 1:29). Provisional permission was given to consume meat because of the flood (Genesis 9:3). Because man became accustomed to the carnivorous diet, God indicated specifically which meats were inconvenient.

These indications are found in the book of Leviticus, in chapter 11. In general, the instructions are the following:

Meat. The meat of animals with a split hoof and that chew their cud can be eaten. If one or both of these characteristics are lacking, the meat should not be eaten.

Fish. The ones that can be consumed are the ones that have fins and scales.

Birds. The ones that may not be eaten are birds of prey or nocturnal birds.

Blood. The Bible strictly forbids the use of blood as food. (Leviticus 17:13, 14).

Alcohol and Tobacco

The Bible recommends abstaining from all alcoholic beverages (Proverbs 23:20; 20:1; Isaiah 28:7; Luke 1:15; 1 Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 5:18).

Tobacco was not known in Bible times. It originated in America. However, its use has spread through the entire world. Men, women, youth and children fall victims of this vice. Every cigarette contains approximately 35 poisons. Medical science warns us of the terrible effects of tobacco. It affects the arteries that feed the heart, the lungs, the sense of smell, the stomach, and sight. The relationship between the habit of smoking and the increase of cancer has been proven. Whoever desires to be a god child of God must leave behind this terrible vice (2 Timothy 2:21). Likewise, coffee, tea and mate contain drugs and poisons.

Jesus, our Example and our Strength

The Christian life is a constant struggle. The secret of triumph consists in following in Jesus' footsteps (1 Peter 2:21). It requires a spirit of sacrifice (Luke 9:23; 1 Corinthians 9:26, 27), and abandoning wrong customs (Titus 2:12, 13). A reform of habits is necessary (Romans 12:2).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON DIES

19



LIFE

1. Who created man and how did He do it?
God created man in his own image. He formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7

DEATH

2. Why do we have to die?
The wages of sin is death and we all have sinned.
3. What is death?
The dust returns to the ground, the spirit returns to God.
4. To what does Jesus compare death?
He compares it to falling asleep.
5. Does the person who died know anything?
The dead know nothing.
6. What happens with the soul?
The soul shall die.
7. Should we consult the dead?
No, we should not.

Romans 6:23 and 5:12

Ecclesiastes 12:7

John 11:11, 13

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6

Ezekiel 18:4

Deuteronomy
18:10, 11

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Take comfort in the hope of the resurrection.
2. Believe in Jesus
3. Remain in Jesus and in the truth until the day in which God makes us immortal.

1 Thess. 4:13-18

John 11:25

Romans 2:7

**I trust in God's promises. I surrender my life to Jesus
in order to have eternal life.**

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THE FAITH
OF JESUS

► ADDITIONAL STUDY ◀

Death is the Cessation of Life. Death is a return to dust (Ecclesiastes 3:20). No more suffering or rejoicing (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6). Ceases to be (Psalm 104:29). Thoughts come to an end (Psalm 146:4). No more participation in the concerns of the living (Job 14:21; Psalm 6:5).

Immortality. Only God is immortal (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15, 16). Man is mortal by nature (Isaiah 51:12). Man's flesh is mortal (2 Corinthians 4:11). The soul is also mortal (Ezekiel 18:4). Immortality will be granted after the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:52-55).

Christ, the Hope of Life. Christ promises to give eternal life (John 10:27, 28). Christ removes death and brings life to light (2 Timothy 1:10). Jesus has the keys of hell and death (Revelation 1:18).

Life and Death

"If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). This is the question that worries humanity the most. Fortunately, God in his love has expanded on the answer in his Holy Word. He explains to us that life is the association of two elements: dust and breath of life (spirit) from God (Genesis 2:7). Death is the inverse process: the dust returns to the earth and the breath of life, or vital principle given by God, returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7). The real cause of death is sin (Romans 6:23). Sin has passed to all men and because of that all must die (Romans 5:12).

Where do the Dead Go?

According to the Bible, the dead go to the tomb, where they sleep until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The word *hell* simply means *tomb*, but not a place of perpetual suffering. The Bible does not mention *purgatory*. It also doesn't say that the dead go to heaven, because the reward will be given to the righteous when our Lord Jesus returns and the resurrection takes place.

Can We Communicate With the Dead?

In desperation, many relatives try to establish a relationship with their dead loved ones. But the Bible is clear when it teaches that the dead know nothing (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6). Therefore, they cannot communicate with us, nor can we with them.

We must remember that Satan's first lie dealt with this matter. God told Adam that if he sinned he would die, but Satan replied: "You shall not die" (Genesis 3:4). Satan keeps trying to deceive in regards to death, and he is determined to maintain his original lie. He can do it easily because he transforms "into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). Even the demons are able to impersonate people who have died (2 Corinthians 11:15). Many of the apparently unexplainable or surprising phenomenon are provoked by "spirits of devils, working miracles" (Revelation 16:14). That's why we are urged: "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1). God in the Bible strictly condemns any occultist or spiritualistic practice (Leviticus 19:31, 20:37; Isaiah 8:19).

Wonderful Hope

Death is sleep. Just like after a hard day of work comes a sleep that repairs, after a long life filled with work, God grants us a deserved sleep of rest (John 11:11-14).

The Resurrection. Death is not the end of everything. The farewell to the loved one is not definitive, it is simply "see you later". In several places in the Bible it speaks of the blessed home of the "resurrection" (Isaiah 26:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 6:40).

The Transformation. When resurrecting, the person will have a new body, a new mind and a new personality (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 51-56; Philippians 3:20, 21).

No More Death. Just as it is with all tragedies caused by sin, God will eliminate death forever. When we reunite with our loved ones, we will do so with the total certainty that we will never again say goodbye and that there will never be separation (Isaiah 25:8; Luke 20:36).

This marvelous hope must strengthen our faith in the sure promises of God. When a loved one dies we will have the natural human sadness, but our tears will not be because of separation, because the righteous has hope at his death" (Proverbs 14:32).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE DIVINE PLAN FOR SUPPORTING THE CHURCH

20



EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

1. To whom does the universe belong?
It belongs to the Lord.
2. What enormous riches does God possess?
All silver and gold belongs to the Lord.
3. Thanks to whom do we obtain our things?
The Lord our God gives us all things.

Psalms 24:1

Haggai 2:8

Deuteronomy
8:17, 18

GOD'S PART

4. What proportion of our income belongs to God?
The tithe, ten percent.
5. We must give a tithe of what?
Of all that God has given to us.
6. What is tithe used for?
To support the ministers.
7. What wonderful blessing does God promise?
He will open the windows of heaven and pour out his blessings if we bring all the tithes into the storehouse.

Leviticus 27:30, 32

Genesis 28:20-22

1 Corinthians 9:13, 14

Malachi 3:10

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Be a faithful administrator of God's goods.
2. Be God's partner.
3. Give cheerfully

1 Peter 4:10

Proverbs 11:24, 25

2 Corinthians 9:6, 7

I want to be God's partner. I promise to give cheerfully what belongs to God.

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► ADDITIONAL STUDY ◀

God Owns Everything. He is the owner of heaven and earth (Deuteronomy 10:14). Animals belong to him (Psalm 50:10-12). All wealth is his (Haggai 2:8). Our bodies and lives belong to Him (1 Corinthians 6:20).

We Are God's Stewards. The Lord wants us to act as his stewards (Matthew 25:14; Psalm 8:4-8). He gives us the strength to accumulate wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18; Proverbs 10:22). But He urges us to not love money (1 Timothy 6:10). We must be faithful stewards (1 Corinthians 4:1, 2). We must give according to the blessings God has granted us (Deuteronomy 16:17). Wherever our treasure is, that is where our heart will be (Luke 12:33, 34).

Collaborators with God

The Maker is also the great Provider. He gives us life, sustenance and knowledge of the truth. As a demonstration of his love, he makes us his collaborators. What God asks of us is not because He needs it, but for us to remember our dependence on Him and in order to establish a beneficial partnership for us.

Tithe

Tithe is the tenth part of our earnings and it belongs to God (Leviticus 27:30; 1 Chronicles 29:12, 14). Abraham would give his tithe to God (Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:1-7). Jacob also gave it (Genesis 28:22). It was a habitual practice of the Hebrew people (2 Chronicles 31:5, 6; Nehemiah 10:37, 38). Our Lord Jesus Christ approved of this practice (Matthew 23:23).

“The special tithe system was based on a principle that is as long lasting as God’s law. This tithe system was a blessing for the Jews, otherwise God would not have given it. Likewise, it will be a blessing for those who practice it until the end of time”.—Ellen G. White, *Jewels of the Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 385.

The Use of Tithe

Tithe was always used for sustaining worship and the ministers (Numbers 18:21). The Bible teaching is very clear that the ministers must be supported financially in order to dedicate themselves exclusively to exercising their ministry (1 Corinthians 9:13, 14; Luke 10:7). The Adventist Church uses the tithe that members give generously to preach the gospel and support the ministers. This way, every cent is used directly in God’s work. A chain of salvation is being formed: you learned the truth because others were faithful in giving their tithes; now you help so that others can have the same blessed privilege.

Other Offerings

Tithe is what we return to God because it belongs to Him. Our generosity is measured by the offerings that we give voluntarily. Offerings are destined for extending the gospel in our territory and in foreign missions, for the expenses of our own church, and for special projects. The Holy Bible recommends that we be generous in giving our offerings (1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 96:8, Mark 12:41-44).

God's Marvelous Promises

In the system of tithes and offerings, in reality God promises us a partnership. He, who is the owner of all wealth, invites us to participate of the huge blessings that he is able to pour out. That is why He asks that we give abundantly and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6, 7). He promises to take care of us at every moment (Hebrews 13:5, 6). He assures us that we can try Him in his promise to grant us overabundant blessings (Malachi 3:10, 11; Proverbs 11:24, 25).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE GIFT OF PROPHECY 21 IN THE TRUE CHURCH



THE PROPHETIC GIFT

1. To whom does God reveal His plans?

To his servants the prophets.

2. How does God communicate with the prophet?

In visions and dreams.

3. Can a woman be a prophet?

Yes, "your sons and daughters shall prophesy."

Amos 3:7

Numbers 12:6

Joel 2:28

THE PROPHETIC GIFT IN THE TRUE CHURCH

4. Did the early church have prophets?

Yes, the early church had prophets.

1 Corinthians 12:28

5. What was predicted about the gift of prophecy in the true church?

The true church will have the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 12:17
and 19:10

6. The promise of the gift of prophecy was fulfilled in the Adventist Church through Ellen G. White. (See commentary).
-

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Appreciate the prophecies.
2. Be alert to the prophecies.
3. Believe in the prophets.

1 Thessalonians 5:20

2 Peter 1:19

2 Chronicles 20:20

**I accept the wonderful gift of prophecy given by
God to his church.**

SIGNATURE

THE FAITH
OF JESUS

► ADDITIONAL STUDY ◀

The Gift of Prophecy. The prophet is chosen by god (Deuteronomy 18:15). He/she speaks God's words (Deuteronomy 18:18). He/she receives revelations through dreams and visions (Job 2:28; Psalm 89:19; Job 33:14-16; Ezekiel 1:1). The visions go together with significant physical phenomenon:

- a) Loss of strength (Daniel 10:8, 17).
- b) Unconsciousness (Daniel 10:9).
- c) Absence of breathing (Daniel 10:17).
- d) Eyes stay open (Numbers 24:3, 4).
- e) Receives superhuman strength (Daniel 10:18).

The Gift of Prophecy in Women. The gift of prophecy was granted to many noble women: Miriam (Exodus 15:20). Deborah (Judges 4:4). Huldah (2 Kings 22:14). Noadiah (Nehemiah 6:14). Anna (Luke 2:36). Philip's four daughters (Acts 21:8, 9).

Tests of the True Prophet

- a) Speaks according to the law and the testimony (Isaiah 8:20).
- b) Predictions come true (Jeremiah 28:9).
- c) Does not lead the people into apostasy (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).
- d) States what is inspired and does not speak about himself (Jeremiah 14:14).
- e) Rebukes sin (Jeremiah 23:22).

Ellen G. White: Life and Work

The Seventh-day Adventist Church had the spirit of prophecy in the person of Ellen G. White. She was born in Gorham, Maine, United States, November 26, 1827. In 1840, at 12 years old, she surrendered her heart to God and was baptized by a Methodist minister. With several members of her family, Ellen attended some Adventist meetings in Portland, and in 1842 she fully accepted the doctrines, therefore in 1843 she was disfellowshipped from the Methodist church.

One morning in December of 1844, when she was gathered with other people to pray, she had her first vision, in which she saw the journey of the Adventist people to God's city. She shared her vision with the believers in Portland, and they accepted it as light from God. Then she went on several trips in order to

Tell about this and other visions, and at the same time fight against fanatical movements that were striving to enter into the group of believers.

In a trip to Orrington, Maine, she met a young Adventist preacher, James White, who she married at the end of August, 1846. James and Ellen carefully studied a pamphlet from Pastor Joseph Bates called *The Rest of the Seventh Day*. They accepted the truth of the Sabbath and on April 7, 1847 she received a vision in which she saw God's law with a light that shown over the fourth commandment.

The Visions

Thousands of people had the opportunity to see Mrs. Ellen White in vision. The same phenomenons described in the Bible regarding the ancient prophets were manifested in her. In one of her visions, she took a heavy Bible weighing almost 20 pounds and lifted it during half an hour; when strong men tried to do the same thing, they were only able to do so for a few minutes. In her visions she was transported to other countries, which she later recognized in her trips.

One of her most important visions was about the great controversy between good and evil. It happened in March of 1858 in Ohio. Another vision was about health. Due to that vision, the church started to give importance to temperance and the medical work. She had almost 2,000 dreams and visions with revelations about all aspects of the truth and the organization of the church.

Missionary

Along with her husband, she traveled extensively throughout the United States, preaching, and helping in the organization of the church and fighting against different problems and errors. She went to Europe in the fall of 1885. In 1891 she went to Australia, where she helped to strengthen and establish the work.

Author

She wrote thousands of pages and about 45 important books. Some of the main books are: *Steps to Christ*, *The Great Controversies*, *The Desire of Ages*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Education*, *Ministry of Healing*, and others.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT PERSONAL SURRENDER TO GOD

22



NECESSARY CONDITION

1. What step is essential for salvation?
We must believe and be baptized.

Mark 16:16

GOD'S TENDER INVITATIONS

2. What calling did he make to Levi?
Jesus said, "Follow me."
3. How did Levi respond?
He left everything and followed Jesus.
4. What other gentle calling does Jesus make?
He knocks at the door and asks us to open, so he can come in and eat with us.
5. What decision must we make now?
To get up, be baptized and call on His name.

Luke 5:27

Luke 5:28

Revelation 3:20

Acts 22:16

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Do not postpone the decision to accept the Lord.
2. Together with my family make a decision for God.
3. Make the decision right now.
4. Ask for holy baptism.
5. Trust fully in Jesus.

Acts 24:25

Joshua 24:15

Hebrews 3:15

Acts 8:36

Philippians 4:13

**I believe that the Lord calls me to join his church.
I respond joyfully to his calling and I surrender my
life through holy baptism.**

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> Commitment with God <

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13).

By God’s grace I promise:

1. To accept Jesus as my *only* Savior. (Acts 4:12).
2. To abandon sin. Having obtained forgiveness that God offers for repentance, confession and conversion (1 John 1:9).
3. To accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. To study it daily through the Sabbath School lessons (John 5:39).
4. To pray three times a day (Daniel 6:10).
5. To faithfully observe, by God’s grace, His holy commandments (James 2:10).
6. To rest on the holy Sabbath. Not to carry out any work. To attend worship service (Exodus 20:8-11).
7. To accept the spirit of prophecy (2 Chronicles 20:20).
8. To live in a healthful way. To abstain from unsuitable meats, alcoholic beverages and every vice (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).
9. To dress with Christian modesty. (1 Timothy 2:9).
10. To cooperate with God in the tithing and offerings plan. (Malachi 3:6-9).
11. To use my talents to serve God as a volunteer missionary, winning souls for Christ (Luke 8:38, 39).
12. To accept the guidance of the church and its pastors. (Hebrews 13:17).

By God’s grace I declare:

1. To know, accept and practice Jesus’ doctrine.
2. That I request to be baptized by immersion. I ask to be accepted as a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Instructor _____

You will be baptized at _____

On this date and time _____

EDUCATION FOR ETERNITY

23



EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN

1. What advice is given to parents about the education of their children?
We are to talk to our children about God's commandments at home, on the road, always.
2. What is the Biblical precedent for church schools?
The school of the prophets.

Deuteronomy
6:5-9

2 Kings 6:1-7

CHRIST'S SCHOOL

3. What was the fundamental task carried out by the Lord Jesus?
Teaching, preaching and healing.

Matthew 4:23

SCHOOLS TODAY

4. What dangers do Christians face in non-Christian schools or colleges?
False science, profane and vain speaking, errors concerning faith.

1 Timothy 6:20, 21

OBJECTIVES OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

5. What are the Lord's objectives for his children?
"All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace."

Isaiah 54:13

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Instruct our children in the Lord.
2. Accept God's command.
3. Allow our children to go to Jesus.

Proverbs 22:6

Deuteronomy 6:6

Matthew 19:14

I will do whatever is in my reach for the children and youth to be taught by the Lord.

SIGNATURE

THE FAITH
OF JESUS

► ADDITIONAL STUDY ◀

Education, is it a Biblical principle?

The concepts studied reveal to us that the education of our children deserves serious consideration and a definite effort so that they can follow Heaven's principles and reach salvation.

"To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life."—Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 15.

Education and redemption join together; they are mixed in the effort to take man towards a relationship with God that is as similar as possible to that other existence, before sin, as well as a perfect relationship in the coming world.

In its work of education, the world strives only to develop natural powers. It omits restoration, which is the more important of the two processes. No education that omits the work of restoration can be called Christian. A child that studies in a school where spiritual restoration is not cared for, cannot say he or she is being "taught of the Lord," because the Bible says: "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord." (Isaiah 54:13).

Elementary School

"Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." (Matthew 18:14).

"Children are a heritage from the Lord, and they are to be trained for His service. This is the work that rests upon parents and teachers with solemn, sacred force, which they cannot evade or ignore. To neglect this work marks them as unfaithful servants; but there is a reward when the seed of truth is early sown in the heart and carefully tended."—Ellen G. White, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 143

High Schools and Colleges

The divine purpose for education covers not just elementary education, but rather all levels. And secondary and college education have a triple objective:

1. To continue with the work of restoration and redemption.
2. To serve a cities of refuge against the tide of evil that is ever increasing.
3. To prepare young people for service to the Lord.

In these days in which the church grows very rapidly, we need to preserve the most precious thing she possesses, the children and youth, from the demoralizing influences and from the prevailing immorality in the world.

Expense or Investment

What a wonderful attitude towards education would be developed if all of us – parents, grandparents, members of the church – could look at the money that we pay for the education of our children and youth as an investment instead of an expense!

Psalms 127:3 says: "Children are an heritage of the Lord..." What a beautiful truth! Children are a gift from the Lord and we must celebrate this blessing.

The Adventist Church has recognized, from its beginning, the value of Christian education for their children. Great sacrifices are made in order for the youth of the church could obtain an Adventist education. Parents sacrificed even things that were essential for life as long as they could send their children to Adventist schools.

Also, the church has invested millions of dollars in the educational system.

What Shall We Do?

"The Lord of heaven is looking on to see who is doing the work He would have done for the children and youth... As a church, as individuals, if we would stand clear in the judgment, we must make more liberal efforts for the training of our young people".—Ellen G. White, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 42.

Suggested bibliography for further study:

Ellen G. White, *Education*.

Ellen G. White, *Christian Education*

Ellen G. White, *Counsels for Teachers*

Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*

THE FUTURE REVEALED 24



GOD REVEALS THE FUTURE

1. Who alone knows the future?

Only God knows all things.

Isaiah 46:9, 10

2. To whom does God entrust His plans?

To his servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7

3. What do the prophecies resemble?

A light shining in a dark place.

2 Peter 1:19

REVEALING THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONS

4. Who was Daniel?

He was from Judah and he resolved not to consume the royal food and wine. He had God-given knowledge and understanding. He could understand visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:6, 8, 17, 20

5. What strange dream did Nebuchadnezzar have?

A large statue with head of gold, chest and arms of silver, thighs of bronze, legs of iron, feet partly iron and partly baked clay.

Daniel 2:31-35

6. What nations were represented by the great image?
-

Daniel 2:36-40

HEAD OF GOLD: Babylon, B.C. 606-538

CHEST AND ARMS OF SILVER: B.C. Medo-Persia, 538-331

BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRONZE: B.C. Greece, 331-168

LEGS OF IRON: Rome, B.C. 168 – A.D. 476

7. What would happen when Rome fell?

It would be a divided kingdom.

Daniel 2:41, 42

8. Would a new universal kingdom rise up?

No.

Daniel 2:43

A NEW WORLD

9. Who will establish a new kingdom?

God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 2:44, 45

10. What characteristics will the new world have?

No sea, comes down out of heaven, a beautiful bride, no more death, mourning, crying or pain.

Revelation 21:1-4

I believe in the prophecies. I want to prepare myself to live in the in God's new kingdom.

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THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY PROPHECY

25



NOTE: In chapter 8 and 9 of Daniel an extraordinary prophecy is presented and its development covers 2,300 years. The first part refers to the Hebrew people and to the coming of the Messiah. The last part has a direct relationship with the marvelous events related to the history of God's people.

1. What great events were foretold?

The heavenly judgment.

2. During how much time would these events take place?

2,300 evenings and mornings.

3. When did the long period of 2,300 years begin?

457 B.C.

Daniel 8:12

Daniel 8:13, 14

NOTE: The decree referenced was issued in B.C. 457 by Artaxerxes, king of Persia.

THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH

4. What portion of the 2,300 years was for the Jews?

Seventy weeks.

5. When did the Messiah appear?

483 years from the going forth of the command to rebuild Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:25

Daniel 9:24 a.

NOTE: Seven weeks, plus 62 weeks, equals 69 weeks, in other words, 483 prophetic days or years. Starting in the year B.C. 457, this takes us to the year 27 A.C., when Jesus was baptized.

6. How is the death of the Messiah foretold?

And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...

Daniel 9:25, 24

A WORK OF JUDGMENT AND RESTORATION

7. What anxious question did the prophet ask?

How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, & the transgression of desolation. to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

8. When would the great prophetic period come to an end?

2300 days.

Daniel 9:27

Daniel 8:13

NOTE: Starting in 457, it would end in 1844.

9. What would happen on that date?

- The investigative judgment would start.
- The eternal truths would be restored.

Daniel 8:14

I thank God for the revelation of the future that is expressed in His word.

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ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF PEACE

26



NOTE: Immediately after the second coming of Jesus, a period called the millennium begins, in other words, 1,000 years. The redeemed will go with Jesus to God's dwelling, where they will reign and judge the wicked. It ends with the third coming of Christ to Earth, the final destruction of the wicked and the definitive establishment of Jesus' kingdom on Earth.

THE BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM

1. With what event does the millennium begin?

The righteous dead will rise.

2. What will happen with the righteous dead and living?

They will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

3. What will happen with the wicked?

They will be destroyed.

1 Thessalonians
4:15-17

1 Thess. 4:16, 17
1 Corinthians

15:51, 52

2 Thessalonians
2:8-12

DURING THE MILLENNIUM

4. What will happen to Satan?

He will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit.

NOTE: The saints remain with Jesus in God's dwelling, when they reign and judge the wicked. During that time, the Earth remains desolate and void. Because Satan has no one to deceive, he is bound by the circumstances.

Revelation 20:1-3
Revelation 20:4
Jeremiah 4:23-27
Revelation 20:2

THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM

5. What event marks the end of the millennium?

The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven.

6. What happens with Satan and the wicked?

The wicked are resurrected, Satan is loosed out of his prison, they gather for battle.

God sends fire from heaven and they are devoured.

7. What is the end of Satan and the wicked?

The devil is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone and is destroyed.

8. Will sin rise up again?

Sin will not rise up again.

Revelation 21:2, 3

Revelation 20:5, 7-9

Revelation 20:10

Malachi 4:1

I will live like a good Christian to reign with Jesus for eternity.

SIGNATURE

THE FAITH
OF JESUS

A NEW WORLD OF HAPPINESS

27



PROMISE OF ETERNAL HAPPINESS

1. What will be the final reward for all who believe in Jesus?
Eternal life.
-

John 3:16

2. What has God prepared for those who love Him?
Things that no eye has seen nor ear heard.
-

1 Corinthians 2:9

GLIMPSES OF THE NEW EARTH

3. What will disappear in the New Earth?
There will be no more tears, death, sorrow, crying or pain.
-
4. How is the New Earth described?
A place where wolf and lamb shall be together, there will be no hurt or destruction on God's holy mountain.
-
5. Who will dwell with the redeemed?
God himself shall be with them.
-
6. How long will the new kingdom last?
It will last forever and ever.
-

Revelation 21:3, 4

Isaiah 65:21-25

Revelation 21:3

Revelation 22:1-5

CITIZENS OF THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

7. Who will enter in the kingdom?
Whoever does the will of God the Father in heaven.
-
8. What condition will be indispensable?
Obeying God's commandments.
-
9. What is the passport to enter the kingdom?
Righteousness.
-
10. What counsel is given to those who wish to go to Heaven?
We must purify ourselves, even as he is pure.
-

Matthew 7:21

Revelation 22:14

Isaiah 26:2

1 John 3:2, 3

I will prepare my life to be a citizen of Jesus' eternal kingdom.

SIGNATURE

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OF JESUS

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

28



THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE

1. Who instituted marriage and when did He do so?

God did, at creation.

Genesis 1:28 and 2:18

2. What did Jesus say about marriage?

Man and wife shall be one flesh, leaving their parents. No man should separate what God has joined together.

Matthew 19:5, 6

COUNSEL FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE

3. Who is the head of the home? **The husband.**

Ephesians 5:22, 23

4. What qualities must the wife have?

Be sober, love for husband and children, discreet, chaste, good, obedient to the husband, keeper at home.

Titus 2:4, 5

5. What flaw must the wife avoid?

Brawling, contentiousness, anger

Proverbs 21:9, 19

6. What excellent description is given of a wife and mother?

Hard-working, compassionate, strong, honorable, wise, kind, virtuous.

Proverbs 31:19-31

7. What advice is given to husbands?

Love your wives and be not bitter against them.

Colossians 3:19

8. What must be the main quality of the husband?

He must love his wife as himself.

Ephesians 5:28, 29

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

9. What is the main duty of parents?

To train up a child in the way he should go – God's way.

Proverbs 22:6

10. What is the recommendation about punishment?

Parents who love their children will discipline them.

Proverbs 13:24

11. What error must be avoided in education?

We are not to exasperate our children.

Ephesians 6:4

12. What is the essential teaching?

The Holy Scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

13. What is the main thing in the education of the children?

The children will be taught by the Lord.

Isaiah 54:13

I will strive to honor God in my home. I will be a good spouse and a wise and loving parent.

SIGNATURE

THE FAITH OF JESUS

THE STRUGGLES OF THE CHRISTIAN 29



THERE WILL BE TRIALS

1. Who is the enemy and what does he try to do?

The devil is the enemy; he looks for people to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

2. What problems can we expect?

Brother will betray brother, father will betray child. Children will rebel against parents and have them put to death. We will be hated by everyone because of our love for Jesus.

Matthew 10:21, 22

3. What guarantee does God give us?

When we are tempted, He will provide a way out.

1 Corinthians 10:13

STRUGGLING WITH THE TRIALS

4. What must we avoid when facing trials?

We must faint not, we must not become discouraged.

2 Corinthians 4:16, 17

5. What is the source of victory?

God's grace and power; when we are weak, He is strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9, 10

6. What weapon is quick and powerful?

The word of God.

Hebrews 4:12

7. What will help us win the battle?

Follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith.

1 Timothy 6:11, 12

8. What other victorious weapon do we have?

Confession and prayer.

James 5:16

9. What powerful weapons does the Christian have?

The armour of God: truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Spirit, perseverance.

Ephesians 6:11-18

PROMISES OF VICTORY

10. What is the secret to overcome Satan?

Submitting to God and resisting the devil.

James 4:7

11. What certainty do those who love God have?

All things work together for good.

Romans 8:28

12. What will be the reward for those who fight?

The crown of righteousness which the Lord shall give.

2 Timothy 4:7, 8

I will fight with courage, sure of the victory in Christ.

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DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF THE CHURCH MEMBER 30



PRIVILEGES OF THE CHURCH MEMBER

1. The faithful church member is a child of whom?

A child of God.

1 John 3:1, 3

2. What inheritance is for the child of God?

The child of God is an heir of God.

Galatians 4:5-7

DUTIES OF THE CHURCH MEMBER

3. What is God's instruction regarding worship and church attendance?

We should not give up on meeting together, encouraging one another.

Hebrews 10:25

4. What recommendation does God give us regarding his Word?

We should read it every day of our lives.

Deuteronomy
17:19

5. What must our commitment be regarding the preaching of the Gospel?

We must preach the gospel to all the world and all nations.

Matthew 24:14

6. How must we exercise our faith?

Without wavering.

Hebrews 10:23

7. What is our responsibility to the world?

We are to be salt and light.

Matthew 5:13, 14

8. What should be our relationship with pastors?

To esteem them highly in love for the work they do.

1 Thessalonians
5:12, 13

9. What challenge does God present to us about supporting the work?

If we bring our tithes to him, he will pour out blessings on us.

Malachi 3:10

10. How should we relate with brothers and sisters in the faith?

Have patience and forgiveness for each other, have charity and God's peace.

Colossians 3:13-15

11. What is the main duty of the Christian?

To love his brother.

1 John 4:20, 21

I wish for God to use me in order to be a good church member and disciple of the Lord Jesus.

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TEN KEYS FOR OBTAINING VICTORY

31



1. ACCEPT THE WHOLE TRUTH and walk in all the light you have received.

1 John 1:7
Proverbs 23:23
John 15:4, 5

2. REMAIN UNITED WITH CHRIST.

3. READ YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY.

Acts 17:11

4. PRAY TO GOD, at least three times a day.

Daniel 6:10

5. ATTEND MEETINGS AT CHURCH, above all, meetings that are held on the holy Sabbath.

Luke 4:16
Acts 10:25

6. TRUST FULLY IN GOD.

Psalms 91:1-16

7. IF YOU FALL IN SIN, SEEK JESUS. He is your Savior, confess your sins to Him.

Acts 4:12
John 2:1

8. PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

1 John 3:2, 3

9. BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS AND SHARE YOUR FAITH.

Acts 1:8

10. GROW IN HOLINESS.

Hebrews 12:14
Proverbs 4:18

With God's help I will strive to be faithful until the end. (Revelation 2:10).

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